



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, September 12, 2024
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); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court Montgomery County); The Honorable Michael Glynn (District Court Montgomery County); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council Member); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services- Parole and Probation); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public Schools-Board of Education); Tondalayo Royster (Commission for Women); Lavontee Chatmon (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Arth Babbar (DVCC-Student Member); Ashley Noy, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

Absent: Kendall Stanley (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services); Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Dr. Mindy Thiel (Community Member);

Guests: Maria Turner (Career Catchers); K. Kunda (Career Catchers); Jeffery Bungey (Montgomery County Police); Amina Khalid (Public Member); Amanda Katz (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, Director); Clarie Beck (House of Ruth Maryland- Associate Director of Clinical Services); Roberto (Nursing Student); Jennifer Amaya (Nursing Student); Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Chief of Staff)

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of July Minutes

The July 11, 2024, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. The Honorable Sidney Katz proposed a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Debbie Feinstein.

III. Announcements

- Tom Manion announced that the DVCC Vice Chair, Jessica Volz was recently honored by the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) and awarded the 2024 Visionary Voice Award by MCASA.

- Tom Manion announced that an offer has been made for another Family Justice Center Client Assistant. The start date for the new Client Assistant is still pending.
- For the 2024 calendar year Tom Manion believes the Family Justice Center will have served 2,000 Clients due to the increased caseload this year.
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). The DVAM Committee is working on a campaign called Still Abuse to show that abuse is not only physical but comes in different forms.
- Tom Manion stated that interviews for the new DVCC Public Members were completed and confirmed for next week. The two new public members should be joining the November meeting.
- Tom Manion introduced Arth Babbar, who will be the new Student Member of the DVCC.
- Tom Manion announced that today's meeting will be Dr. Mindy Thiel's last meeting thanking Dr. Thiel for the six years of work on the DVCC.
- Tondalayo Royster announced the Commission for Women is having its Annual Financial Wellness Series. Sessions will occur from October 15th – November 5th and be virtual from 7-8:30 pm.

IV. Guest Speaker: *Senior Direct of Programs and Operations K. Kunda, Career Catcher*

- Career Catchers is a non-profit that has been providing services to individuals in Montgomery County since 2007.
- Career Catcher has served 3,000 low-income Montgomery County residents.
- During COVID-19 Career Catchers grew significantly.
- Career Catchers helps individuals seek employment through individualized career counseling.
- Once a client has obtained employment Career Catchers staff are still checking in weekly or bi-weekly to ensure the individual is getting the support they need.
- Economic abuse is seen a lot with affluent victims, such as withholding finances or leaving the victim with mortgage payments and bills that they cannot afford.
- Financial Awareness classes are available for Clients through M&T Bank and Truist Bank.
- Some places of employment use the abuse against their employee such as missing work due to the abuse, or the perpetrator coming to the play of employment to cause a scene.
- Career Catcher has also expressed the importance of the barriers clients face when needing childcare during interviews for new employment. They have seen situations where the perpetrator will purposely not care for the child to prevent them from the opportunity of new employment.
- Career Catchers (K.Kunda) will be invited to the next Victim Services Committee meeting to discuss the issue of child care and see what other states are doing and how Montgomery County can implement their services.

V. Committee Reports

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

- Maura Lynch was not in attendance at the meeting. Ashley Noy provided the report-out for the Legislative Committee.
- The Legislative Committee meeting has been working on a letter requesting that judges make changes to the Protective Order regarding the language that is being

used for firearms. Currently, the language entails that only the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office can take the firearms making it difficult if the Defendant is living in another county. (Currently: *All firearms are surrendered to the Montgomery County Sherriff Office.*)

- This letter has been sent to Tom Manion (DVCC-Chair) and will also be shared with Sheriff Uy as it mentions the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

- Tom Manion reported that the FJC Legal Services program is working on revamping the processes because given all the providers the services are limited.
- In the past, Victim Services looked into connecting with law school students to see if they would be willing to volunteer but it did not seem to be successful. This is something that Victim Services may circle back on.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

- Debbie Feinstein had to leave the meeting early so Ashley Noy did the E&O report.
- For Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) the DVAM committee will be placing posters in local businesses with information to the Family Justice Center with examples of abuse besides physical. This is to show that abuse is not only physical.
- The DVAM campaign is named Still Abuse and will also include a video that will be circulated on social media with the example of Controlling Behavior. This video will also be shown in movie theaters in Silver Spring and Gaithersburg.
- With the help of Smita Varia and Lavontee Chatmon, on October 1st and October 8th the FJC Training Institute will have two training for OBGYN & Primary Care Providers in partnership with MHCADV.

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

- Ben Stevenson was not available to attend the meeting. No updates were given as the committee hasn't met since the last DVCC meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Tom Manion, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

The next DVCC meeting will be on September 12, 2024, 5 pm-7 pm IN-PERSON



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