



## 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, July 16, 2024

#### Virtual Meeting

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Alfriend, Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Tracey Friedlander, Gerda Gallop-Green, Melissa Goemann, Ashya Johnson, Michael Pinard, Kevin Redden, and Erin Whaley.

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanna Bonner, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan (Shakirra Haynes substituting), Elizabeth Emen, Susan Farag, Brett Lonker, Jordan Satinsky (Jeffrey Innocente substituting), Nathaniel Tipton, and Carlotta Woodward

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Andrew Messick, Steve Neff Scott Joftus, Elizabeth Pentecost, Joshua Pestaner, Jonathan Scriven, Tom Smith, Tony Summers, Shuaa Tajammul, and Heather Sweren

**PRESENT EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Carole L. Brown.

**ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Chris Fogleman.

**GUESTS:** Tia Scott and Marisa Valeri

**STAFF LIAISON PRESENT:** Diane Lininger

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting opened by Kevin Redden, Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ).
- II. **Elections** – On behalf of the Nomination Committee, Elizabeth Emen presented slate of officers for FY25. Nate seconded. Vote was called. All Commissioners voted in favor of the Election slate. Motion passed.
  - A. Melissa Goemann, Co-Chair and Carlotta Woodward, Co-Chair
  - B. Kimberly Alfriend, Vice Chair
  - C. Carol Cichowski and Bonnie Beavers, Co-Chairs Legislative Committee. (This was approved by the County Executive's office because no-one else was available or interested in Chairing the committee)
  - D. Elizabeth Pentecost, Secretary. (Elizabeth has confirmed)

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- III. Annual work plan discussion** – Work Plan was presented by Carlotta. Carlotta and Melissa. Erin Whaley wondered if we wanted to add something on identifying and advocating for data. We had multiple conversations related to data. We have a principle that our work would be guided by data but only language about specific data is in school-to-prison pipeline. That doesn't mean we aren't going to gather data.

Motion to adopt work plan for next year-Nate, Melissa seconded. No opposition.  
Motion passed.

Carol pointed out that we needed to discuss how to implement work plan. Diane explained that normally Commission comes up with ad hoc sub-committees. to implement and that we could always come up with other committees as necessary. Carlotta suggested 3 subcommittees—2 subcommittees under goal 1 and 1 for goal 2. Discussion of what committees we already have (Legislation, Children's Services Center). Discussion of naming subcommittees. Objective 1 or Objective 2. Diane will send out a poll and then send out an email.

Carlotta suggested motion to establish subcommittees Francha made a motion to establish 2. ad hoc committees. Second Melissa. No opposition. Motion passed.

- IV. Meeting Minutes** – Vote on draft May 2024 minutes, Motion to Approve Minutes – Nate, Seconded by Ayshia. Motion passed. No opposition.

**V. New Business**

- A. Report on Montgomery County Juvenile Justice Data Summit – Carol Cichowski**  
Juvenile Justice Data Summit. 22 people attended, all key players, state, and regional people. Carol's main take-a-way was that there are missing services, but opportunities if people communicate and cooperate. Everyone concerned about services. Fallout was that HHS will send a representative to court proceedings to support judge in ordering services. Also, will be a multi-disciplinary committee set up to improve communication and collaboration. Talked about need for substance abuse services. Carol got sense that people are "on the case" in terms of identifying and providing services. Also took away that most problems are solvable. MCPS emphasized that they provide a wealth of services through wellness centers. Diane asked if multi-disciplinary committee—Elizabeth Emen is interested in that discussion about connecting kids to services. Carol said someone was at summit representing HHS (Chief Medical Officer—Keesha Davis)

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and will know more about who will comprise multi-disciplinary group. Diane said if people were interested to let her know.

- B. **Update from Legislative Committee – Carol Cichowski and Bonnie Beavers.** No report from legislative committee. On a break. Only thing Carol could report was the Sen. Smith is already planning to work on automatic charging and he may be sponsoring a bill.
- C. **Substance abuse issue – Melissa Goemann.** Pointed out that Montgomery County and the state are getting millions of dollars through National Opioid Settlement. City County member Valeri described how funding is allocated. Small slivers allocated to municipalities. Melissa suggested that maybe there needs to be some communication between how County will use money and how municipalities (Rockville, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park) will use funds. Melissa suggested that maybe in our subcommittees we could look at. Diane added that Ben Stevenson oversees opioid services for County, and she could ask him to speak. Will keep this in mind for discussion of upcoming meetings.
- D. Report on Children’s Center Ad-hoc Committee – Carlotta Woodward –hopefully – Anticipate we will have one more ad hoc meeting and then hope to present idea/thoughts to Commission on what we would like to present to County Exec.

### VI. **Upcoming Meetings - Carlotta/Melissa would like to hear any ideas.**

- A. Commission on Juvenile Justice does not meet in August.
- B. Speakers for upcoming meetings - Ben Stevenson on opioid epidemic
- C. Erin pointed out speakers should connect to objectives. Erin suggested someone from **Identity** and/or other major providers in schools or space that we are talking about. Carlotta asked a clarifying question about who/what providers/services. Again, Erin thinks that need for speakers would be clearer after committee discussions. **Restorative Justice** in the schools. Carlotta mentioned that the Restorative Justice in the schools was a topic at data summit. Carol mentioned that we might need an update about how budget issues affected Restorative Justice services. Erin suggested that there might be education needed about what restorative justice is. Carol said this is something the ad hoc committee needs to talk about. Erin agreed that we need to talk about where we can have impact.

Carlotta asked for any other ideas.

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Ashyia asked if we had ever had speakers from other counties that have successful efforts? Carlotta mentioned several programs (Journeys, Suburban Hospital) had had success. Any of the substance abuse/mental health programs we have in county—are there services working elsewhere that we could learn from.

Gerda-two suggestions. Either DC or PG County changing policies regarding truancy—cracking down on parents. Interested in whether there are similar plans in Montgomery County or having someone from DC or PG to talk. #2 Wondering if there might be another opportunity for another site visit.

Carlotta thanked Gerda and thanked her for bringing it up. Carol mentioned that 4<sup>th</sup> objective is relative to what Ashyia is talking about. Also, Scott has mentioned looking elsewhere in the country for successful programming for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> objectives. Start with DC and PG, but also look more broadly.

Carlotta said discussion does not need to end here, and to please reach out to her, Melissa, or Diane if you have any other ideas? Diane will ask Ben Stevenson to come to our September meeting. If not, then look at having Restorative Justice to come. Elizabeth Emen also said she would like to present to the Commission on neurodivergent paradigm models of mental health.

Diane also stated that, regarding site visits, she is unable to drive right now, but hoping to be able to drive in October She pointed out though that site visits need to happen in daytime. Carlotta suggested a residential treatment center in Baltimore, Chesapeake Center (hardware secure residential treatment center), and thinks it does a great job, if looking to see a detention facility that is providing services. Carlotta introduced Shakirra Haynes, who is taking over for Frank Duncan. Carlotta has known Shakirra for a long time and is thrilled to welcome her!! Other commissioners that are familiar with this center agreed. Carlotta suggested that she, Kim, Shakirra, and others who are familiar can come up with some suggestions. Diane also suggested Evening Reporting Center, now run by Pride Youth Services. Carlotta agreed. Diane will let everyone know as visits are arranged.

Carlotta re-emphasized that other ideas are always welcome.

D. No other new business.

E. Next meeting is September 17. Please put on calendar

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**VII. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.**

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