

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council



Meeting Minutes October 10, 2023

Opening

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council was called to order at 8:09 a.m. on October 10, 2023 by Lauren Phillips.

Voting CJCC Members Present:

Chief Robert McCullough, Chief of Baltimore County Police Department, The Honorable Dorothy Wilson, Scott Shellenberger, State's Attorney, Maria Fields, Administrative Clerk, Walt Pesterfield, Director of Corrections.

Attendees:

Rebecca Young, Lauren Phillips, Meg Ferguson, Aimee Bollinger-Smith, Tanya Smith, Brittany Jackson, Whitney Wisniewski, Chief Amy Park, April Lewis, Seth McCauley, Walter Weiss, Mark Millspaugh, Hillary Siakor-Sirleaf, Candace Johnson, David Greer, Allison Paladino, Captain Bryan Shanks, Lieutenant Kathryn Greenbeck, Justin Halligan, Jennifer Magin, Nicole Ebb, Elise Andrews, Lisa Morris, Kelly La Valley.

Welcome Remarks

Lauren Phillips, Assistant Deputy Administrative Officer for Public Safety, welcomed and thanked the members for attending.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the August 8th 2023 meeting. Motions were made, seconded and carried to adopt the minutes for this meeting.

Committee Reports

- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Mark Millspaugh gave a presentation for Aimee Bollinger-Smith:
 - The Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee met on September 8, 2023. A presentation from Jennifer Mercer in reference to landlord tenant laws and how it relates to domestic violence was made. There are mental health resources that are available in Baltimore County. The next Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee will meet again in October. Lisa Jordan of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault will be giving a presentation about laws that will be taking effect on October 1, 2023 that effect domestic violence and sexual assault.

- Workgroup updates on the Abuser Intervention Group, chaired by Shelby Fink, Family Crisis Center is leading the sub-committee about standardizing reports between the AIP providers to bring clarity and standardization.
- **Forensic Mental Health Workgroup - Tanya Smith:**
 - Forensic Workgroup Committee meeting was on September 13, 2023, which was about those awaiting transfer to state hospitals. At that time there were 22 people waiting. Judge Davis assured the committee that the Judiciary is working hard trying to get movement on those individuals. Unsure of the count as of today, however Friday October 6, 2023 there was approximately 13 people waiting.
 - Healthcare Access Maryland has resumed at the jail, which offers case management services and getting offenders connected to medical insurance before release, which had stopped during Covid.
- **Corrections – Jennifer Magin and Nicole Ebb**
 - Presenting on the conference on national standards of Pre-Trial Release Services that was attended.
 - There is an extensive online PDF booklet, which has information on the Association of Pre-Trial Services Agency.
 - Creating a Roadmap for Success for those released into the community, which allows website access to key contact information, sample of a release order and instructions for supervision for those released before receiving paperwork.
 - Risk assessment tools should be (re)validated every five years.
 - For released defendants, the standards would be for least restrictive non-financial conditions to be imposed.
 - Sub-jurisdiction reporting success rates on the levels of supervision, versus a category risk.
 - Measuring outcomes, performance, risk classifications, failure to appear rates, arrest rates, and supervision, so that there is a review of polices and make changes.

Presentations

- **Mental Health Presentation: Mobile Crisis Team - Baltimore County Crisis Response System (BCCRS) - Captain Bryan Shanks – Baltimore County Police Department and Alison Paladino - Affiliated Sante Group (Vendor for Baltimore County Crisis Response System)**
 - Meg Ferguson introduced Alison Paladino, Director of Baltimore County Crisis Response-Affiliated Sante Group (Vendor).
 - Alison Paladino and Captain Bryan Shanks presented a slide show on the Baltimore County Crisis Response System (BCCRS), explaining in depth the collaboration between the Baltimore County Health Department, the Police Department and Affiliated Sante Group.

- Hilary Siakor-Sirleaf asked Captain Shanks, with the In-House Intervention team, how do you deal with the homeless population? Alison Paladino responded that they work closely with the community partners such as the Prologue Homeless Outreach Team. They maintain a database, updated quarterly, of all the available health providers, non-behavioral health, homeless, food banks, legal resources etc., so they can relay the most up-to-date information to the client. Mr. Siakor-Sirleaf stated, that if the homeless shelters are full, corrections get an influx of homeless. It's imperative that Baltimore County start thinking about how we can increase capacity for shelters.
- Police Chief McCullough commended MCT for the work they do.
- April Lewis thanked the MCT for the support that they provide to schools.
- Judge Dorothy Wilson would like to extend an invitation to the MCT for Mental Health Court and to talk about specific issues that are cross-jurisdictional with Baltimore City and other counties.
- Mark Millspaugh stated that since Covid there have been increases in mental health, trauma and suicides. What are we seeing in the data about the calls that our going out pre-covid versus now? Alison Paladino answered that a positive since the start of the pandemic is that the stigmatization of needing mental and behavioral health services has reduced. Since covid the acuity has increased of individuals, and isolation has exacerbated symptoms of folks with behavioral health issues. Mark Millspaugh also asked if they are looking at data with an equity lens to identify disparities with youth suicides, we are seeing disproportionality in the data with African American youth. Captain Shanks responded that there have been a series of expansions in the MCT and other elements of the program. There's an east side team, a central team and a westside team, and for fairness and equity the teams stay in their designated areas to answer calls. Traditionally, calls for mental health are the highest in the Dundalk and Essex areas. Alison Paladino added that the State is now also pulling data and helping to make recommendations as well, and reiterated that community partnerships are key when going out and dealing with an individual in crisis. Captain Shanks also made the offer to committee members, for his team to come out and either give a presentation or for any professional development and/or training.

Next Steps

The next CJCC meeting will be held in Room 118, on December 12, 2023. The Department of Corrections and Mental Health Court will present at the December meeting, and the State's Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office will be rescheduled for a later date. The topic of mental health will be extended to the February meeting as well.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m. by Lauren Phillips. The next general meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on December 12, 2023, in Towson, Maryland.

Minutes submitted by: Kelly La Valley

Approved by:

