



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, January 9, 2025
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mission: To reduce the incidence of domestic violence and create a safe community for families to live free of abuse.

Minutes

Present: Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); The Honorable Michael Glynn (District Court Montgomery County); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court Montgomery County); Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council Member); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Lavontte Chatmon (Community Member); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services- Parole and Probation); Smita Varia (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff) Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Arth Babbar (DVCC-Student Member); Sydelle Saltibus-St. Jules (Community Member); Ashley Noy, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

Absent: Tom Manion, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Jodi Finkelstein (Commission for Women); Rendell Jones (Community Member)

Guests: Sara Tennen (Executive Director DCVLP); Jeffery Bunge (Montgomery County Police); Lt. David Cohen (Special Victims Montgomery County Police); Karen Foxman (DCVLP- Montgomery County); Katherine Bradley (DCVLP- Montgomery County) Sharon Ledner (Chief of Staff- Sidney Katz); Amanda Katz (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, Director)

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

Dr. Jessica Volz reviewed the guidelines for the virtual meeting participation. She asked everyone to mute microphones when not speaking. She asked the participants to use the chat function or the raise hand function if they would like to speak. She also requested that participants identify themselves each time they speak.

III. Approval of November Minutes

The November 14, 2024, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Amy Palumbo motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sidney Katz.

IV. Announcements

- Smita Varia announced that starting Monday, January 13, 2025, she will be the Acting Director of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.

V. Guest Speaker: *Executive Director Sara Tennen, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project*

- The DC Volunteers Lawyers Project has been providing legal services to DC residents for the past 17 years. About 2 years ago, the agency expanded into Montgomery County and now works with providing legal services to victims of domestic violence.
- DCVLP provides FREE legal services for Protective Order and Family Law cases.
- DCVLP handles about 100 cases a year throughout the DC and Montgomery County.
- DCVLP opened its Maryland clinic in April 2024 at the Rockville Library.
- The DCVLP Montgomery County office is a team of 5 (3 lawyers, 1 client advocate, 1 program coordinator).
- In 2024, DCVLP has about 600 lawyers that volunteer for cases in the Maryland and DC office.
- DCVLP- Montgomery County is co-located at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.
- There is an attorney on-site at the Family Justice Center (FJC) every day. The FJC Client Assistance can have their walk-in met with the attorney available without an appointment.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Maura Lynch, Chair

- Maura reported that the Legislative Committee has not met yet but plans on meeting by the end of January.
- The Committee plans to work on policies in Montgomery County and statewide regarding Vexatious Litigation.
- The Committee continues to monitor legislation.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

- Ashley Noy provided the report for Victim Services as Tom Manion was absent.
- The Committee is looking into Hope Cards for Montgomery County. Ashley is in contact with the Fairfax court to see if a member can join the next Victim Services meeting.
- The Committee is also looking into Vexatious Litigation. Communication has been made with Luanne McKenna at Child Justice to share templates their attorneys have used in the past where there has been litigation abuse
- The Committee will have the president of Child Care Counts come to the next Victim Services meeting to learn about the voucher program they provide and how the FJC can incorporate that for their clients.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

- Debbie Feinstein reported they are continuing to reach out to medical providers and provide them with information on the FJC and domestic violence.
- The Committee is also working on getting the awareness cards to the Recreation Centers and Senior Centers throughout the county.

- The Committee is developing an awareness card for teens.
- The Committee is also working to collaborate with Landlord and Tenant Affairs to provide staff with DV101 training.
- The Committee is hoping to collaborate with Soccer 4 Change at the Montgomery County Recreation Centers to implement Coaching Boys into Men and Athletes as Leaders.

D. Offender Program and Policy Committee – *Ben Stevenson, Chair*

- Ben Stevenson reported that the Committee is working on implementing new goals for 2025.
- The Committee would like to invite guest speakers to future meetings.
- The Committee is looking to review better assessments for the Montgomery County statistics.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on March 13, 2025, from 5 pm-7 pm on Microsoft Teams.



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council