

EXTERNAL ADVISORY GROUP
DUTCHESS COUNTY JAIL TRANSITION CENTER PROJECT
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015 at the BARDAVON Theater

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

- Senator Saland, Chair of the EAG, opened the meeting, stating the purpose of the EAG is to act as liaison between those in the process of moving forward with this project and the general public.
 - The Group will establish a regular meeting schedule, targeting the last Tuesday of February or the first Tuesday in March. All meetings are open to the public; comments will be taken at the conclusion of the presentations. Questions are to be written on cards provided at check in and will be answered at the following meeting, via email and/or on the DCJTC project website.
- The following EAG members were present:
 - Rev. Jesse Bottoms, Senior Pastor, Beulah Baptist Church; Bob Mallory, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council Chairman; Joe Lepore, owner, LCS Facility Group; John Crodelle, Town Justice – Town of North East; Jim Hammond, former Dutchess County Legislator; David Freeman, DCC Chair of Architecture and Construction Technology; John Dougherty, Asst. Professor and Chair of Criminal Justice Dept., Marist College, longtime career in law enforcement.
(Members not present: Timmian Massie, HealthQuest; Audra Gerty, DCRCOG; Andrew O’Grady, Mental Health America; Mary Madden, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union)
- Questions that were submitted prior to Jan. 23rd cut-off period (approximately 12 questions) were addressed; any after that and questions from this presentation will be responded to at the next meeting and/or by e-mail if e-mail addresses were provided. Questions from tonight’s presentation will be posted on the County Webpage www.dutchessny.gov/dcjtc; e-mails can also be sent to the EAG at externaladvisorygroup@dutchessny.gov.
- The presentations will include the status of the temporary housing units (pods) from the Special Populations Workgroup; and the status of the DCJTCP. At the conclusion of each presentation there will be questions and answers by and from the EAG. The final portion of tonight’s meeting will conclude with closing comments by County Executive Marc Molinaro.
- Deputy County Executive Bill O'Neil started off the presentation with an overview of the entire Dutchess County Justice and Transition project (DCJTCP) process. (Click here to view the Power Point presentation: http://www.dutchessny.gov/countygov/departments/criminaljusticecouncil/EAG_Presentation_01292015.pdf)

EAG members were given an opportunity at this time to ask questions before moving on to the next presenter.

- Sen. Saland asked for clarification of the national average rate for incarceration; 250 inmates to 100,000 citizens?
 - Bill O’Neil confirmed: Yes; that is correct. There are approximately 300,000 people in Dutchess County, thus based on national averages our incarceration number would be approximately 750; we have approximately 500 in our jail, but we have 600+ in ATI

(Alternatives to Incarceration) programs who could have been in jail, so we are well below the national average for incarceration.

- Sen. Saland: What is the difference in cost of those in ATI vs. those in DC Jail vs. those being housed-out?
 - Bill O’Neil: The cost – approximate as it would be based on the program(s) involved, is a fraction of the cost of incarceration in the jail; housed-out inmates are at a cost of \$85/per day, not inclusive of transporting them, % of the jail overhead costs, etc.
- Lt. Col. George Krom, Dutchess County Jail Administrator, then addressed the status of the Temporary Housing Units (PODS).

George stated that, in spite of frigid weather, the contractors are currently on schedule to have the PODS open and populated in March, pending the approval of the New York State Commission of Correction (NYSCOC).

George went over the Power Point, showing the progress of the PODS. (Please refer to Section 1: PODS Overview of the PowerPoint presentation:

http://www.dutchessny.gov/countygov/departments/criminaljusticecouncil/EAG_Presentation_01292015.pdf)

Following his presentation, George answered questions that had been previously submitted by the public as well as those from the EAG members present.

- Question: Will testing of the PODS include durability testing during inclement weather, such as snow loads; will framework hold up?
 - These PODS are designed with NYS Building Codes Standards to hold up. The snow sheds off the roofs; the heat from inside helps the snow to melt and slide off.
- Question: Will fire systems/procedure be a part of the operational testing?
 - Yes, they will be tested to meet required standards prior to occupation.
- Question: Are there emergency exits in case of fire, etc.
 - There are two entrances into each unit; one is the primary for entrance/egress, the other is for emergency evacuation. Depending upon the circumstances of the event, inmates may be transferred to the adjacent POD; other alternatives include evacuation into the recreation yard, into the booking discharge area, or into the other housing units.
- Question: Does jail staff need to have special training for the PODS?
 - The training of staff is two-fold; 1) Direct supervision training: working closely with inmate, build rapport with the offenders rather than having an “us vs. them” mentality; 2) Simulation training with the officers for emergency situations.

- Question: With the doubling of population on North Hamilton, what is the impact of services (i.g. food service, laundry) with 200 additional inmates – how is it going to be handled?
 - That is something that was looked at/gone over with the NYSCOC prior to the pending variance permit. We will have to expand hours for services; we are also providing washers and dryers within the PODS so that they can do their own personal laundry – we would take care of sheets, blankets, towels. We have installed additional appliances in the kitchen for food. We are expanding our visitation hours for inmates to meet with their attorney or with their families.
- Question: Do you feel that current staff can handle the return of 200 inmates or will you have to hire additional staff?
 - The Commission is currently conducting a staffing analysis. We are requesting that part-time staff and overtime be utilized to address any impact of the returning inmates; we will find out in the next week or two what the outcome is of the analysis.
- Question: Will services be provided in the PODS or in the existing jail facilities?
 - All inmates have programs that must be provided to them. Some services will be provided in the PODS – medical/sick calls as well as some individual programs. The larger group programs will be provided within the existing larger Jail facility. Additional programs that will be provided include: dental, mental health services; domestic abuse awareness classes; AA and NA; religious services, parenting skills, law library and writing classes. There will be a covered walkway between the existing Jail and the new pods to facilitate movement to services.
- Question: Are the PODS set up dormitory style?
 - Yes they are. Each POD will contain two individual housing units of 50 inmates each – thus four housing units with bunk-beds. There will be TVs, phones, an electronic law library, washers, dryers and small meeting room in each of the four housing units.
- Question: How many staff in each POD?
 - There will be one officer per housing unit with a floater between the two joined units– four units for a total of 6 staff per shift.
- Question: Has the underground construction work (sewer) been completed?
 - Yes, all the underground utility work has been completed without disruption.
- Question: What will be the extent of the involvement of the NYSCOC; will they be routinely onsite during the development of the PODS, and thereafter with the new structure?
 - The NYSCOC has been very helpful and involved in meetings, either in person or by phone, and they have made suggestions and given direction on how to move forward on certain items. Once we receive the variance, NYSCOC will come to see the final completion and population of the units and to see how operations are being handled prior to and after occupation of the units.

- Question: Are there any other states using PODS?
 - Here in NYS we are the first; there are others in the south – Florida, Louisiana - and they have had no problems with them through hurricane situations. There is a facility in North Dakota where there is snow and they are working out fine.
- George introduced Kevin Warwick, of Alternative Solutions Associates. Kevin stated he will be speaking about the role and involvement of the Special Populations Workgroup. The group is planning the programming areas of the new facility both in terms of what programming is needed and then in terms of what type of space will best provide for these programs.

Kevin reviewed the accomplishments of the Special Populations Workgroup to date. (Please refer to Section 2: Overview – Special Populations of the PowerPoint: http://www.dutchessny.gov/countygov/departments/criminaljusticecouncil/EAG_Presentation_012_92015.pdf)

Following his presentation, Kevin answered questions that had been previously submitted by the public as well as those from the EAG members present.

- Question: What is the criteria to assure service providers meet the needs of the population; what is the success rate; are you looking at evidence-based; how is it going to be determined we have the right provider to meet the needs of the population?
 - Service providers must have the ability to deliver evidence-based programming; the Special Populations Workgroup, County staff and County Jail consultants will collaborate with the service providers.
- Question: Is there a working model that prevents Dutchess County from having to start from zero or are we ahead of other communities?
 - Dutchess Co. is on the high-end of evidence-based practice; we will enhance the model already working.
- Question: How much are the efforts of the community service providers, as well as the in-house services providers, compounded by the fact the person who you are dealing with is within the control and authority of the County for a short-term period of time?
 - The challenge of the Jail services provided to inmates is that they are in the Jail for a short period of time, but they are in the system for an extended period of time after they are released from jail. We look at the County as system-wide effort; we don't see the jail as separate from the community agencies. The challenge is to make sure all the programs mesh together. The community agencies understand and recognize the needs and national trends. We are looking at a comprehensive, system-wide approach.
 - Ken Ricci, of Ricci-Greene Associates was introduced. Ken stated the job for Ricci-Greene is to develop a physical response to the ideas and needs that have been presented. The Commission of Corrections gave approval for a temporary solution – the PODS - in the context of the commitment by the County to formulate and accomplish a permanent solution, in terms of a new more functional and more efficient facility being designed and constructed. The role of Ricci Greene is to assess the

needs, assess the site and existing buildings, provide a program of spaces, a master plan for the site and a schematic design for a new facility.

Ken reviewed the progress of Ricci Greene Associates to date. (Please refer to Section 3: Project Definition Phase of the PowerPoint: http://www.dutchessny.gov/countygov/departments/criminaljusticecouncil/EAG_Presentation_012_92015.pdf)

Following his presentation, Ken answered a question from an EAG member present.

- Question: Regarding the Urban Design Concept, is the City of Poughkeepsie going to be asked to take an active role, have input?
 - Yes, a series of interviews meetings are going to take place so that we can have more input from the community.
- Ken introduced Steve Miccio, Executive Director, PEOPLE, Inc., who presented the Criminal Justice Council Diversion Committee's role, stating the Diversion Committee stems from the Criminal Justice Council (CJC). The focus is on hospital diversion work in which people in crisis can go to the housing in the community rather than having only the emergency room or jail as options for critical psychiatric care or substance abuse care. The Committee's focus will be to look at various crises differently and teach individuals how to respond and make constructive choices, change their paradigm in making healthier choices. This is done in partnership with community services, look at who our partners should be to make it more successful for the people served.

Steve presented Section 4: Diversion & Re-entry of the PowerPoint: http://www.dutchessny.gov/countygov/departments/criminaljusticecouncil/EAG_Presentation_012_92015.pdf.

Following his presentation, Steve answered questions from the EAG members present.

- Question: How many people have been serviced by the Bexar County program discussed in your presentation since it began in 2002?
 - Approximately a thousand. Based on annual savings of \$8mil. on average; the program has saved over \$50mil. since 2007 in jail avoidance.
- Question: Does the Committee envision a diversion center being constructed at the DCJTCP site?
 - There is a site already built that the County is looking at for the center.
- Senator Saland then presented additional questions that had been received from the public at the previous EAG meeting and submitted via email.
- Gary Christensen, Corrections Partners, addressed a question regarding research done in Dutchess County, and how it fits with continuum care here in the County.
 - Gary stated that Dutchess County's Criminal Justice Council as a whole is recognized nationally:
 - CJC is actively involved collaboratively

- The Probation Dept. is a leader statewide in innovated practices
 - Probation Violation Review Panel – assures consistency
 - Extensive needs driven treatment
 - Dutchess County Jail Transition Program is emulated nationwide
 - The Dutchess County Mental Hygiene Dept. has a jail-based team
- Evaluating the research:
 - Risk is measured of every offender; classify offenders by risk to re-offend
 - Evaluate the program and the fit
 - Determine criminogenic need: evaluate each offender’s needs and target
 - Continuity efforts; make sure there is a flow and fit with continuity
 - Scientific evaluation of all processes and come up with data
- Question: Is it wise or just for the CJC to spend time and tax dollars on individuals with mental illness from entering the criminal justice system?
 - Margaret Hirst, Dept of Mental Hygiene: Diverting people with mental health issues from incarceration is beneficial.

The CJC does the criminogenic assessment to determine the extent of their illness; whether treatment will help them and make recommendations back to the courts for treatment. Last year over 600 evaluations and treatment were recommended. Intensive Treatment Alternative Program (ITAP) has been in place for more than 20 yrs., working with Probation Dept. The probation officer is imbedded inside the program with the officer becoming very knowledgeable with what the goals and treatment are; which can last up to 6-8 months for the individual’s recovery. Once that is achieved, the individual then moves into a step-down service for sustainability in their recovery.

- Question: What programs are available for mental health and substance abuse issues inside jail?
 - Margaret Hirst responded that since 1999 there has been a team of two full-time mental hygiene staff working inside the jail:
 - Identifying issues and needs
 - Offering wellness and recovery groups to prepare for treatment upon exiting jail
 - Also two case management staff to establish services and attendance for continuity of services
 - Identifying and providing for gaps in services.

Kevin Warwick stated that the Special Populations Workgroup works together with the providers to provide increased case management services, with gender-specific model, and conduct regular meetings to prevent gaps in services.

- Question: What programs are proposed for those with mental health issues?
 - Margaret Hirst responded that the following programs are proposed:
 - In-jail program enhancements
 - Collaboration with community-based partners
 - Diversion with crisis intervention training; an understanding of individuals’ symptoms and needs

- Integrate mental health and physical health services.
- Question: 3 related questions:
 - Why is length of stay so long?
 - Why are there so many unsentenced or untried in jail?
 - Why aren't more people who are arrested not released on their own recognizance?
- Mary Ellen Still, Director of Probation & Community Corrections responded. Each year approximately 1,000 people are released through the efforts of pre-trial services. The judge reviews the case and determines whether bail will be set; if the person is remanded to jail they have the opportunity to post bail. If not able to, pre-trial services program probation officer will interview them. They visit the jail on a daily basis and interview all new individuals and communicate the findings to the judge. Programs are recommended commensurate on risk for pre-trial release.

Length of stay is an issue being studied. One factor is the housing-out of 200-250 inmates which slows the process down. It makes it difficult for defense attorneys meeting with their clients. Length of stay will be revisited once the inmates return to Dutchess County to determine the length of stay then. The District Attorney's, defense attorneys, Probation, and the Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene are all part of the process.

Out of the thousands of arrests in the County, there are a small number who are sent to jail. Of those who are, who post bail/not released on their own recognizance, they are obligated to return to court. Pre-trial service is a means for those who cannot afford bail. The county uses the proxy-tool which gives general risk assessment.

In addition to pre-trial services, the county utilizes ATI's (Alternative's to Incarceration) including: ITAP, electronic monitoring, transitional housing, daily reporting center, women's center/program funded by the State.

- Question: What are the new programs for youth including an anti-violence program, a youth center and will there be a diversion from jail?
 - Mary Ellen stated right now there is a time of transition happening in which the State is working to remove the 16 and 17 year-olds from the adult criminal system into the juvenile justice system. It was determined/recommended after a study initiated by Governor Andrew Cuomo that young people of this age group be treated in the Family Court system.

The Criminal Justice Council also has an active juvenile justice committee which assesses needs and target intervention using YASI (Youth Assessment Screening Instrument) to determine needs. Mental Health professionals are on-site at Probation who make assessments and work with the youth. G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training), is a gang-resistance/anti-violence program taught by probation officers who are trained in curriculum delivered within the City of Poughkeepsie School District.

- Question 3-parts:
 - How many are being jailed because they cannot make bail?
 - Why are they incarcerated for misdemeanors?

- How many inmates as of 12/31/14 were being held on misdemeanors?
 - George Krom: A snapshot as of 12:00pm today:
 - There were 9 inmates in jail with bail of \$1,000 or less; 5 inmates with bail of \$1,500-\$2,000
 - 165 inmates in jail for misdemeanors; 66 sentenced, 99 unsentenced for misdemeanors. Misdemeanors are still a crime and can result in up to 1 year in jail. Misdemeanors include:
 - DWI
 - Domestic Violence
 - Assault
 - Menacing
 - Forgery
 - Stalking
 - Criminal possession of weapons
 - Criminal mischief
 - Sexual assault
 - Larceny
 - Drug possession and sales
- Question: Has the County considered options such as Drew House in Brooklyn for women charged with their first felony?
 - Gary Christensen: NYC Corrections (Drew House) has no risk/needs assessment resulting in the combining of prison-bound felons with 1st time offenders, very likely causing harm to lower risk felons.

Public comment period (restricted to 2 minutes)

Leg. Joel Tyner: Steve Miccio presented how San Antonio is so successful in diverting mentally ill people from going to jail and Miami Jade Co. has been successful in diverting mentally ill people from going to jail with a savings of \$12million/year. Given that 80% of DC Jail inmates are mentally ill or have substance abuse issues, we don't need a new jail. As per CJC report stating we should have a 24-hr/365 mental crisis center, we need to invest in human infrastructure not this millions of dollars monstrosity.

Carole Davis, Poughkeepsie resident since 1988: Regarding the Diversion Program at the Jail, I walk around the area quite a bit. Have seen inmates released from jail just being sent outside, with no ride, no assistance, no money, no one helping upon release. Jobs are needed. Regarding the PODS: 1 officer per 50 inmates is not good; it is a danger to the staff.

Pat LaMana: Resident for 20yrs., a field supervisor in human services at DCC. Find it hard to believe that Dutchess County is a model for other counties to look to. I saw the level of lack of communication from the agencies, I saw many people slipping through the cracks; my students reported this to me as well based on what they saw. I just want to say if this jail is going to be built that all the wonderful programs that are being promised must be in place, as our mental health system, our corrections system, our substance abuse systems, are all very sadly lacking.

At this time County Executive Marcus Molinaro provided closing thoughts on the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Project to the EAG and members of the public present. (Click here to watch video of County Executive Molinaro's closing remarks:

<http://hudsonvalleynewsnetwork.com/2015/02/23/demolish-dutchess-county-jail-build-transition-center/>)

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.