



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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County Executive

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Director

## Commission on Juvenile Justice Fiscal Year 2012 Work Plan

June 2011

General Statement of Purpose for Fiscal Year 2012:

The Commission's committee structure for the upcoming fiscal year will include four standing committees: Executive; Government and Community Relations; Care, Custody, and Placement; and Evaluation and Analysis. *Ad hoc* committees are established as needed (e.g., for naming of officers and new Commission member interviews). Committees will meet prior to the Commission meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, except in August and December. The Commission will hold teleconferences the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month except in August and December, when the Commissioners feel there is an issue that needs in-depth discussion. Notice of the teleconference will be given in advance.

**The Commission** will only take action in accordance with our enabling legislation.

**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 needs and delivers treatment to its juvenile justice population.

**The Commission** studies, reports, monitors, and advocates for the issues identified on the attached pages.

The Commission's focus this year will be on "Positive Youth Development" (PYD) programs. These programs provide a strength-based approach and are considered prevention, intervention and suppression services for at-risk youth. In its work, the Commission will review programs and services that support the Montgomery County Council's efforts to foster efficient and effective partnerships amongst agencies to better respond to the needs for health and human services of our most at-risk youth. Such collaboration and advocacy will be accomplished through targeted involvement in the County budget process, the State legislative process and the state and county policy development process. This will involve building relationships at the county, state and national level with individuals, organizations and agencies that impact the treatment of juveniles in the county/region. In focusing on this theme of "Positive Youth Development", the Commission identified the following goals:

1. Study and review collaborative programs, including those from other jurisdictions.
2. Advocate for collaborative programs.
3. Review and engage major stakeholders in discussion about collaborative programs designed for “Positive Youth Development.”
4. Consider budget items that promote the Positive Youth Development partnership program.
5. Consider and review legislative processes that support “Positive Youth Development”.
6. Provide opportunities for major government agencies to engage in discussions about programs.
7. Review internal Commission decision-making processes.

### **Executive Committee – Chair Francha Davis**

**Members:** Mark Resner (Vice Chair), Gladstone Marcus (Secretary), Christopher Fogleman and Dana Pisanelli (Government and Community Relations Committee Co-Chairs), Amy Morantes and Margaret Currie (Care, Custody, and Placement Committee Co-Chairs), and Mary Poulin and Barbara Holtz (Evaluation and Analysis Committee Co-Chairs).

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; and provides administrative support to the Commission. The Executive Committee organizes Commission membership, orientation, the annual work plan, and the annual report. The Commission Vice-Chair facilitates committee meetings.

### **Government and Community Relations Committee – Co-Chairs Christopher Fogleman and Dana Pisanelli**

**Members:** Francha Davis, Marcus Gladstone, Lee Haller, Ashok Kapur, Mehul Madia, Mark Resner, Mike Subin, Paul Vance and Ronald Wright.

The **Government and Community Relations Committee** recommends the legislative agenda for the Commission. Its duties include lobbying and testifying before local and State legislators. The Committee monitors and tracks legislation that affects the juvenile justice system. The **Government and Community Relations Committee** also oversees the annual forum with the Juvenile Court judges.

Over the next year, the **Government and Community Relations Committee** will seek to (1) foster greater collaboration among state and county officials and agencies to ensure that services for juveniles are responsive to local needs, and in particular, to Montgomery County and the Montgomery-Prince Georges County region, and (2) advocate for necessary changes to state and county resource allocation, and in particular, for the re-allocation of responsibilities and resources from the state level to the county/regional level for programs and services that the Commission identifies as being more appropriately managed at the local level.

Such collaboration and advocacy will be accomplished through targeted involvement in the county budget process, the state legislative process and the state and county policy development process. This will involve building relationships at the county, state and national level with individuals, organizations and agencies that impact the treatment of juveniles in the county/region.

During the coming year, the **Government and Community Relations Committee** will focus its outreach on Positive Youth Development.

Action Steps:

1. Identify stakeholders e.g., DHHS, DJS, Recreation Department, others who run programming aimed at youth.
2. Gather information about issues/gaps in services and coordinate with other subcommittees to support both the development of budget recommendations and recommendations related to proposed State legislation.
3. Schedule field trips to key facilities (e.g., Noyes, Clarksburg)
4. Advocate for the Commission's budget recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services, County Executive and County Council.
5. Monitor relevant State legislation and bring to the Commission

**Care, Custody, and Placement Committee: Co-Chairs Margaret Currie and Amy Morantes.**

**Members:** Stacey Boehm-Russell, Carole Brown, Blaine Clarke, Susan Cruz, Susan Farag, Jennifer Gauthier, Lauree Hemke, Mary Siegfried and Elijah Wheeler.

The **Care, Custody, and Placement Committee** monitors and tracks the quality of care provided to Montgomery County juvenile justice youth who are in community placements or residential facilities, which may be located outside of the County. Its duties include examination of mental and physical health care, education, programming, and transportation.

The **Care, Custody and Placement Committee** work plan for 2011 will focus on positive youth development on multiple levels. The following are the goals for the Care, Custody and Placement Committee:

1. Monitor and track the standards of services available for youth offenders and propose Positive Youth Development (action plan) initiatives that support aspects aligned with Care, Custody and Placement and Juvenile Justice Commission's objectives.
2. Continue to advocate the need for an Evening Reporting Center in Montgomery County.
3. Observe the monthly numbers of those youth detained at the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center with a specific focus on African American youth.
4. Share information with the Commission on programs providing positive youth development programming and the program outcomes. Focus on and study specific metrics and outcomes of programs currently operating in the County under the PYD umbrella.

**Evaluation and Analysis Committee: Co-Chairs Barbara Holtz and Mary Poulin**

**Members:** Kim Bobola, Margaret Burrowes, Sharon Kelly, Risa Mainprize, Jeffrey Penn, Wendy Pulliam and Kathi Rhodes.

The **Evaluation and Analysis Committee's** role is to evaluate, analyze, review, and

monitor programs, plans, and Commission issues. There have been a number of plans and reports developed to address juvenile justice and at-risk children issues. The committee's role is to analyze and report on the progress of established plans.

In the course of the next year, the committee will obtain and analyze data regarding the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) and Positive Youth Development Programs. In the absence of data, it is difficult to identify service needs for youth and assess where service gaps/needs exist. After reviewing the data, the Committee will make recommendations to improve data collection, close service gaps and meet service needs, as needed.

The Committee envisions a system whereby high quality VPI and Positive Youth Development data will be collected and used to identify system and youth needs and ensure accountability.

Collection and use of data should be an evolving process whereby data are continuously analyzed to ensure that services provided remain responsive to the needs of the county. The data and advocacy approach will include:

- Determining how Montgomery County has utilized the principle of Positive Youth Development in terms of the creation of programs and services.
- Obtaining data detailing the current number of after school programs available in Montgomery County this year versus the number of programs that have existed in previous years - with specific focus on recreation centers and middle schools.
- Obtaining neighborhood specific crime statistics in order to determine if neighborhood crime rates are influenced by the presence or absence of after school programs.
- Determining what other sources of data are available that may support system data (e.g., education data, community-based organizations data, survey data).
- Determining what and how data tracking and evaluation tools (e.g., pre- and post-program assessments, follow-up assessments, and review of official records to see what programs are doing) are being used for planning, service, placement and sanctioning decisions, and policy-making.
- Coordinate making budget recommendations regarding positive youth development programs with the Government and Community Relations committee.
- Obtaining data specific to Montgomery County regarding the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI).
- Presenting information to the full commission on outcome data for a) VPI b) youths at risk of delinquency (test scores, absenteeism, credits earned, discipline referrals, participation in after-school programs), and c) court-dependent youth (placement and duration, transition into the juvenile justice system, etc.).
- Sharing learned information with stakeholders.