



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, September 11, 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); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Captain Jeffrey Bunge (Montgomery County Police); The Honorable Michael Glynn (District Court Montgomery County); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council Member); Rendell Jones (Community Member); LaDonna King (Commission for Women); Sydelle Saltibus-St. Jules (Community Member); Ashley Berrios, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff).

Absent: Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services Director); Rita Montoya (Board of Education); Lavontte Chatmon (Community Member); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Ben Stevenson (Director of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation); Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center); The Honorable Karla Smita (Circuit Court Montgomery County);

Guests: Jennifer Prillman (Guest); Sharon Ledner (Chief of Staff, Sidney Katz) Dr. Katherine Scafide (Guest Speaker).

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of July Minutes

The July 11, 2025, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Ashley will make edits to the attendance and will email the minutes to the council, considering there was not a quorum at the in-person meeting. The DVCC minutes were emailed to the council on September 12, 2025, for approval. Amy Palumbo motioned to approve the minutes via email. The motion was seconded by Dorne Hill via email.

III. Announcements

- No announcements

IV. Guest Speaker: George Mason University Associate Professor Dr. Katherine Scafide

- Dr. Katherine Scafide attended the September Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to explain and provide a demonstration on the Bruise Detection System.

- Dr. Scafide explained that bruising is most common in victims of Domestic Violence, and using the Bruise Detection System can help improve documentation of injuries.
- Alternative Light Source is used to see bruising. Light of a certain wavelength affects what bruises may look like to the naked eye. Colorized goggles are used to see what is being absorbed by the hemoglobin.
- Skin tone plays a large role in the outcome of bruising. The lighting used in the equipment looks past the layer of skin pigmentation. This can be helpful for victims who have darker skin pigmentation or older bruising.
- Dr. Scafide explained that photos and diagrams are used to paint an accurate illustration of what is happening.
- Currently, the alternative light source is used in forensic units.
- The future goal is to make alternative light source devices more accessible to all hospitals and possibly law enforcement.
- Dr. Scafide provided a demonstration using alternative light source equipment.
- Additional information about Dr. Katherin Scafide's work:
<https://publichealth.gmu.edu/profiles/kscafide>

V. Committee Reports

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

- Debbie Feinstein spoke on behalf of Maura Lynch, who was absent during the meeting. Debbie states that she would like to see if the DVCC can work together in writing letters of support during the next legislative session.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

- Tom Manion reports that the Victim Services Committee has been working on the development of the Hope Cards (a sample of the cards was placed on the screen for the council).
- Hope Cards will be a pilot program developed by the Montgomery County Family Justice Center. This will be a plastic wallet-sized card with all the pertinent information found on the final protective order. Tom Manion also met with Captain Jeffery Bunge, Montgomery County Police Department, and Captain Adam Strawderman, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, to ensure that all were on board and did not have any concerns.
- The Montgomery County Police Department will roll out a training bulletin for its officers once the Hopes Cards start being issued.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

- Debbie Feinstein reports that the Education and Outreach Committee has finalized their Teen Awareness Cards. The cards were distributed to the council during the meeting for review.
- A sample of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) poster was displayed on the screen for the council. These posters will be located at Metro Stations in Montgomery County. There will also be an ad on Instagram with the poster.

- The DVAM poster focuses on bystander intervention and encourages friends, family members, neighbors, and coworkers to help peers who are victims of Intimate Partner Violence.
- The Education and Outreach Committee is partnering with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to have the Expect Respect presentation for youthful offenders. The Expect Respect presentation focuses on healthy and unhealthy relationships, warning signs, and consent.
- The Committee has also partnered with the Montgomery County Recreation Department- Soccer for Change program, which has been completing the Coaching Boys into Men and Athletes as Leaders programs.

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

- Ashley Berrios reported on Ben Stevenson's behalf as he was absent during the meeting. The Offender Program and Policy is continuing to work on reintegrating the Expect Respect presentation for youthful offenders.

VI. Adjournment

Tom Manion adjourned the meeting at **6:55 pm**.

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



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council