

THE BALTIMORE CITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 10, 2014 MEETING

Council Members In Attendance*: Chair Judge Barry Williams; Mary Abrams, Administrative Clerk for District I, District Court of Maryland; Carolyn A. Atkins for Wendell M. France, Director, Central Region, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Kimberly S. Barranco, CJCC Executive Director; Anthony Batts, Baltimore City Police Commissioner; Gregg L. Bernstein, State's Attorney for Baltimore City; Jay Cleary for Sam Abed, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services; Joseph Clocker, Director, Parole and Probation, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Major Samuel Cogen for John Anderson, Sheriff for Baltimore City; Frank Conaway, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Wendell M. France for Gregg Hershberger, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Angela Johnese for Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore City; Elizabeth Julian, Baltimore City Public Defender; Brian Kleinbord for Doug Gansler, Attorney General of Maryland; Bernard J. McBride, President and CEO, Behavioral Health System Baltimore; W. Michel Pierson, Administrative Judge Circuit Court; Barbara Baer Waxman, Administrative Judge for District I, District Court of Maryland; Bernard C. "Jack" Young, President, Baltimore City Council.

Others in Attendance*: Margaret Boyd-Anderson, CJCC; Doug Colbert, Maryland Law School; Veronica Land-Davis, Roberta's House; Judge Martin Dorsey, District Court of Maryland; Deirdre Gardner, Roberta's House; Annette March-Grier, President, Roberta's House; Judge Charles Peters, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Paul Plymouth, Baltimore City Council; Alonzo Robertson, Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center; Claire Rossmark, DLS; Kim Trueheart, Citizen; Bob Weisengoff, DPSCS; Kate Wolfson, Safe and Sound Campaign.

***We request that all in attendance sign the attendance sheet which is available at each meeting.**

MEETING DIALOGUE

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and Judge Barry Williams greeted the Council.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT – JUDGE BARRY WILLIAMS

Judge Barry Williams requested a motion to approve the November 12, 2014 meeting minutes and they were adopted unanimously. Judge Williams said that the next meeting will be held on February 11, 2015. He further stated that there will not be a January meeting due to the opening day of the General Assembly. Judge Williams conveyed that three years ago Judge Marcella Holland asked if he would like to serve as Judge-in-Charge and CJCC Chair, and now three years later he has enjoyed his time as CJCC Chair. Judge Williams thanked the various representatives of the Council for their time and efforts which they committed to the CJCC. He further thanked Judge Michel Pierson, Administrative Judge for Circuit Court, Kimberly S. Barranco, CJCC Executive Director, and Margaret Boyd-Anderson, CJCC

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Project Coordinator.

Judge W. Michel Pierson thanked Judge Williams for his service and leadership of the Criminal Division. He commented that the Criminal Division is the Circuit Court's largest component and it is the most visible, although many things in terms of leadership are not always visible. Judge Pierson further commented how Judge Williams agreed to stay for an additional year and a lot has been done to improve system inefficiencies. He noted that Judge Williams improved the Court's method of tracking operations. Judge Pierson introduced Judge Charles Peters. Judge Pierson said that Judge Peters has been a Judge on the Circuit Court since 2010 and that he has a background in criminal law on both the state and federal level. Judge Pierson further stated that Judge Peters is currently working with Judge Williams on a seamless transition as the next Judge-in-Charge and CJCC Chair.

Judge Peters said that he hopes to be able to meet all of the Council members and looks forward to speaking further at the February 11, 2015 CJCC meeting.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – KIMBERLY SMALKIN BARRANCO

Kimberly Barranco recognized Judge Barry Williams for the outstanding leadership he demonstrated as Chair of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and Judge-in-Charge of the Criminal Court for the past three years. Ms. Barranco called upon Angela Johnese, Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, to present a citation to Judge Williams on behalf of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. She also called upon Wendell M. France, Director, Central Region, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to present a proclamation to Judge Williams from Governor Martin O'Malley. Ms. Barranco said that she had been fortunate to work with Judge Williams since the beginning of his tenure as Judge-in-Charge on January 3, 2011. She further detailed that in the past three years, he has worked diligently on behalf of the citizens of Baltimore City to better the criminal justice system and improve case processing. Ms. Barranco stated that although it may appear effortless, Judge Williams has spent countless hours preparing for meetings and engaging in discussions with members of the Council and other criminal justice partners. Ms. Barranco explained that this effort has reaped dividends, with the Council making significant progress in a number of areas.

Ms. Barranco reported that under Judge Williams' leadership, the Mental Health Committee was created to address issues relating to mentally ill defendants in the District and Circuit Court and to provide a forum to collaboratively address warrant, assessment, prompt admission and return, and emergency petition issues. Ms. Barranco further outlined that several key technology projects were funded by the Council under his tenure, which have improved connectivity for all of the members who utilize the CJCC fiber. She referred the Council to the most recent CJCC annual report which details many pages of accomplishments achieved under Judge Williams' leadership as Chair. As she concluded her report, Ms. Barranco thanked Judge Williams for his unwavering support during her health crisis. She said that she cannot thank him enough for allowing her the time to heal and to return to her position. Ms. Barranco said that it has been her privilege to work with Judge Williams to advance the Council's mission of enhancing public safety and reducing crime, advancing the

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fair and timely disposition of cases, and ensuring justice for those accused of crimes and the victims of crime. Ms. Barranco thanked Judge Williams for all of his efforts for the Council and the citizens of Baltimore and she wished him the best. She asked the CJCC to join her in thanking Judge Barry Williams and in welcoming Judge Charles Peters as the next Chair of the CJCC.

Judge Williams thanked Ms. Barranco for her report. He called on Director France for the Central Region report.

III. CENTRAL REGION REPORT – WENDELL M. FRANCE, DIRECTOR, CENTRAL REGION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Wendell M. France, Director, Central Region, DPSCS referred members to page four of the Central Region Statistics Report, which details data regarding detention trial status and outlines a breakdown of the trial status average daily population; selected dominant offenses and last day of the month population; bail amounts (non-sentenced detainees only) and last day of the month population; time in custody (non-sentenced detainees only) and last day of the month population; and detainees transported for court. Mr. France advised that he would answer any questions the Council may have about the report.

Judge Williams thanked Director France for his report.

IV. BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – COMMISSIONER ANTHONY BATTS

Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts advised members of the Council that a copy of the Police Commissioner's Report was included in their packets. Commissioner Batts reported that as of December 6, 2014 homicides are down 9% compared to the same time last year and non-fatal shootings are down 7%. He further reported that the total violent crime in Baltimore City is down 9%, total Property Crime is down 7% and total Part I crime is down 8%. He noted that there have been 201 homicides this year to date, compared to 220 year to date last year. Frank Conaway, Clerk for Baltimore City Circuit Court commended Commissioner Batts on a job well done.

Judge Williams thanked Commissioner Batts for his report and he called on Bernard McBride, President and CEO for the Behavioral Health System Baltimore Report.

V. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM BALTIMORE REPORT –BERNARD MCBRIDE, PRESIDENT AND CEO

Bernard McBride outlined that the primary roles of BHSB in understanding the behavioral health needs and representing the interests of Baltimore City are: 1) raising public awareness through education and outreach efforts; 2) focusing on and including behavioral health issues; 3) spotlighting needs and priorities; 4) advocating for appropriately favorable policy decisions; 5) seeking fair share of resources; and 6) improving access to and quality of services. Mr. McBride reported that their key initiatives are stabilization/sobering services, SBIRT training; overdose prevention; BEST training, and capacity building. He elaborated that SBIRT training includes a training module for non-healthcare workers to recognize substance abuse and that there are plans to expand the capacity building initiative.

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Mr. McBride conveyed that there is a large heroin problem in Baltimore and that there is good scientific evidence that treatment works with many people. He further conveyed that BHSB offers heroin treatment and has a Prevention Task Force which works to improve the quality and effectiveness of treatment and services. Mr. McBride stated that the task force also works to improve the relationships between clinics and neighbors, educate the public, and decrease prejudice. Mr. McBride detailed that there are challenges and opportunities within the criminal justice and behavioral health system including decriminalization as well as state administration changes.

Judge Williams thanked Mr. McBride for his report and he called on Judge W. Michel Pierson, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

VI. CIRCUIT COURT REPORT- JUDGE W. MICHEL PIERSON, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Judge W. Michel Pierson stated that in February 2014 the Governor appointed five new judges to the Circuit Court and three judges immediately went to the Criminal Division. He further stated that for the past nine months, the bench has been at full strength. He discussed that there are 33 judges on the bench and that 15 of these judges sit in the Criminal Division. Judge Pierson further discussed that last year the Judiciary requested a 34th judge which was not approved. He explained that the Court benefits from participation by retired judges, most of whom sit in the Criminal Division. Judge Pierson announced that Nancy Dennis, Jury Commissioner is retiring on December 31, 2014 and he recognized Ms. Dennis for her work to improve and promote operations of the jury assembly. He reported that JIS numbers through December 4, 2014 indicate 6,000 felony filings and 8,300 misdemeanor filings. Judge Pierson further reported that Baltimore City continues to be the busiest court in the State and the court has closed more cases in 2014 than have been opened. He discussed the Pretrial Detention Initiative and how a list is compiled weekly to identify individuals incarcerated for more than 180 days. Judge Pierson stated that to date there are 100 people on the list, but there were 180 people on the list at the beginning of the year. He noted that these older cases are specially set. Judge Pierson said that he is hopeful two new courtrooms in the Mitchell Courthouse will be completed in 2015.

Judge Williams thanked Judge Pierson for his report and he called on Judge Martin Dorsey, Chair of the Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) Committee.

VII. CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLANNING (COOP) COMMITTEE - JUDGE MARTIN DORSEY, CHAIR

Judge Martin Dorsey reported that the Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) Committee was formed in May 2009 by CJCC Chair Judge John Philip Miller to address issues concerning emergency preparedness and continuity of operations for Council members. Judge Dorsey further reported that this committee was previously chaired by Judge Nathan Braverman and John Hargrove. He stated that he has served as Chair since January of this year. Judge Dorsey further stated that the purpose of the COOP Committee is to provide a forum for the exchange of information and allow member representatives to work

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collaboratively on issues of common concern regarding emergency preparedness. He advised that the Committee facilitates the sharing of existing stakeholder continuity of operations plans and encourages agencies that do not yet have COOP plans to take a coordinated approach with other criminal justice agencies when drafting their plans. He noted that the Committee also works to ensure ongoing communication and training to prepare for the implementation of COOP plans. Judge Dorsey reported that the Committee meets quarterly and is comprised of representatives from the Judiciary, the Baltimore Police Department, the Circuit and District Court Clerks, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Mayor's Office of Information Technology, the Circuit Court Administration, the Sheriff's Office, and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

Judge Dorsey stated the Committee has been instrumental in fostering communication between criminal justice agencies and reminding members that we must all work together in preparing for emergency responses. He conveyed that the Committee has improved coordination between criminal justice partners regarding communication of courthouse closures by reviewing communications between criminal justice agencies after actual closures to determine where improvements could be made. Judge Dorsey further conveyed that the Committee also met last week and heard a very informative presentation on handling the Ebola health crisis. Judge Dorsey said the Committee is investigating possible methods of emergency broadcasts and is working on ensuring there is a coordinated response for the dissemination of information to stakeholders.

Judge Dorsey explained how the COOP Committee continues to provide vital information for inclusion in the Court's Continuity of Operations Plan. He noted that current contact information, essential functions, and court stakeholders were identified and added to the Plan, and Committee members were reminded that contact information should be reviewed and revised regularly. Judge Dorsey further conveyed that one of the greatest challenges facing the Committee is the lack of time and resources which agencies have available to spend on emergency preparedness. Judge Dorsey concluded his report by mentioning that the Committee will continue to stress that collaboration and communication are key when planning for an emergency, because the criminal justice system's operations are essential and all agencies must work together in the event disaster strikes.

Judge Williams thanked Judge Dorsey for his report and he called on Annette March-Grier, President, Roberta's House; Veronica Land-Davis, Executive Director, and Deirdre Gardner, Survivor Programs Supervisor.

VIII. PRESENTATION on ROBERTA'S HOUSE – ANNETTE MARCH-GRIER, VERONICA LAND-DAVIS, DEIRDRE GARDNER

Ms. Annette March-Grier, President of Roberta's House gave a PowerPoint presentation on their Family Grief and Loss Support Center. She advised that their mission is to provide a safe place and resource for the community, to promote recovery and healing from a loss of a loved one, and to address grief as a public health preventive service. Ms. March-Grier reported that

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Roberta's House has adult as well as child and adolescent programs, and the goal of each program is to increase the participants' knowledge of the grief process, to educate participants on healthy coping skills, and to improve the quality of life of the citizens in the neighborhood. Ms. March-Grier further reported that since 2009 Roberta's House has served 2,300 individuals and that after participating in one of their programs, 98% of the children and families are able to recognize grief and the necessary tasks to adjust to their loss or changes. Ms. March-Grier identified that 90% of the children and adults have reduced symptoms of maladaptive behavior and increased pro-social behaviors. Deirdre Gardner, Supervisor of the Roberta's House Survivors Advocacy Program discussed this initiative which provides advocates to meet with homicide survivors over a one year period. Ms. Gardner stated that they are also working with the Baltimore Police Department on training for officers on survivor notification.

Judge Williams thanked Ms. March-Grier, Ms. Land-Davis, and Ms. Garner for the Roberta's House presentation.

Judge Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 12:30 p.m., Courthouse East, Room 510.

MEETING HANDOUTS

- 1) Minutes from the November 12, 2014 meeting
- 2) Central Region Statistics Report
- 3) The Police Commissioner's Report
- 5) Behavioral Health System Baltimore Report- PowerPoint
- 6) Presentation on Roberta's House – PowerPoint & Program Packet

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Smalkin Barranco
CJCC Executive Director