



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, May 8, 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: Tom Manion, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services Director); Arth Babbar (DVCC-Student Member); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Captain Jeffery Bunge (Montgomery County Police); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council Member); The Honorable Michael Glynn (District Court Montgomery County); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Rendell Jones (Community Member); Ben Stevenson (Director of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation); Sydelle Saltibus-St. Jules (Community Member); Ashley Noy, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Jodi Finkelstein (Commission for Women); Lavontte Chatmon (Community Member).

Guests: Rebecca Baldwin (Expect Respect Facilitator); Jennifer Prillman (Guest).

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

Tom Manion reviewed the guidelines for the virtual meeting participation. He asked everyone to mute their microphones when they are not speaking. He asked the participants to use the chat function or the raise hand function if they would like to speak.

III. Approval of March Minutes

The March 13, 2025, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Ben Stevenson motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Amy Palumbo.

IV. Announcements

- Ben Stevenson announced that this week is National Correctional Professional Week as well as Nurse's Appreciation Week.
- Tom Manion formally announced that Captain Jeffery Bunge, has been officially nominated and confirmed to the seat on the DVCC representing Chief Yamada.

- Tom Manion announced that Ashley Noy has sent out the 2025 DVCC Blueprint. The Blueprint is used to guide the work of the sub-committees. Any questions or interest in participating in other sub-committees can be relayed to Ashley Noy or one of the committee chairs via email.
- Tom Manion announced that there was a speaker scheduled from Elder Safe, but they had a last minute commitment and could no longer make it.

V. Committee Reports

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

- Maura reported that the Legislative Committee has been very busy. The Committee has two bill which they followed during this legislative session. The first bill is the *Modification to the Spousal Communication Privilege*; the Defendant does not have the right to assert the spousal communication as in Domestic Violence cases
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0406?ys=2024RS> The second bill is to change the revenge porn law. This will allow computer generated AI images to be prosecuted under the statue
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/146> .
- Maura is working on how the committee can respond faster to the legislative session things move so quickly that sometimes they get behind.
- The Committee is also working on Litigation Abuse during off session.
- The Committee is also working on a movement to extend the time for a Temporary Protective Order to the Final Protective Order. Now by statue is 7 days but working on maybe expanding it to 14 days.
- Tom Manion is on the Board of Directors for the Partnership for Safer Maryland as once of their focuses is intimate partner violence (IPV). They sometimes have requests to support legislation regarding IPV, he asks if the Legislative and Policy Planning Committee would like to be kept in the loop of these requests. Maura Lynch, said yes- they are interested.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

- Tom reports the Victim Services Committee has been focusing on litigation abuse. The Committee has decided that once a solution is identified, they will be more instrumental in 'rolling it out'. Helping with communication, trainings needed, sending templates out, etc. In the meantime, the Committee will take a "backseat" with this issue.
- The Committee is also currently working on Hope Cards. This program exists in some counties in Virginia and Florida. Hope Cards are a condensed Protective Order which is still considered an official legal document. Tom is working on setting up a meeting with Montgomery County Police Department and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to discuss this idea. This would most likely be an Family Justice Center pilot program.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

- Debbie reports the Committee's continued outreach to doctors' office and hospital initiative.
- The Committee has continued working on distributing awareness cards, to courts, libraries, recreational departments/ centers, wellness centers, etc.
- The Committee is currently working on finalizing the Teen Dating Violence awareness cards which will be distributed during to be Expect Respect presentations.
- Debbie reports the Coaching Boys into Men and Athletes as Leaders initiative have collaborated with the Montgomery County Recreation Centers- Soccer for Change Teams to complete the programs with the players.
- The Committee has also been revisiting the Expect Respect Presentations at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation with the youthful offenders. This was a program that was active before the pandemic and the Committee is working on recruiting new facilitators.

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

- Ben reports that Offender Program and Policy Committee last met on April 9th and talked about a pilot program Trauma Service was starting for youth prevention.
- The Committee is currently working on the following initiatives:
 - Increasing abuser intervention programs.
 - Reviewing the Montgomery County Criminal Justice statistics, Ben's team and analyst have been working on pulling numbers from their crimes database to look at these numbers when they talk.
 - Working with Juveniles, recently this population in incarceration has doubled. Corrections has asked for an audit inspection from the National Commission of Health Care Correction, this audit will come in later this month.

VI. Adjournment

Tom Manion adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on July 10, 2025, from 5 pm-7 pm on Microsoft Teams.



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