

Juvenile Justice Reform Council

Minutes

October 29, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting began with a roll call by Secretary Sam Abed (Chair) of the council members present; enough members were present for a voting quorum.

2. Approval of October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were reviewed and approved by the Chair and the council.

3. Probation Practices

- Betsy Tolentino.
- Workgroup report out.
- Betsy Tolentino and Jenny Egan are working to finalize language related to probation recommendations.

4. Pretrial Detention and Out-of-home Commitment

- Marta Nelson.
- Review of recommendations received.
- The members had a discussion regarding Pretrial Detention and Out-of-home commitment.
- Discussion.

- Council members were given the opportunity to review their recommendations that had been submitted to the council prior to the meeting. The members then held votes to finalize the recommendations.
 - **Vote 1:** Require access to comprehensive educational programming.
 - **Vote 2:** Require every Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) facility and contracted program to offer access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training with highly qualified teachers and on-the-job training.
 - **Vote 3:** Youths may not be committed to DJS for an out-of-home placement if the charge is a misdemeanor if committed by an adult or a technical violation as defined by the Maryland Correctional Services article; except for the second adjudication of any handgun or firearm misdemeanor.
 - **Vote 4:** Establish a plan to close DJS run youth prisons and ensure every county has access to nonresidential and residential, community-based services that employ evidence-based, culturally competent programming. In order to provide quality evidence-based programming, Maryland should create an independent, unified, and coordinated inventory of services for children that measures each program for efficacy and cost-benefit.
- All votes passed.

5. Vera Institute Presentations

- [Celina Cuevas, PhD: Diversion Data Presentation](#)
- [Anton Robinson: Diversion Laws – National Overview](#)
- The presentations were not reached and will be considered at a future meeting.

6. Future Meetings

- The Chair announced topics for upcoming meetings.
- The council discussed the upcoming topics to address and modifications to the meeting schedule that may be needed to fit everything into the meetings before the final report is issued.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.