Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Baltimore City District Court Administrative Judge Geoffrey G. Hengerer greeted Council members and their representatives.

Council Members in Attendance:* Chair Audrey J.S. Carrión, Circuit Administrative Judge, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Chair Geoffrey Hengerer, District Administrative Judge, District Court of Maryland, District 1, Dorothy Lennig, designee for the Governor of Maryland, Catherine Flynn, designee for the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Lieutenant Colonel Derek Loeffler, designee for the Commissioner, Baltimore Police Department, Alycia Capozello, designee for the District Public Defender, Baltimore City and Co-Chair of the Community Justice Committee, Angelina Guarino, designee for the Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Co-Chair of the Interagency Data and IT Committee, LaShae Nicholson, Deputy Director of Operations for the Division of Parole and Probation, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Kathleen Landerkin, designee for the Commissioner, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Alana Calhoun, designee for Council President, Baltimore City Council, Sam Cogen, Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, Betsy Fox Tolentino, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services, Stefanie Mavronis, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Xavier Conaway, Clerk of the Court, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Linda Lewis, Administrative Commissioner, District Court of Maryland, District 1, Thomas Maronick, Jr., Private Defense Bar Representative, Bar Association of Baltimore City.

Others in Attendance:* Kimberly Barranco, Director of the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Judge James Green, District Court of Maryland, District 1 and Chair of the Warrant Committee, Joseph Muhlhausen, Chief of Data Analytics, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and Co-Chair of the Interagency Data and IT Committee, Eric Griffith, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Nicholas Blendy, designee for the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, Sam Friedman, Governor's Office, Harmony Thornton, Governor's Office, Tiffany McKnight, Behavioral Health System Baltimore, Daniel Rabbitt, Behavioral Health System Baltimore, Jonathan Davis, Care Point Response, Inc.

Absent: Chair Brandon Scott, Mayor, City of Baltimore, Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland, Anthony Brown Maryland Attorney General, Ivan Bates, State's Attorney for Baltimore City,

Carolyn Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Kimberly Bey, Commissioner, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Zeke Cohen, Council President, Baltimore City Council, James Wyda, Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland, Mary Abrams, Administrative Clerk, District Court of Maryland, District 1, Crista Taylor, President and CEO, Behavioral Health System Baltimore, Cory McCray, Baltimore City Delegation Senator, Marlon Amprey, Baltimore City Delegation Delegate

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

Approval of the March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Judge Hengerer asked members if they had any edits to the March 11, 2026 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved without objection.

Chairs' Reports

District Court Administrative Judge Geoffrey Hengerer:

- Judge Hengerer reported on the 11th annual Courting Art Baltimore contest held on Monday May 16, 2026, where the District Court in Baltimore City unveiled 20 finalists and 10 winners.
- The program was initiated 11 years ago by Judge Weinstein, and students from 17 Baltimore City public high schools submitted 169 pieces of artwork created in various mediums in this year's contest.
- Scholarships totaling $23,500 were awarded to seven student finalists for post-high school degrees, and two students received an opportunity to participate in the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) Young People's Studio program.
- Judge Hengerer noted that Mayor Brandon Scott was unable to attend the CJCC meeting, but thanked him for coming to the Courting Art event.

Circuit Court Administrative Judge Audrey J.S. Carrión:

- Judge Carrión acknowledged the passing of Sheriff's Office Chief of Security Major Spencer Giles on May 11, 2026. Major Giles worked at the Sheriff's Office since 2013, and she expressed the Court's deep appreciation for his dedication and service, asking that Sheriff Cogen convey these sentiments to the Sheriff's Office staff.
- Judge Carrión announced the upcoming retirements of Judge Barry Williams, effective June 5, 2026, and Judge Shannon Avery, effective June 20, 2026. Judge Williams previously led the criminal division and handled warrants, a role now transitioned to Judge Dana Middleton and Judge Cathy Chen. She noted the retirements will require changes to the post-conviction schedule.
- Judge Carrión shared that after nearly six years of discussion, the Baltimore City Board of Estimates approved a three-year pre-development agreement to develop plans for the

Baltimore City Circuit Court to formalize an agreement to either purchase or lease the property at Metro West.

- Judge Carrión reported a productive meeting with Commissioner Worley and Lieutenant Colonel Loeffler regarding improving the processing of juvenile warrants. She suggested that this issue be addressed further by the Juvenile Case Processing Workgroup to ensure all necessary stakeholders are involved in the conversation.

Standing Reports

Director's Report:

- Kimberly Barranco provided an update on the January 21, 2026 strategic planning session, specifically regarding Sequential Intercept Model mapping to identify resources and gaps for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. Jim Rhoden, the director of the Center of Excellence at the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy will present on their mapping process at the next meeting on July 8, 2026.
- Ms. Barranco reported she attended the Maryland Statewide Convening on Domestic Violence Protective Order Firearm Surrender with Captain Tai-Alani Dickens from the Sheriff's Office.
- Captain Dickens participated on a panel regarding firearm surrender processes, and Baltimore's practice of ordering firearm surrender as part of a temporary protective order, effectuated by the Sheriff's Office, was identified as a best practice which is not commonly done across the state.

Division of Pretrial Detention and Services Report: Assistant Commissioner Kathleen Landerkin provided the Pretrial Detention Report on behalf of Commissioner Kimberly Bey.

- Assistant Commissioner Landerkin reported that 10 students from Eager Street Academy will graduate on June 4, 2026 with some already transitioned to adult detention but still credited as graduates. She also reported that the school principal, who has led the program since its inception when it was operated in trailers behind the Pretrial Complex, is retiring July 1, 2026 and they are organizing a celebration to honor her service.
- Assistant Commissioner Landerkin noted that a population drop may occur after October 1, 2026 due to the change in charging juveniles as adults for handgun violations, as handgun charges currently comprise approximately one-third of their population.
- She reported an increase in waivers back to Juvenile Court for these specific violations, which has assisted with population management.

Baltimore Police Department Report: Lt. Col. Derek Loeffler provided the report.

- Lt. Col. Loeffler reported a continued reduction in crime, noting that in April 2026, there were four homicides compared to five during the same period last year.
- He noted a 14% decrease in homicides compared to last year, representing six fewer lives lost, and a 10% decrease in non-fatal shootings, totaling 11 fewer incidents.
- Dorothy Lennig stated that the Governor was focused on summer engagement and asked what the city was working on in preparation.
- Lt. Col. Loeffler replied that this was on their radar and they are making plans for deployment and an increase in events.
- In response to a question from Tom Maronick regarding quality of life issues, Lt. Col. Loeffler discussed the Baltimore Police Department's deployment adjustments in Federal Hill to address quality of life issues and potential flash mob incidents, and noted they continue to work with their partners.
- The department monitors social media to anticipate large, disruptive youth gatherings and proactively deploys resources to maintain public safety without exceeding personnel capacity.
- Stefanie Mavronis discussed the youth safety engagement strategy in place since March 27, 2026. This initiative involves non-traditional curfew engagement where credible messenger staff, social workers, and school police engage with young people on Friday and Saturday evenings. They have logged over 400 engagements, including a youth link-up over spring break where proactive deployment and coordination with the Baltimore Police Department successfully set a positive tone and led to consequences for organizers of advertised disruptive gatherings.

Presentation on CALL 988: Daniel Rabbitt, Policy Director for Behavioral Health System Baltimore, Tiffany McKnight, Associate Director of Crisis Services at Behavioral Health System Baltimore, and Jonathan Davis, CEO of Care Point Response, Inc. provided a detailed presentation on the 988 call line.

- Dan Rabbitt announced that the Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc. has officially changed its name to CarePoint Response, effective two weeks prior to the meeting. This organization operates the Call 988 helpline, along with Grassroots, providing free, 24/7, and confidential support for mental health and substance use crises.
- The Crisis Now model is utilized and provides a parallel system to 911 for mental health and substance use crises. This model includes 988 call support, civilian mobile crisis teams, and crisis stabilization facilities, designed to divert individuals in crisis away from law enforcement responses or hospital emergency departments when appropriate.
- Mr. Rabbitt stated that Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore oversees and funds but does not operate the Call 988 Helpline.

- Jonathan Davis explained that CarePoint Response, Inc. is a nonprofit that works closely with Maryland government agencies.
- When someone calls 988, specialized counselors, who are local mental health professionals with at least 100 hours of specialized training, answer calls 24/7.
- Maryland maintains an 89% answer rate for 988 calls, with 89% of calls answered within 20 seconds. Services are available free and confidential via phone, text, and chat, without requiring names or identifying information.
- The 911 diversion program accepts warm handoffs for suicide ideation without violence and general behavioral health calls. Embedded clinicians within the 911 call center support these handoffs.
- The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program allows individuals to opt into intensive case management, currently serving approximately 65 clients.
- They also offer critical incident debriefing, post-incident support, training for law enforcement and the judiciary, and a direct line for police officers.
- Tiffany McKnight discussed public education efforts including downloadable materials from the 988 store, such as flyers, fact sheets and youth toolkits.
- The Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund invested $2 million into the 988 helpline initiative to reduce stigma.
- Performance data, including call volume and outcomes, is publicly available on the Behavioral Health System Baltimore website dashboard.
- Ms. McKnight reported over 4,000 calls per month and 57,000 calls in the 2025 calendar year, a 12% increase from 2024.
- Georouting began in 2024, and 53% of the calls came from within Baltimore City.
- In the period from January 2024 through December 2025, there were 105,000 calls, with 85% of these resolved on the phone without the need for additional community resources. Incomplete calls, including hangups and wrong numbers, are excluded from the answer rate calculations.
- Mr. Davis and Mr. Rabbitt discussed the importance of increasing awareness of 988 to further divert appropriate calls from 911.
- Mr. Davis reported an increase in youth and children using 988 via text, with national data noting an 11% decrease in youth suicide since the initiative began.
- Mr. Rabbitt noted that the number of calls to the line has doubled since the transition from the previous "Here to Help" hotline.
- In response to Clerk Xavier Conaway's inquiry about success metrics, Mr. Rabbitt defined resolution on the phone as the primary metric, meaning no additional community resources were dispatched. Their resolution rate is approximately 90%, compared to the national average of 80%.
- Mr. Davis explained that follow-up calls are also conducted at 30, 60, and 90-day intervals to monitor long-term outcomes and prevent crisis re-entry.

- Regarding emergency response, there are 16 mobile crisis teams operating regionally on a 24/7 schedule across three shifts, with three to four units available per shift. The city has a single co-response team, consisting of a hired clinician, to ensure clinical efficacy and safety during high-priority incidents.
- Participants discussed the potential to include probation agents in the 988 resource network.
- Ms. McKnight agreed to further investigate call outcome data, including transfers to 911 and voluntary hospitalizations, at Judge Carrión's suggestion.
- Judge Jim Green discussed the ongoing work to address the intersection of mental health crises and the criminal justice system, including coordinating with emergency room doctors and the police department. He noted the importance of identifying effective pathways for individuals who do not meet criteria for emergency petitions but still require support.

Work of the CJCC Committees

Warrant Committee – Chair Judge Jim Green

- Judge Green reported on the Warrant Committee's recent work session and progress, and recognized the Baltimore Police Department's development of a new case management database to help prioritize warrant service.
- He also acknowledged the contributions of the State's Attorney's Office, which has assigned a senior prosecutor to assist with the integration of systems and the processing of detainers.
- The JRA Warrant Committee is working on a proposed rule change regarding the processing and timeliness of detainers, which will be submitted to the MD Rules Committee.
- Angelina Guarino discussed potential Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) collaboration with the BPD database for warrant data sharing.
- A snapshot from October 2025 indicated 1,500 live detainers statewide, with approximately 400 in Baltimore City. The committee aims to standardize these processes to improve outcomes for individuals held on detainers.
- Judge Green shared an example of an individual serving a sentence at the Eastern Correctional Institution whose classification was potentially affected by a warrant for a minor light rail smoking citation. He emphasized the necessity of system interaction to ensure that when warrants are ultimately recalled in court, the information is updated in all stakeholder systems to prevent unnecessary barriers to re-entry and participation in work-release programs.

Pretrial/Post Arrest Committee – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Judge Diana Smith, Ms. Barranco reported on efforts to provide electronic discovery to defense counsel at the detention center, which is being done through a

committee workgroup. Following a review of the Allegany County, PA model, which utilizes kiosks and off-network computers, DPSCS is conducting a utilization survey and identifying potential space at the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex, in addition to investigating the needed hardware/software.

- Mr. Maronick raised concerns regarding the difficulty defense attorneys face when bringing laptops into institutions, noting that the process requires voluminous prior approval and is often hindered by technological issues. He suggested a uniform process. Ms. Guarino agreed to take this feedback back to DPSCS Security Operations to review policies and improve the standardization of the current process for reviewing discovery.
- Ms. Landerkin suggested that an attorney request a supervisor when they encounter an issue. She stated information bulletins are available regarding what can be brought in and when permission is required.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Co-Chairs Judge David Aldouby and former Administrative Judge Barbara Waxman, Ms. Barranco reported that the committee meets every other month and last convened on March 26, 2026; the next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2026.
- The committee reviewed data on protective order service by the Sheriff's Office, including gun seizure rates and firearm surrenders. The Sheriff's Office is exploring the adoption of an electronic protective order service protocol similar to Baltimore County's system in partnership with the Clerk of the Circuit Court to reduce paper handling and manual data input.
- Ms. Barranco reported a decline in abuser intervention program referrals post-pandemic. The committee is working with Parole and Probation to investigate the cause of this decline and to ensure data accuracy.
- The committee will host a presentation on extreme risk protective orders at their May 28, 2026 virtual meeting. The presentation will be delivered by Laure Ruth from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and Lydia Watts from the University of Maryland.

Transportation Committee – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Chair Judge Melissa Copeland, Ms. Barranco reported that the Transportation Committee meets quarterly and last met on April 20, 2026 and will meet next on July 20, 2026.
- The committee addresses the transportation of inmates to and from Circuit and District court, focusing on public safety staffing issues and writs and scheduling procedures for BCDC, DOC, and DJS.
- Judge Copeland has expressed interest in the pretrial electronic discovery workgroup. The Transportation Committee is currently addressing significant issues faced by pro

se defendants in the Circuit Court who are unable to access their discovery, and would like to find a solution that does not necessitate the transportation of defendants.

- Transportation of out-of-jurisdiction and federal detainees, and the impact of the restructuring of the DPSCS records and commitment office is also addressed.

Community Justice Committee – Co-Chair Alycia Capozello

- Alycia Capazello, Deputy Public Defender for Baltimore City, reported that the Community Justice committee last met on May 11, 2026 and will meet again on July 27, 2026.
- The group is moving forward with two potential programs for emerging adults aged 18 to 25 who are first-time offenders.
- The first program, in partnership with ROCA Baltimore, targets first-time offenders charged with the wear, carry, and transport of a handgun.
- The second program is modeled after the "Unleashing Potential" program from St. Louis, Missouri, which serves individuals charged with misdemeanors aged 18 to 26.
- The goal of these programs is to provide rehabilitative services and prevent recidivism.
- The committee is currently seeking a community member to join their workgroup. She noted that finding candidates based on national best practices is challenging but stated their commitment to continuing the search.

Interagency Data and IT Committee – Co-Chairs Angelina Guarino and Joseph Muhlhausen

- Co-Chair Joseph Muhlhausen, Chief of Data Analytics for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, reported that the Interagency Data and IT Committee last met on April 2, 2026 and will meet again on June 4, 2026.
- The committee is discussing electronically accessing protective orders through MDEC. The Sheriff's Office reported that implementing a similar electronic process through the Circuit Court has saved deputies approximately one and a half hours per day, and they are working to extend this to District Court protective orders.
- The Committee discussed rising data storage costs and the potential for collective purchasing power with vendors as a solution.
- The Committee is also discussing artificial intelligence and the lack of a clear citywide policy.
- The Committee is addressing the CJCC fiber infrastructure located at 6 St. Paul Street. Planning for the building's sale proceeded without full awareness of the infrastructure, but steps are being taken to include relevant stakeholders, including the judiciary, in future discussions.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Chair Tania Araya, Ms. Barranco reported that the DVFRT meets monthly and confidentially reviews intimate partner violence homicides and near

homicides in Baltimore to develop recommendations for systems. The team works by developing timelines, conducting interviews, and identifying areas where systems responses could be more effective.

- The team is currently reviewing three cases, with two in the process of developing potential recommendations and one new case is in the data gathering phase.
- The Team has also added a representative from the Center for Hope to address the needs of children who witness violence.

Juvenile Case Processing Workgroup – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Chair Judge Charles Blomquist, the Judge In Charge of the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court, Ms. Barranco reported that the workgroup held its first meeting on April 14, 2026, with the next meeting scheduled for May 18, 2026.
- The workgroup meets monthly as it is time limited.
- The group is focusing on charging, filings, notice to the parties, service to the parties, hearing scheduling, and the addition of warrants to their scope.

Booking Processes Workgroup – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Chair Patrick Motsay, Chief of the Charging Division at the State's Attorney's Office, Ms. Barranco reported that the workgroup held its first meeting on May 4, 2026, with the next scheduled for June 5, 2026.
- The workgroup meets monthly as it is also time limited.
- The group is focused on the modernization of current paper-intensive booking and charging processes. Future meetings will involve members reporting on their specific roles within the booking process to identify efficiencies.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

No new business was raised. Judge Hengerer thanked the attendees and adjourned the meeting. He advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday July 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and would feature a presentation on the SIM mapping process.