



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, March 13, 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 Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council Member); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services Director); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Lavontte Chatmon (Community Member); Smita Varia (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Arth Babbar (DVCC-Student 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); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services- Parole and Probation); Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); Sydelle Saltibus-St. Jules (Community Member), The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court Montgomery County);

Guests: Captain Jeffery Bunge (Montgomery County Police); Sharon Ledner (Chief of Staff-Sidney Katz); Jennifer Prillman (Guest); Ladonna King (Commission for Women); Mary Scheller (Division of Parole and Probation).

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 their microphones when they are 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 January Minutes

The January 9, 2025, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Amy Palumbo motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by DVCC Student Member Arth Babbar.

IV. Announcements

- Smita Varia announced that Tom Manion will return to the office on April 9th.

V. Committee Reports

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

- Maura Lynch reports that the Legislative Committee has been monitoring Legislation. The Committee is currently focusing on the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. The bill seeks to increase the level of compliance by individuals who have Protective Orders against them to surrender firearms, enhancing the safety of families, victims, and law enforcement.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

- Ashley Noy reported for the Victim Services Committee on behalf of Tom Manion.
- The Victim Services Committee had a guest speaker from Child Care Counts, Debbie Brown, who spoke about the vouchers for childcare assistance during the approval period of the Child Subsidy Program. This program is something the Family Justice Center is looking to possibly implement for its clients.
- Ashley reports the continued attempts to have a speaker from the Fairfax County courts come to one of the meetings to discuss the beginning processes of the Hope Card. The Hope Card is a condensed version of a protective order and still counts as an official court document.
- Ashley reports that the Victim Services Committee is also looking for additional counseling services for DV victims. Most of the counseling services offered by the county have a wait list of 6 months or more. The Committee is looking into alternative solutions.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

- Debbie reports that Education and Outreach is currently working on RespectFest, which will be held on *Sunday, April 6th at the Wheaton Recreation Center from 1-4 pm*. RespectFest is an annual festival where Middle School and High School students who attend receive Student Service-Learning Hours and learn about healthy relationships and consent.
- Debbie states the Committee is also working with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation to roll out programs for athletes, such as Coaching Boys into Men and Athletes as Leaders.
- The Committee continues distributing awareness materials throughout the county and facilitating Expect Respect Presentations to Middle and High Schools.

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

- Ben Stevenson reports that the Offender Program was unable to meet in February due to the snow.
- The Committee is working on increasing offender engagement and abuser intervention program attendance, as well as looking into parenting programs.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on May 8, 2025, from 5 pm-7 pm on Microsoft Teams.



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