

**Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice**  
**Annual Work-Plan FY-25**  
**July 2024**

**Principles**

1. Treat kids as kids
2. Eliminate racist policies and practices and view work through an anti-racist lens.
3. Focus on prevention and support services.
4. Ensure treatment and services are humane and age appropriate.
5. Foster coordination across agencies and nonprofits at the County and State levels
6. Be guided by data in its deliberations and recommendations.
7. Contribute to public understanding of the needs and experiences of children and youth.

**Goal**

- Promote the welfare of children and youth who are justice involved or at risk of involvement.

**Objectives and Actions**

1. MCCJ will promote policies, practices, and services to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and to support young people who are **at risk of justice-system involvement**.
  - a. Highlight effective, comprehensive school-based services for children.
  - b. Monitor use of undesirable practices by analyzing data on suspensions and school-based arrests and advise relevant officials of concerns.
  - c. Support full implementation of restorative justice in MCPS.
2. MCCJ will promote high-quality and timely mental health, drug treatment, therapeutic, and educational services for **system-involved and at-risk youth**.
  - a. Identify and address challenges related to service delivery and advise appropriate officials.
  - b. Identify best practices and effective models related to service delivery and treatment programs.
  - c. Review quarterly reports of the Monitoring Unit, identify problems of particular concern, and alert appropriate officials.
  - d. Advocate to improve access to services and treatment programs that better meet the needs of children and youth.
  - e. Promote the plan for the establishment of a family center to meet a broad range of needs of youth at risk.
  - f. Maintain children's connections to families, schools, and communities.

3. MCCJJ will advocate for legislation that furthers its goal of promoting the welfare of children who are at-risk, or justice-system involved, consistent with its principles.
4. MCJJ will disseminate information on high-quality research and effective programs to educate policymakers and stakeholders, including the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, County Executive and Council, and state legislators, and advise them on best practices to address the needs of at-risk and justice-system involved youth.