Community members were named today to the new Justice Committee for the Montgomery County Jail.

Co-Chairs:
Rabbi Bernard Barsky, Retired Rabbi, Beth Abraham Synagogue
Dr. Gary LeRoy, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

Committee Members:
Branford Brown, Esq., Executive Director, Miami Valley Urban League
Stephanie Cook, Esq., City of Dayton Law Department
Rev. David Fox, Retired Chief of Police, Wilberforce University, representing the Dayton unit of the NAACP
Tony Rankin, Retired Chief Deputy, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office
Greg Singer, Judge, Montgomery County Common Pleas Court
Carol Smerz, CEO/President, South Community Behavioral Healthcare
Phil Plummer, Montgomery County Sheriff, Ex officio member

The initial term of appointment will be for two years. The Montgomery County Commission will act by the end of the month to create the Justice Committee and it will begin meetings shortly.

The members were selected by a committee made up of Dan Foley, Montgomery County Commissioner, Peggy Lehner, Ohio State Senator, Phil Plummer, Montgomery County Sheriff, and Nan Whaley, Dayton Mayor. The Selection Committee looked for members who represented a variety of backgrounds, including mental health, substance abuse civil rights, law enforcement, judiciary, and healthcare.

Representing the selection committee, Senator Lehner said, "We were pleased by the large number of people who expressed interest in serving on this committee. The
members selected will do an excellent job representing the community as they examine this important issue."

The Justice Committee is expected to hold meetings at least quarterly, and to release an annual report. It will be empowered to look at a range of issues related to the Montgomery County Jail. The creation of the Justice Committee was announced on February 27 and persons interested in an appointment to it were invited to submit credentials.