MINUTES

Commission Members Present:
Barbara Grochal, Chair
Barbara Robinson, Maryland State Senator
Alonzo Washington, Maryland House of Representatives
Walter Sallee, Maryland State Department of Education
Michael Bunitsky, Maryland Association of Boards of Education
Robin McNair, Maryland State Education Association
Marla Posey-Moss, Maryland PTA designee
Gail Sunderland, Maryland Equity Project
Rhonda Richetta, Principal (Baltimore City Public Schools)
Kimberly Humphrey, American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland designee
Melanie Shapiro, Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Shamarla McCoy, Advocates for Children and Youth Designee
Lorig Charkoudian, Community Mediation Maryland
Phillip Leaf, Executive Director, Youth Leadership and Advocacy Network, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Craig Minor, Advocacy Network
Tiffany Nace, Teacher (Worcester County Public Schools)
Deborah Eisenberg, Faculty Director, Center for Dispute Resolution, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
Smita Dey Coger, PSC
Tonia Ferguson, Arc of Maryland
Betsey Tolentino, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Michael Bunitsky
Denise Jones
Pat Marks
Lynne Miller
Deborah Friese
Barbara Sherrod
Tina Dove
Dwanna Nicole
Nneka Adibe
Mary Rose Madden
Gail Martin
CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Grochal called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. She thanked everybody for coming to the second meeting.

LAW SCHOOL WELCOME

Dean Tobin welcomed all the members to the law school and thanked them for being a part of this process.

UNDERSTANDING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE PRESENTATION

Dwanna Nicole, from the Advancement project, a racial justice based in DC, gave a presentation on the history of the School-to-Prison pipeline. Below are a few of the points made:

- Specifically, she highlighted the failures of broken windows theory and zero tolerance policies. These policies have created disparate rates of suspension for students of color, special ed students, and those in the LGBTQ community, which start as early as preschool.
- America has a problem with the criminalization of child-like behavior.
- A particular study from Chicago found the majority of juvenile arrests were from school referrals.
- Data shows the harm of having a continued law enforcement presence in schools. These law enforcement officers do not have consistent training throughout Maryland.
- Professional development for teachers is needed to implement the best practices, specifically, training on the perception of black children.

IMPLICIT BIAS AS IT EXISTS IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Dr. Lisa Williams, Executive Director of the Office of Equity and Cultural Proficiency for Baltimore County Public Schools, gave a presentation on implicit bias. Implicit bias is defined as, “attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.” Race is strongly related to this bias and a foundational issue of the suspension rates within Maryland Schools.

- It is important to note that it does not take malice to hold a negative idea; everybody has implicit biases.
- Black students are disproportionately punished for subjective offenses, like disrespect, which lacks a uniform definition.
- Maryland needs to move beyond data to understand a school’s culture. We need qualitative information.
• Additionally, the system is not broken but is functioning as it was designed; Maryland schools need broad structural change.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Grochal stated we would hear from Walter Sallee about school data and school-related arrests next time at the January meeting. Additionally, as we explore what restorative practices is, we will hear from some Committee members and possibly national experts who may attend through Skype. The final product is a long way off but it is going to come fast. Therefore, the summertime may involve work groups. January 22nd is the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Grochal adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.
(Note: Meetings are recorded and can be found online on the Center for Dispute Resolution’s Commission webpage.)