

Children's Justice Act Committee
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
March 15, 2018
Howard County Library, Miller Branch
9421 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Pamela Alban, Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office
The Honorable Cynthia Callahan, Circuit Court for Montgomery County
Dr. Kerry Hannan, Baltimore Child Abuse Center
Anne Hoyer, Office of the Secretary of State
Ed Kilcullen, Maryland CASA Association
Sr. Deputy Robert Kovacs, Harford County Sheriff's Office
Vernice Renee McKee, Department of Human Services
Det. Thomas Pyles, Annapolis Police Department
Diane Shaffer, Volunteer

Guests:

Francha Davis, Voices for Children of Montgomery County
Susan Hansell, Maryland Children's Alliance
Arlene Joell, Community Advocates for Family and Youth

Staff:

Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Quentin Jones, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes (January 2018)

Sr. Deputy Kovacs made a motion to approve the minutes. Detective Pyles seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

III. Presentations

a. Kiddie Court

Ms. Joell provided members with a presentation of the Community Advocates for Family and Youth's Kiddie Court program. The Kiddie Court School teaches youth aged 4-17 of

their judicial process rights. Using a collaborative approach with the court, community educators, local prosecutors, bailiffs, and school personnel, the court becomes a safe place for youth to testify. The Children's Justice Act grant funds provide personnel support.

b. Voices for Children of Montgomery County

Ms. Davis provided members with an overview of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Montgomery County. This is the largest CASA program in the state. Through the Children's Justice Act grant, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) - Montgomery County Maryland, Inc.'s Volunteer Recruitment and Training program, assists volunteers advocating for the best interests of victims of child abuse and/or neglect. Volunteers are appointed by the Juvenile Court to work one-on-one with children in foster care. They provide detailed recommendations to the Court to ensure that appropriate services are provided to children and that they reach safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. Grant funds provide salary support.

IV. Three-Year Assessment

Members conducted a preliminary review of the survey results at the meeting, and they agreed to work in small groups by discipline to further analyze the results and develop the final recommendations. Ms. Wheeler will coordinate a conference call with each of the workgroups. The Children's Justice Act grant application is due on May 31, 2018.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, May 17, 2018
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Room A
Crownsville, MD 21032