



Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Virtually

Agenda

- 7:00 p.m. I. Welcome –** Chris Jennison, Chair.
- 7:00 p.m. II. Attendance –** Diane will take attendance. Please Mute your microphone unless you are speaking. **Please make sure to sign in your name on the chat section.**
- 7:02 p.m. III. Speakers: Questions/Topics – 2nd and 3rd page of the agenda**
- Carlos F. Acosta, *Associate Judge*
- Michael J. McAuliffe, *Associate Judge*
- Joan E. Ryon, *Associate Judge*
- Karla N. Smith, *Associate Judge*
- Lena Kim, *Juvenile Magistrate*
- 8:20 p.m. IV. Old Business**
- a. April 2022 minutes
- 8:25 p.m. V. New Business**
- a. **June –** Youth Panel
- d. **July –** Elections for new Executive board. Work-plan for FY-23. Budget Priorities
- e. **August –** No Meeting
- 8:30 p.m. VII. Meeting Adjourned**

Questions/Topics for judges

1. By way of background, for newer members of the commission who are less familiar with the process, could you explain the types of things judges consider when deciding whether a juvenile charged as an adult, who files a motion to be in the juvenile system, etc. should have the request granted? Assuming it is something more than just age, since they can be charged as adults at times. Do judges give more weight to mental health, support system, etc.? (Shuaa) What is your opinion of capacity of the courts to make these determinations? (Carol)
2. Advocates are seeking to decriminalize minor offenses, particularly those occurring on school grounds that could be treated as violations of the school code of conduct and not criminalized. Have you been seeing many cases in which young people are being charged with offenses that could/should have been handled as disciplinary matters by school officials? (Carol)
3. How would you describe the key differences in being tried in adult versus juvenile court, particularly with respect to what happens in the courtroom and the role of the judge? For example, what would a case involving a 15-year-old charged with murder look like in juvenile court versus adult court? (Carol)
4. The questioner's impression is that the separate system of juvenile justice was established with the goal of focusing on the best interests of the child. Can you explain whether this remains the focus of the juvenile justice system and, if so, how this is operationalized in juvenile court proceedings? (Carol)
5. Also, sometimes sending a juvenile to some type of rehabilitation/mental health facility is hard due to lack of beds. What are some ways judges are able to address this when they are deciding a case? (Shuaa)
6. The questioner's understanding is that a disproportionate percentage of youth involved in the juvenile justice system have mental or emotional health issues. How are these sorted out in juvenile court to ensure that young people are not further traumatized or otherwise disadvantaged by the system? What do you think of mental health court as an option to reduce recidivism? (Carol)
7. Could you describe the initial/ongoing training that juvenile court judges in Montgomery County receive on racial and intersectional biases specifically as they impact youth, including adultification bias. (Michael Pinard)
8. Please discuss the ways in which you incorporate race and intersectionality into your judicial role. (Michael Pinard)
9. A large portion of cases involving juveniles are dismissed after being formally petitioned. What does it tell us, in your opinion, about the exercise of authority

or discretion or Maryland law? For example, should we be concerned about over policing or over-charging, especially in light of the research that shows that contact with the juvenile court is associated with negative life outcomes, regardless of the disposition? (Carol)

10. Overall, what are some of the judges' main concerns regarding the administration of the juvenile justice system in the county. (Bruce)
11. Do lawyers for children/youth seem familiar with all the options for diversion available to the court? (Bruce)
12. Do judges think any additional specialized training in juvenile justice litigation/practices/statutory requirements might be needed for counsel in juvenile cases. (Bruce)
13. Has the fact that Noyes has become an all-female commitment facility, have the judges seen any changes related to resources or treatment availability to female juveniles sent to Noyes in recent months. (Bruce)
14. What is your opinion about restorative justice as an alternative to more traditional disposition of juvenile offenses? (Carol)
15. To what extent are you encountering cases in juvenile court in which the young person would have been a good candidate for participating in a diversion program that is not available? In other words, are there missed opportunities for diverting young people? (Carol)

Commission on Juvenile Justice

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