



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM COUNCIL

December 1, 2019

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Governor of Maryland  
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate  
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller, and Speaker Jones:

On behalf of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council, I am pleased to transmit to you the Council's Interim Report.

Chapters 252 and 253 of 2019 established the Juvenile Justice Reform Council. The Council is required to (1) convene an advisory stakeholder group, and work with the group to conduct roundtable discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the State; (2) research best practices for the treatment of juveniles who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems; (3) identify and make recommendations to limit or otherwise mitigate risk factors that contribute to juvenile contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and (4) request technical assistance from entities including the Abell Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Council of State Governments, the Vera Institute for Justice, or another similar organization.

On or before December 1, 2019, the council is required to submit an interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article to the General Assembly. On or before December 1, 2020, the council is required to submit a final report on its findings and recommendations.

Appointments for the council's membership were finalized in September and October 2019, and the council held its first meeting on October 23, 2019. Prior to the first meeting, the council conducted a survey of its members to help gauge member priorities and shape the conversation of the council's first meeting.

December 1, 2019

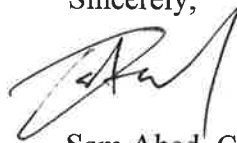
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Also prior to the first meeting, a Notice of Technical Assistance Provider Application and Funding Availability was released to solicit applications for technical assistance providers to assist the council in its work. Funding support for technical assistance services was secured through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). The council received applications from the Vera Institute for Justice, Justice System Partners, and the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

At the council's first meeting, it reviewed its responsibilities, discussed plans for regional roundtable meetings throughout the State, and received a presentation from DJS. On November 20, 2019, the council held its second meeting, at which the council discussed and voted on preferences in selecting a technical service provider. After discussion, the council selected the Vera Institute for Justice to provide technical services in assisting the council with its work.

Moving forward, the council plans to conduct 16 regional roundtable discussions in the 6 regions of the State designated by the DJS and work with the Vera Institute for Justice in fulfilling its mandate under Chapters 252 and 253. The council further plans to submit an addendum to this report in the coming months that will provide updates on the council's activities and will include a framework outlining the work to be completed by the Vera Institute for Justice.

Sincerely,



Sam Abed, Chair  
Juvenile Justice Reform Council

SA/JDL/kms

cc: Victoria L. Gruber  
Ryan Bishop