



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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### **Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice Annual Work-plan**

**General Statement of Purpose for Fiscal Year 2024:** The Commission's committee structure for the upcoming fiscal year will include two standing committees: the Executive and Legislative Committees. Ad hoc committees will be established as needed. The Commission will meet by teleconference and occasionally in person on the 3rd Tuesday of each month except in August and December. The committees will either meet in person or by teleconference. In accordance with our enabling legislation, notice will be provided in advance of the meetings of the Commission. The Commission will continue to be proactive in reviewing proposed legislation at the State and local level. Each member will participate in the work of the Commission, including serving on at least one committee. The Commission will continue to review and address how Montgomery County assesses the needs of, and delivers services to, its juvenile justice population.

**Executive Committee:** Kevin Redden (Chair), Melissa Goemann (Vice Chair), Michael Pinard (Secretary), Bonnie Beavers (Legislative Committee Co-Chair) and Carol Cichowski (Legislative Committee Co-Chair). The Executive Committee represents the Commission at meetings with the Health and Human Services Director, County Executive, and County Council; drafts and presents testimony on legislation of interest, including budget recommendations; and provides administrative support to the Commission. The Executive Committee oversees Commission membership and orientation and the preparation of the annual work plan and the annual report.

**Legislative Committee:** Co-Chairs Bonnie Beavers and Carol Cichowski. The Legislative Committee (1) coordinates and facilitates discussion among members with the goal of making recommendations relating to the County and state legislative agendas; (2) identifies, for the Commission's consideration, proposed legislation that affects the juvenile justice system or addresses the needs of youth who are, or who are at risk of being, justice-involved; and (3) drafts testimony on legislation of interest to the Commission.

During the next year, the Committee will continue to identify and keep the Commission informed of proposed legislation on which the Commission may wish to present oral or written testimony consistent with the Commission's focus on intervention and prevention efforts for youth at risk of involvement with the justice system and the treatment of, and services for, justice-involved youth. This will include bills on which the Commission previously testified such as the Youth Equity and Safety Act and new proposals. The Committee will draft testimony and letters and otherwise advocate for the Commission's legislative priorities. The Committee will also recommend legislators or other experts to be invited to speak to the Commission about legislative issues. In addition to the work described above, the Commission plans to take the following actions during the next year:

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#### **Behavioral Health and Crisis Services • Child and Adolescent Outpatient Mental Health Services**



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**Work on a proposal for a juvenile justice center.** The Commission will establish an hoc committee that will explore and analyze options for the establishment of a youth/family/juvenile justice center to better meet the needs of youth in the County who are at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system through a centralized and coordinated approach. The committee will be charged with developing recommendations for the process to be followed by the committee in carrying out this project, including who should be contacted for input, what research is needed, what products should be produced, and suggested timelines for next steps. The committee will implement the process agreed to by the Commission, including gathering information and input from experts and other agencies on the needs of the target populations, the challenges to meeting those needs, and the desirability and feasibility of establishing a center. The committee will produce a paper that describes possible options for the Commission's consideration.

**Select speakers for the monthly meetings.** The Commission will invite speakers to inform the work of the Commission, including the work on a juvenile justice center.

**Conduct at least one site visit to a juvenile facility.** The Commission will give priority to visiting a facility that is housing youth who reside in Montgomery County.

**Stay informed about actions and data relating to the school-to-prison pipeline.**

Commission members (or on occasion guests) will share publicly available information relating to exclusionary discipline, school-based arrests, the operation of the Community Engagement Officer program, the implementation of restorative justice in MCPS, and other issues that are relevant to understanding the school-to-prison pipeline in the County.

**Behavioral Health and Crisis Services • Child and Adolescent Outpatient Mental Health Services**

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