



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

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

Commission on Juvenile Justice Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Hybrid meeting

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Don Chisholm, Eddie Ellis, Tracey Friedlander Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Melissa Goemann, Michael Pinard, Erynn Penn, Joshua Pestaner, Kevin Redden, Jonathan Scriven, Tom Smith, Heather Sweren, Shuaa Tajammul, and Erin Whaley.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Joanna Bonner, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Elizabeth Emen, Susan Farag, Steve Neff, Jordan Satinsky, Brett Lonker, Nathaniel Tipton, and Carlotta Woodward

ABSENT MEMBERS: Kimberly Alfriend, and Ebony Stoutmiles,

PRESENT EMERITUS MEMBERS: Carole L. Brown.

ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS: Chris Fogleman, and Wendy Pulliam.

GUESTS: Viviana Azar, Tia Scott and WJLA News

SPEAKERS: Carlotta Woodward, Chief, Juvenile Court Division, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, Brett Lonker, Supervisor, Juvenile Division, Office of the Public Defender. Montgomery County and Frank Duncan, Assistant Regional Director, Metro Region, Department of Juvenile Services.

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting opened by Kevin Redden, Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ).
- II. **Attendance** – Make sure to sign in and if you can't sign in because you are on the phone, please send an email to Diane. Introductions of members
 - a. **Frank Duncan**
 - i. Talks about DJS website, which contains a flowchart that lays out the DJS process and contains different points of contact.
 - ii. Frank gives an overview of the DJS process once a case comes in – three options.

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1. Close at Intake
 2. Informal supervision
 3. Send case to States' Attorney's Office (SAO)/Court
- b. Carlotta Woodward
- i. Talks about what happens once a case comes from Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).
 1. Can review cases that DJS closes at intake if someone objects to closing.
 2. Can assess cases of children charged as adults.
 - ii. State's Attorney determines whether to take case once forwarded by Department of Juvenile Services
 1. Some factors to consider:
 - a. Will talk to detectives.
 - b. Will talk to witnesses.
 2. If SAO initiates formal charges
 - a. Child comes to court and petition is filed (informed of charges)
 - b. Will have an attorney (all children in juvenile court are represented)
 3. Ways to resolve cases.
 - a. Stet – inactive docket.
 - b. Plea – accept responsibility and if the conditions are fulfilled the case is dismissed.
 - c. Found involved – temporary disposition and then final disposition.
 - iii. Brett Lockner
 1. Two types of cases
 - a. Children charged as children.
 - i. The state's Attorney petitions the case.
 - ii. Three ways to get a lawyer.
 1. Hire a private attorney.
 2. Qualify for OPD
 3. The court will appoint an attorney.
 - b. Children are charged as adults.
 2. Brett checks his email every morning for children who were arrested overnight and assigns cases.
 - iv. Carlotta

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1. Collaborates with Brett to try to resolve cases creatively.
- v. Frank
 1. Police contact DJS to request that a child be detained – DJS deploys a risk assessment tool and makes determination on detaining.
 2. Transfer cases – courts order DJS to do transfer summaries on transfer matters and often provide testimony at transfer hearings.
- vi. **Question:** *Please walk through the first 48 hours of a child being detained – what is the process?*
 1. Police officer makes a referral to DJS to detain child.
 2. DJS determines whether to detain.
 - a. If detained (in juvenile facility), will have emergency court hearing the next day at 1:30 PM
 - i. OPD and State's Attorney informed and prepared for hearing.
 - ii. Child is either brought to court or hearing conducted over Zoom.
 1. If a parent is not available will try to accommodate the parent so that they can be present (via zoom, etc.)
 - b. Determination made 1) released; 2) detained; 3) released on home electronic monitoring.
- vii. **Question:** *Are there any young people who are committed and pushing up against their 21st birthday? If so, how many?*
 1. Brett – in 25 years, has had two clients who have aged out of the system due to turning 21yrs old.
 2. Frank – can look on DJS website, which contains breakdown by county and age – we can look up how many in Montgomery County age-out.
- viii. **Question:** *What are the factors DJS looks at to consider emergency detention*
 1. The charge
 2. Detention risk-assessment (nature of charge; prior history, etc.)
 3. Other factors (including whether can contact relative)
- ix. **Question:** *Explains CINS petition and whether these go to court*

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1. State's Attorney and OPD do not deal with these matters – usually abuse/neglect.
2. DJS will receive these complaints, usually from parents stating that the child does not follow rules – these cases mostly do not go to the Court because the parent is really looking for help via services.

III. New Business

- a. September Minutes
 - i. Minutes adopted.
- b. Quarterly BCC meeting – Kevin
 - i. Nothing much to report – there was a meeting over the summer.
- c. Priority meeting with the Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council – Kevin
 - i. Kevin met with the committee last week.
 - ii. Sent one pager/work plan on the children's center.
 1. Committee expressed interest.
- d. Children's Center Ad-hoc Committee – Carlotta Woodward and Jordan Satinsky
 - i. Carlotta reported that the committee met on Monday and is working on a vision statement.
- e. Nomination committee- Diane

IV. Upcoming Meetings

- a. **November** – Virtual meeting with a legislator from Maryland to discuss upcoming Juvenile Justice legislation. Both Senator Will Smith and Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield will be speaking. Will need questions for them from the commissioners.
 - i. Will discuss upcoming Juvenile Justice legislation.
 - ii. Need questions to put to the legislators – please submit questions by November 14th (one week before meeting)
- b. **December** – Commission does not meet.
- c. **Announcements from Members – Commission members have any announcements about events or activities?**

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- i. Carol announced that the Legislative Committee needs volunteers – will look to have at least one meeting before the end of the year.

V Meeting Adjourned - Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

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