



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Commission on Juvenile Justice

Marc Elrich
County Executive

James C. Bridgers, Jr. Ph.D., MBA
Director

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Virtual teams meeting

Agenda

- 7:00 p.m. I. Welcome** – Carlotta Woodward and Melissa Goemann, Co-Chairs
- 7:02 p.m. II. Attendance** – Please write your name down in the chat section or if you cannot do that, please let Diane know vocally that you are here. You can also send Diane an email. **Please mute your microphone unless you are speaking.**
- 7:04 p.m. III. Speakers** – Delegate Charlotte Crutchfeld, Delegate David Moon, and Senator William C. Smith, Jr.

A. Questions for Legislators

Automatic Charging of Youth as Adults

1. Ending the automatic charging of youth as adults has been the subject of proposed legislation for more than 10 years in the MD GA. Do you think the legislature is finally ready to take up this issue? Does the leadership in either house want to address this issue in 2025?
2. In your opinion, what do you think a bill to end automatic charging should look like? For example, would you support a bill to start all cases involving juveniles in juvenile court or do you think young people who commit certain categories of offenses should continue to be charged as adults?
3. Under current law a 16- or 17- year- old who is charged with murder is precluded from petitioning for a transfer to juvenile court. Do you think these teenagers, or any others should be barred from seeking a **transfer to juvenile court** if they are initially charged as adults? How about cases in which the basis for the murder charge is the application of the **felony murder doctrine** and the case did not otherwise satisfy the criteria for first degree murder? Do you think any consideration should be given to **the individual's background, mental health, disability condition, or other factors that bear on the root causes of the behavior** in determining whether the case should be heard in adult or juvenile court?
4. The passage of the **Juvenile Restoration Act**, which gives youth sentenced as adults a chance for resentencing after serving 20 years, indicates the legislature's recognition that people who have committed the most serious crimes as minors have the capacity to change and to be rehabilitated. Do you think minors convicted as adults should have access to the same **education, rehabilitation, and mental health** offered to other juvenile offenders or treated like adult offenders?

Local Behavioral Health Authority • Behavioral Health and Crisis Services

Other issues

5. Are you expecting bills to be introduced that would **weaken protections** provided in the Child Interrogation Protection Act or the Juvenile Justice Reform Act? Are there any changes you think need to be considered?
6. In your opinion, what are some of the **drivers of justice involvement** or risk factors for youth that you think we need to try **to address locally**?
7. Do you see a need for State action to help Maryland better address the needs of **youth with mental health or substance abuse issues** who are at risk of justice involvement or system-involved?
8. What more can be done to keep **guns** out of the hands of youth?
9. Where do you stand on the current treatment of **reportable offenses** under MD law? (These are offenses alleged to be committed by students in the community that are required to be reported by law enforcement to school officials.) Are you expecting this to be an issue this session?
10. What impact have **stories in the local press** been having on actions in the General Assembly, particularly **negative narratives** about juvenile crime, DJS, and previously enacted reforms?
11. **Youth with disabilities** are disproportionately represented in the justice system. Do you think we are doing enough to help this population avoid justice involvement and to appropriately support them when they are system involved?
12. Are there **other issues affecting youth at risk of or already system-involved** that you would like the General Assembly to address in 2025?

8:15 p.m. VI. Meeting Minutes – Vote on draft October 2024 minutes

8:17p.m. VII. New Business

- A. Tour of the Evening Reporting Center - Melissa
- B. Update on the Maryland Juvenile Justice Commission - Carlotta
- C. Carlotta and Melissa attended meeting with Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council to go over Commission on Juvenile Justice priorities.
- D. Children’s Center Ad-hoc Committee – Carlotta Woodward and Jordan Satinsky
- E. Legislative Committee – Carol Cichowski and Bonnie Beavers.
- F. Ad-hoc – Subcommittee One – Erin Whaley
- G. Ad-hoc – Subcommittee two – Shakirra Haynes

8:25 p.m. VIII. Upcoming Meetings

- A. No meeting in December
- B. January 21 meeting – Do folks want to meet in person? Speakers?

C. **Announcements from Members** – Commission members have any announcements about events or activities?

8:30 p.m. VIII. Meeting Adjourned