

**DUTCHESS COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
SPECIAL POPULATONS COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes—July 17, 2017

Present: Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Charles Robitaille, DBCH
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Jason Bailor, Lexington Center for Recovery
Kevin Hazucha, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator

1. Approval of June 19, 2017 meeting minutes- The June minutes were approved on a motion by Judge Mora and seconded by Steve Miccio

2. Stabilization Center update - Steve reported that things are going well. Coordinating staffing is sometimes a challenge as several different agencies are involved. Over 120 officers brought people in since the center opened. The average amount of time spent in the center is about six hours. Steve reported that we are making connections to community services within that time. Kevin said that he feels this is a tremendous asset to the community. Steve said they are adding more decorations for a pleasant atmosphere. Steve said we have served over 780 people since opening on February 13. Steve said that the Rehab agencies have been very helpful by taking people within 24 hours.

3. Recidivism – Gary reported an 18% reduction in the one-year post release recidivism rate of high-risk people in RESTART for a minimum of 30 days. This holds true for both men and women in the higher risk populations. The sample size is 151 people. This is better than expected results at this stage and a credit to the whole RESTART staff. Gary will send out a slide showing the stats that he will present at the CJC meeting tomorrow.

4. RESTART update – Charlie said they have been focusing on referrals to RESTART and identifying appropriate candidates. Charlie added that they are able to work one on one for a brief period of time if necessary. Aftercare meetings have been set up. They are looking at texting as a way that people can communicate with RESTART staff. RESTART staff can also do community outreach and referral agencies can come into the jail to meet with participants before they are released. Charlie said he is grateful that Probation screens the candidates and knows who will be appropriate for RESTART. Kevin added that the emphasis over the past six months has been to improve the transition phase and the team has done a great job with that. Charlie said there is camaraderie within the men’s unit because they are all

together; it would benefit the women if they had the same living situation. This will be remedied in the new facility.

5. Quality Assurance –The focus of this morning’s quality assurance meeting was making connections to community resources for people not on community supervision. Some of the items the group discussed were: referrals, transportation, coordination and centralizing communications.

6. Subcommittee for Special Needs update - Tom Angell said that the County Executive is very concerned about how government assists people with special needs in the criminal justice system. The County Executive has appointed a Deputy Commissioner for Special Needs, Toni Ciarfella.

This committee has met several times and has identified three issues that need continuing work. OPWDD, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities has two residential treatment facilities that are essentially locked facilities. The one we access most is in Saranac Lake. People get sent there when they are not competent to stand trial and have a developmental disability. There is continuing interactions with the facility until the person either a) gets converted to civil status b) is timed out under 730 law or c) is able to continue with the criminal justice process. Often when the person has completed their stay at the facility they end up back in jail. Coordination of services for placement of people with special needs was also identified as a need.

We have many community residences in the county for people with developmental disabilities. If a resident is arrested, they often end up in jail since there is no other viable option. Once someone with these issues ends up in jail, it is extremely difficult to get them out as no one will take them. Tom continued that whole units have been shut down to care for one individual.

The third area identified is people who are in the community, but not connected to the OPWDD system. They may be cared for at home or aged out of the care system. Sometimes people are fairly adept at masking those areas of their lives where they are struggling. We have identified a need for training. The committee is working with the Anderson School to set up training for jail, probation, Public Defender and nursing staff at the jail.

Jon commented that there are two different types of training that will be provided by Anderson. Jail staff will be trained to recognize someone on the spectrum and how to interact with them. The other training will be held at Probation and will be primarily focused on recognizing the signs of autism. Steve said CIT has such a component. Tom said they are looking into setting up a protocol with the District Attorney’s Office to more effectively deal with and avoid arrests of persons in residential situations when possible.

People with special needs do not make up a large percentage of the jail population; however, they tend to remain in jail for some time while everyone looks for an alternative solution. Tom noted that this is a relatively new problem. When OPWDD was well staffed and funded, they would actually come to the jail and screen inmates. Many people were successfully transitioned into the community with supervision. This is not the case anymore; funding was drastically reduced. The next meeting is September 14.

7. Other Business - Jason Bailor from Lexington announced that they are expanding services to the Millbrook clinic. It will operate five days a week and will offer full services. They will continue to integrate with the mental health services in the area.

8. Collective Impact update – Sam Busselle said that there are 200-300 people engaged in trying to improve the quality of life in the City of Poughkeepsie. There are five working groups: public safety, employment, education, neighborhood revitalization and youth services.

9. Next meeting – scheduled for September 18, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. There will be no August meeting.

10. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Ellen Still, seconded by Tom Angell.