

# Juvenile Justice Reform Council

## Minutes

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Virtual Meeting

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

Glenn Fueston

- Executive Director Glenn Fueston (Chair) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and thanked the speakers and presenters for joining the meeting.
- Upon a motion by Dr. Sickmund and a second by Jenny Egan, minutes from the July 1, 2021 meeting were approved.

#### II. Individual Experience

- **Reginald D. Betts** recounted his lived experiences as an individual impacted by incarceration in the adult criminal system. An author and attorney, Mr. Betts brings valuable insight to understanding incarceration and its effects on families and communities.
- **Michael Singleton** shared his previous experience as a young person who navigated the transfer process. Michael explained the instrumental role his father played in securing legal representation and clinical evaluations to effect his transfer from adult to juvenile court.
- **Terri Blunt** shared the experience of her son, Javon, who is currently completing a six year prison sentence.

#### III. Youth Charged as Adults - National Landscape

- Marcy Mistrett, Senior Fellow at The Sentencing Project, provided the Council with a presentation on National Trends in Charging Children as Adults. The presentation is available online:  
<http://dls.maryland.gov/policy-areas/juvenile-justice-reform-council>.
- Marc Levin, Chief Policy Counsel at the Council on Criminal Justice, described nationwide trends that lead to the passage of punitive transfer legislation in the 1990s and emphasized the importance of neurodevelopmental considerations in policy making. Mr. Levin offered recommendations with respect to each waiver type, and noted how the implementation of blended sentencing and specialized programming for violent offenders in Texas has decreased recidivism.

- Members and presenters discussed outcomes by waiver type. Ms. Mistrett indicated that exclusionary waiver produces the worst outcomes and recommended elimination of legislative waiver, allowing youth the full benefit of review in juvenile court before a waiver decision is made. Mr. Levin described the inefficiency of cases that begin in adult court before transfer to juvenile.

#### **IV. Pennsylvania Recommendations on Youth Charged as Adults**

- Pennsylvania State Representative Mike Zabel, Co-Chair, Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force, provided the Council with a presentation summarizing the Task Force's recommendations to the Pennsylvania Legislature. The presentation is available online:  
<http://dls.maryland.gov/policy-areas/juvenile-justice-reform-council>.

#### **V. New/Old Business**

- An additional meeting will be scheduled. Jameson will be in touch regarding potential dates for the next two meetings.
- The Chair asked Council members to draft and submit proposed recommendations to Jameson Lancaster ([Jameson.Lancaster@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:Jameson.Lancaster@mlis.state.md.us)) and Jessica Wheeler ([jessica.wheeler@maryland.gov](mailto:jessica.wheeler@maryland.gov)) prior to the next meeting.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

- Jenny Egan moved to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Sickmund seconded the motion.
- The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:30.