



Commission on Children and Youth

November 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDNhYWM4OTQtZjJjMi00YWEzLWJkODMtZDhiMDk5Mml0NjZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%226e01b1f9-b1e5-4073-ac97-778069a0ad64%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22de2fa4d4-1208-482b-9fc8-ea1052f61817%22%7d

Attendance

Members Present

- Michael Jimenez
- Kirsten Andersen
- Shane Tate
- Molly McAlvanah
- Leon Peace
- Kimberly McClurkin-Harris
- Sara Rosen
- Nina Bersabal
- Keena Howell
- Greg Tucker
- Megan Pantellis
- Johnathan Berhane
- Jessica Isabella Berrellez
- Joelle Butuyan
- Rizwan Rana
- Corinne Yourman
- Stephanie Clarke
- Ary Amerikaner
- County Staff
- Members of the public

Members Not Present

- Chelsea Zhu

- Keena Howell
- Nandi Walcott
- Jane Chappell

Proof of Quorum

The presence of 13 members confirmed a quorum at 6:35.

Staff Present

- Jameela Hyland

Guest Speakers

- Dr. Kisha Davis, County Public Health Officer

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair provided opening remarks and briefly highlighted the commission's business.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Review and Approval of September Meeting Minutes was approved by Kirsten Andersen and second by Sara Rosen.

Review and Approve Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes Agenda Items

1. Guest Speaker: Dr. Kisha Davis, Chief Health Officer, Montgomery County DHHS

Dr. Kisha Davis presented key trends from the County's Youth Safety work, now reframed as the Youth Resilience Initiative. She shared that Montgomery County remains the healthiest and most diverse county in Maryland, but youth face rising challenges related to substance use, self-harm, and victimization, particularly in 2022 and 2023. ER visits for opioid overdoses decreased overall in 2024, though 15 to 17 year olds saw an increase, and Hispanic youth have experienced more than a doubling in opioid related ER visits since 2018. Youth self-harm related ER visits peaked in 2021, and youth continue to make up roughly 40 percent of victims of violent crime.

Dr. Davis highlighted the County's shift toward a public health approach, with the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) division leading coordinated case management, data integration, and the development of a new youth wellbeing dashboard. Priority needs include expanding safe after school spaces, improving resource coordination, and understanding service impact in community schools. She noted opportunities for alignment with CCY's youth resiliency work and shared that the new Director of Libraries intends to make all libraries safe and supportive youth spaces.

3. New Commission Orientation Presentation

Staff provided an overview of the Commission on Children and Youth, including:

- CCY's mission, statutory role, and relationship to the County Council and DHHS.
- Commission structure, including officer roles, terms, and expectations for attendance and participation.
- Subcommittee structure and the role of Youth Commissioners.

New and returning members had an opportunity to ask questions about roles and expectations.

4. Recap: HHS Council Committee Session and Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting

A brief recap was provided on the recent HHS Council Committee session and the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) meeting, including key themes related to youth mental health, service access, and opportunities for coordination with CCY's youth resiliency focus.

5. Subcommittee Updates and Announcements

Youth commissioners provided updates, including highlights of recent youth led discussions regarding the Youth Voice Roundtable and emerging priority topics identified by youth. It was shared that Alexandra Cox and Rizwan Rana were elected by fellow youth commissioners as the youth commissioners' leadership.

6. Future Speakers and Closing Remarks

The Commission held an open discussion on potential future speakers and topics that could further inform CCY's work on youth resiliency, mental health, and safe spaces. Suggestions included follow-up sessions with various organizations and community leaders.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be December 10 at 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

Adjournment

Chair Michael Jiménez adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.