



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, November 14, 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: Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); The Honorable Michael Glynn (District Court Montgomery County); Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); Jodi Finkelstein (Commission for Women); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council Member); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public Schools-Board of Education); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services- Parole and Probation Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Arth Babbar (DVCC-Student Member); Rendell Jones (Community 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); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court Montgomery County); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Lavonttee Chatmon (Community Member); Tondalayo Royster (Commission for Women);

Guests: Jeffery Bungey (Montgomery County Police); Lt. David Cohen (Special Victims Montgomery County Police); Karen Gunderman (DCVLP); Sharon Ledner (Chief of Staff-Sidney Katz); Amanda Katz (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, Director); Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Chief of Staff); Zanethia Eubanks (BCC Committee Evaluation Review Board Member)

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 September Minutes

The September 12, 2024, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Amy Palumbo motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Lynne Harris.

IV. Announcements

- Ashley Noy announced that the Family Justice Center is fully staffed with 8 Client Assistants.
- Judge Gynn stated there was communication with the Sheriff's Office and Judge Koch (Administrative Judge) asking that judges be more detailed when asking questions to petitioners about handguns. They will be doing this moving forward.
- Jodi Finkelstein announced the Montgomery County Commission for Women is having their 45th Annual Legislative Briefing. This event will take place on Saturday, January 25th at the Universities of Shady Grove.
- Jodi Finkelstein recognized Tondalayo Royster who has stepped down from the DVCC and Commission for Women due to personal reasons. Tondalayo Royster has been an enormous asset to the Commission for Women and DVCC and will be missed.

V. Chair and Vice Chair Elections for 2025-2026

- Ashley Noy ran the election for the DVCC Chair and Vice Chair (January 2026-December 2026). Ashley reminded everyone that only members of the DVCC could vote for the positions. She asked everyone who would like to vote to click the "raise hand" feature on Teams to count the number of votes.
- Dr. Jessica Volz took the time to thank everyone on the committee and stated that she would be honored to continue as Vice Chair of the DVCC. The DVCC voting members voted and Dr. Jessica Volz was nominated to Vice Chair for 2 more years.
- Tom Manion was not able to attend the DVCC meeting but expressed interest in continuing as Chair of the DVCC for 2 more years. The DVCC voting members voted and Tom Manion was nominated to Chair for 2 more years.

VI. Review 2024 Blueprint Accomplishment

- All Committees were asked to review their accomplishments from the 2024 DVCC Blueprint while they gave their reports.

VII. Committee Reports

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

- The Legislative Committee was able to accomplish its goal of requesting judges to request a better description of firearms.
- The Committee is working on the Child Advocacy Privilege and whether that is worth pursuing as well as monitoring the federal legislation.
- The Committee is working on analyzing statutes on Vexatious Litigation.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

- Ashley Noy provided the report for Victim Services as Tom Manion was absent.
- The Committee is working closely with DVS Legal Services to collect data on the low rates of representation and ways on how we can increase the number for representation at the Final Protective order hearings.
- The Committee has also connected 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 continue working on this in 2025.

- At the October meeting the Committee welcomed a guest speaker, K. Kunda from Career Catchers which started a discussion on affordable childcare for DV victims seeking employment.

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. One of the ways the medical providers were targeted was during Domestic Violence Awareness Month where the FJC Training Institute and Maryland Healthcare Coalition provided training to PCP and OBGYNs.
- The Committee is working on reaching middle school and high school athletes through Coaching Boys into Men and Athletes as Leaders. Debbie has been with the Montgomery County Rec. Department to see if they can implement these programs in their afterschool program or sports teams.
- Ashley stated that the DVCC- student member, Arth Babbar has also been doing the Expect Respect presentations at MCPS middle schools and we have received a lot of positive feedback from the teachers on how interactive the students are.

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

- Ben Stevenson was not available to attend the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

The next DVCC meeting will be on January 9, 2025, 5 pm-7 pm IN-PERSON



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council