

**Charles County CJCC Meeting Date | Time: 1/8/2026 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Location: Microsoft Teams Video Conference**

**Meeting Co-Chairs: Hon. H. James West and Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.**

**Meeting Attendees:**

- Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq. (Board of County Commissioners)
- Judge H. James West (Circuit Court)
- Anthony Covington (State's Attorney's Office)
- Judge Patrick Devine (District Court)
- Sheriff Troy Berry (CCSO)
- Deb Hall (Charles County Government)
- Jason DuBard (Parole and Probation)
- Dr. Dianna Abney (Charles County Department of Health)
- Judge Donine Carrington Martin (Circuit Court)
- Matt Norris (Chief of Police, La Plata Police Department)
- Julee Snyder (Circuit Court)
- Ryan Ross (Charles County Detention Center)
- Julie Walton (Charles County Community Mediation Center)
- Sara Carruth (Circuit Court)
- Jeannine James (Mayor, Town of La Plata)
- Abena McAllister (State's Attorney's Office)
- Michele Harewood (Office of the Public Defender)
- Lisa Yates (Circuit Clerk)
- Mike Moses (Veteran Service Officer)
- Dr. Tanisha Sanders (Charles County Department of Social Services)
- Gary Ruble (Department of Juvenile Services)
- Jeremy Widder (Private Defense Attorney)
- Susie Thompson (Jude House)
- Tawanna Foster (Jude House)
- Caleb Glonek (Recovery Centers of America)
- Judge Marina Sabett (District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County)

**Meeting Objectives**

1. Approve Meeting Minutes from November 2025
2. Presentation – Judge Marina Sabett
3. CJCC Committee Updates

#### 4. Open Discussion

Meeting convened at 8:01 a.m.

Judge West opened the meeting. He welcomed attendees, extending New Year greetings, and initiated approval of the November 13, 2025, minutes.

##### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The November 2025 meeting minutes were emailed to all CJCC members.
- Motion to approve November meeting minutes: Judge West
- Seconded by: Judge Devine and Mr. Covington
- Outcome: Approved unanimously.

The Meeting Minutes from the November 13, 2025, CJCC Meeting were approved.

##### Presentation: Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Speaker: Hon. Marina Sabett, Coordinating Judge for Behavioral Health, Maryland Judiciary

Judge Sabett provided an in-depth overview of Maryland's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) statute and implementation status. Key points included:

- Purpose of AOT: A civil, court-ordered outpatient treatment option for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness who meet specific statutory criteria, intended as an alternative to repeated inpatient hospitalization or incarceration.
- Eligibility Criteria: Adults (18+) with a serious and persistent mental illness who have demonstrated repeated hospitalizations, incarcerations, or violent behaviors within defined timeframes and are unlikely to adhere to treatment voluntarily.
- Implementation Status: No Maryland counties opted to establish local AOT programs by the January 31, 2025, deadline. As a result, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is required to implement AOT programs statewide, beginning with three priority regions (Anne Arundel/Baltimore City, Eastern Shore, and one additional region) based on readiness and referral volume.
- Care Coordination Teams: Multidisciplinary teams (psychiatrist, case manager, peer recovery specialist, ACT team when appropriate) will develop and manage individualized treatment plans, including medication management, housing, transportation, and other supportive services.

- Judicial Process: Petitions are filed in Circuit Court, under seal. Respondents are entitled to counsel and due process protections. Orders may last 6–12 months, with periodic court review.
- Compliance: Failure to comply with an AOT order is not grounds for contempt or involuntary commitment; AOT is designed as an incentive-based intervention (“carrot, not stick”).
- Benefits: Research (including New York’s model) shows reduced hospitalizations, homelessness, and system costs, with improved treatment adherence and life satisfaction.

Judge Sabett emphasized that AOT is not a panacea but a critical tool to address gaps in the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. She offered to share her presentation slides with the group.

## Updates

### Juvenile Justice Committee – Julie Walton

- The Juvenile Justice Subcommittee is progressing well with its mapping project.
- Invitations to key stakeholders have been sent.
- The committee is actively working to incorporate youth voices while ensuring confidentiality and protection of participants.
- The mapping session is scheduled for the end of January 2026.

### Operations Committee – Sara Carruth

- Sara Carruth reported that members are still needed for the Operations Committee.
- Purpose: To support high-performing CJCC operations, improve data sharing, and enhance community engagement and transparency.
- Members were encouraged to contact Sara Carruth with interest or recommendations.

## Open Discussion:

- Judge West announced that bylaws revisions will be presented at a future meeting; draft and redline versions will be circulated in advance.
- Director Ryan Ross provided an update on individuals at the Detention Center awaiting transfer to state mental health facilities, noting significant delays (some exceeding 200 days) despite statutory timelines. This underscored the urgency and relevance of AOT as an early intervention strategy.

- Dr. Abney requested a copy of Judge Sabet's presentation slides. Sara Carruth and Judge West confirmed they would distribute them once received.
- Commissioner President Collins extended New Year greetings and expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts of the Council.

#### Adjournment

- Judge West closed the meeting.
- With no further matters to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the CJCC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

The mission of the CJCC is to enhance the operation of the Charles County adult and juvenile justice systems through interagency collaboration and the coordination of cohesive policies and programs for the purposes of improving public health and safety and heightening public trust.