

DUTCHESS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL



2006 Annual Report

**William R. Steinhaus
County Executive**

**Gary Christensen
CJC Chairman**

**Mary Ellen Still
CJC Vice-Chairperson**



Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
27 High Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-3636

Background

In 1993, Dutchess County created by local law, as proposed by the County Executive, a Criminal Justice Council (CJC) comprised of 35 members representing all elements of the criminal justice system, many elements of the service system (Social Services, Mental Hygiene, and private not-for-profits) and representatives from the County Legislature and the community. The Council was designed to make both policy and budget recommendations to the County Executive and the County Legislature.

During 1998-1999, the Council worked with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) as one of ten national sites to develop a strategic planning process. As a result of the strategic planning process, the Criminal Justice Council developed a comprehensive committee structure. Throughout its fourteen years of existence, the organizational structure of the Council has evolved. The CJC and its current committee structure are defined as follows:



With the assistance of the NIC, the following **Vision Statement** was created for the Criminal Justice Council:

The Criminal Justice Council has become a system where the overriding concern is for the fair, equitable, cost-effective and efficient administration of justice for the immediate and long term; preventive programming is being developed to minimize entry and re-entry into the criminal justice system; planning is system based with goals and outcomes; decisions are grounded in information, research and facts, not politics; all Criminal Justice Council members are committed to actively work together to achieve this goal.

Role of the CJC Executive Committee

The CJC Executive Committee was created to serve as a steering committee of the Criminal Justice Council. Its mission is to set strategic direction, to ensure the Council's work addresses its mission, to analyze criminal justice system policies, and to make recommendations to the County Executive and the County Legislature. The CJC Executive Committee approves the work plans and/or projects of the six working committees, and assigns specific tasks to the committees or ad-hoc committees as needed.

CJC Executive Committee Accomplishments in 2006

The year 2006 presented Dutchess County's Criminal Justice Council with new challenges as well as continuing challenges from previous years. The Council accepts each challenge as an opportunity to improve upon what is already being done throughout the criminal justice system to optimally serve the residents of Dutchess County. In the past several years, the CJC Executive Committee has played a pivotal role in the education and advisement of the County Executive and the County Legislature in issues relative to jail expansion.

On February 10, 2005, the CJC Executive Committee submitted a comprehensive report entitled, **Response of the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council Executive Committee on Jail Crowding and Offender Management within Dutchess County** renewing its recommendation of November 30, 2001 for a jail expansion of 150 beds with the understanding that all support services must remain consistent. Such an approach is not only consistent with the CJC Vision Statement, but provides the best opportunity to lessen offender recidivism and jail overcrowding. In addition, the 2005 report recognized that significant effort and resources must be commissioned so that the alternatives to incarceration recommendations included within the report could be developed properly and subsequently have the capacity to impact the offender population within Dutchess County.

On January 11, 2006, the Chairman of the County Legislature, Bradford Kendall, issued a memorandum to the Council requesting a cost analysis of its February 10, 2005 Report. The February 10th report contained five enhancements to alternatives to incarceration. The cost analysis would allow the County Legislature the information needed to make an informed decision as to the proper solution to the overcrowding situation at our county jail.

The CJC Executive Committee met in Special Session on numerous occasions throughout February, March, and April to draft its response to the County Legislature. On May 9, 2006 the CJC Executive Committee submitted its response to the Chairman of the Legislature entitled, *ATI Cost Analysis of February 10, 2005 Report*. The ATI Cost Analysis report offered a cost benefit analysis of the alternatives to incarceration contained within the report as part of its comprehensive approach to offender management. The report further explained that the Council would continue to explore options that result in the best outcomes, and that any initiative considered would be evidence-based.

At the same time, the CJC Executive Committee continued its regular responsibilities including:

- Approval of the Annual Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Plan that the Office of Probation and Community Corrections submits to the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. The ATI Plan is presented to the County Legislature for approval each year in order for the county to receive funding for its pre-trial services and Intensive Treatment Alternative Program (ITAP). In 2006, the total allocation for pre-trial services and ITAP funding was \$230,400.
- Provide monthly jail and alternatives to incarceration statistics.
- Monitoring work and activities of the six working committees.
- Oversight of the State Justice Institute (SJI) Grant to develop program outcomes and performance measures for county programs which is designed to enhance the operation of the Strategic Planning Database (SPD).
- Appointment of Robert Rolison as the new Victims Committee Co-Chair based on his work and experience with victims of crime.
- Appointment of Jacki Brownstein as a Council representative to the Dutchess County Housing Consortium to include the criminal justice system perspective in housing issues.
- Assignment to the Community Involvement Committee (CIC) and the Jail/ATI Census Committee to explore offender reentry issues. The CIC was tasked to focus on reentry issues in relation to the community. The Jail/ATI Census Committee was tasked to explore grant opportunities relevant to reentry including, but not limited to, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Reentry Grant.
- Development of a Criminal Justice Council Operational Overview to document the evolution of the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council since the creation by Resolution #61 in 1993.
- Approval of the FY2007 Council Budget.
- Presentation to the Dutchess County Legislature Committee of the Whole on October 4, 2006 to provide a brief, general overview of the May 9th ATI Cost Analysis Report.
- Approval and distribution of the 2nd Edition of the **Alternatives to Incarceration, Support Services, and Bail Options Manual** edited by Margaret Hirst, Susan West, and Hon. David Steinberg.
- Appointment of William Sanchez, Youth Bureau Executive Director, as the new Prevention Committee Co-Chair based on his work and experience with youth services.
- Review Annual Committee Reports from each of the committees.

Current CJC Committee Reports

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

- Jacki Brownstein and Shirley Adams, Co-Chairs

Vision Statement: All members of the Dutchess County community are aware and involved in bringing about justice for the entire community.

The goal of the CIC is to address the restorative needs of special populations.

In 2006 a prime effort of the Committee was to study the needs of offenders who were reentering the community after leaving the jail or prisons. To do so, the committee invited presenters to better inform them regarding reentry issues. Also information regarding local and national reentry programs was exchanged as well as information about prevention programs.

The following issues were presented and discussed:

- Parole Department and Parolees and their needs*
 - Mental health and chemical dependency case management
 - Problem with peer mentoring, not allowed association with persons known to have a criminal background
 - Appropriate housing
 - Placement of sex offenders
 - Employment
 - Transportation
 - Medical, mental health, and addiction treatment

*It was noted that a resource book of services in Dutchess County for parole officers would be helpful.

- ICARE (Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment) Program presentation:
 - Founded to support human rights of formerly incarcerated
 - Coalition of faith communities
 - Restorative rights platform created by the organization
 - Platform regarding employment key issue for group
 - Committee members shared issues when employing people with criminal backgrounds like programs regulations preventing hiring people with particular crimes, insurance issues, bonding
 - Programs available to encourage employment which can be promoted to businesses
 - Other issues mentioned were the need for IDs upon reentry and waiving the cost of obtaining a birth certificate
- CIC gave support to the Housing Rally to bring attention to homelessness and the need for low income housing

- Presentation by Gary Christensen, CJC Chair and Jail Administrator
 - Approximately 3,500 admittances to jail per year
- Jail Reentry issues:
 - Need to integrate community into the jail programming for a better transition upon reentry
 - Create services that incorporate evidence-based practices
 - A good reentry program should begin the minute a person walks out the jail door
 - Discussed the transitions program in jail dealing with criminogenic risk
 - Discussed disproportionate confinement
 - Housing upon reentry major issue - NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) a problem
 - Important for the community to be involved in discussions, input, etc., regarding criminal justice issues
 - Training of whole community on what works is important
- CIC discussed ATI Cost Analysis Report and gave support to the recommendations of the CJC Executive Committee
- Presentation about Jail Transitions Program and use of the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R)
 - All inmates in Transitions get LSI-R evaluating criminogenic risk assessment
 - If choose to be in Transitions, mandated to attend GED classes if no high school diploma
 - Community agencies send staff to teach a variety of classes
 - Plan based on LSI-R created for reentry
 - Try to reduce risk, will follow up for a year, can come back to visit
 - Those at highest risk do best in the program
 - Females have been the hardest to work with
 - Housing and employment upon reentry key issue
 - Discussed efficacy of halfway types of housing endorsed by presenters, one NYC halfway house model described where residents stay till they save \$5,000
- Discussion regarding the DCJC reentry grant and whether Dutchess County should apply

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

June Ellen Notaro, Co-Chair (Resigned December 31, 2006)

Joseph A. Roberto, Co-Chair (Resigned September 13, 2006)

William Sanchez, Current Chair as of January 1, 2007

Vision Statement: We in Dutchess County strongly value children, youth, and families. We envision a community environment that is safe, supporting, nurturing, healthy, and drug-free. We seek to offer services that are accessible to all diverse groups and provide equal opportunities for education, career development, and personal growth. We hope that all children, youth, and

families can maximize their potential to make contributions to their communities and participate in its leadership.

Mission and Purpose

The Mission of the CJC Prevention Committee is to enhance the continuum of preventive and intervention services for youth under 21 that operate throughout Dutchess County resulting in a safe and crime free society by:

- Educating the key stakeholders (Legislators and County Executive Office) that prevention does work and merits long term commitment,
- Identifying existing gaps and needs for prevention/intervention and promote research-based programs, and
- Identifying existing data collection systems and promote collection of missing data.

During the 2006 year, the following committee benchmarks included:

- Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Youth Violent Crime Reduction Strategy Implementation Grant – The Prevention subcommittee served in a support and oversight capacity for the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department’s DCJS grant. The funding was used to deter gang activity through the implementation of youth programming at the New Hope Community Center and at the high school. A summer camp was developed and held at the New Hope Community Center and several evidence-based after school programs were begun at the high school & at the New Hope Community Center. The grant ended in November 2006.
- GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Program – The Committee was kept abreast on the activities of the two Probation Officers that conducted the GREAT program at the Poughkeepsie Middle School. A summer component was added at the New Hope Community Center.
- Safe Passage Home – Several committee members were involved in this project which posted agency and community volunteers along the dismissal routes from Poughkeepsie City Schools to locations throughout the Northside area. The idea was to keep students safe as they walked home from school. Many young people had to walk through areas that are known drug areas and/or crime infested areas. The Safe Passages volunteers were able to keep kids safe.
- Poughkeepsie Weed & Seed - The Northside of Poughkeepsie received their federal Official Recognition as a Weed & Seed site for the next five years. The Prevention Committee supported and endorsed the city’s effort to apply for Year One funding for the Northside area.
- Dutchess County Youth Gang Prevention Initiative – The Committee members were informed of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and that the target population was going to be youth at risk of joining gangs or those already gang involved. Programs needed to address the 40 Developmental Assets while working with this targeted population.

- Juvenile Plan 2007-09 – After the needs assessment was completed, an ad-hoc committee was formed to write the new Juvenile Plan which would guide the Prevention Committee over the next three years. The new plan was submitted to the Executive Committee and approved at its December 2006 meeting. Please find the Juvenile Plan’s Goals at the end of this annual report.
- The Prevention Committee was provided with presentations from Hands On! The Hudson Valley, Council on Addiction and Prevention Education, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and New Hope Community Center. The presenters educated committee members on the many services provided by their respective agencies.

The Prevention Committee experienced leadership change this year. Joe Roberto and June Ellen Notaro completed the year as Co-Chairs. William Sanchez, Youth Bureau Executive Director, now serves as the Chair of the Prevention Committee.

2007-2009 PREVENTION COMMITTEE GOALS AND ACTION STEPS:

The Committee agreed to work on the three most pressing issues as identified in the needs assessment. The following are the Committee’s goals for 2007-2009.

GOAL I: To identify and enhance appropriate after school activities specifically directed to the needs of at-risk youth ages 5-18 years old.

Phase 1 – Inventory of After School Programs

- Task A – Development of standardized survey
- Task B – Data collection via phone surveys and/or written surveys
- Task C – Develop and distribute Inventory Report

Phase 2 – Coordinate a Directed Response to Identified Gaps in Services

- Task A – Educate key stakeholders
- Task B – Provide trainings and workshops as appropriate
- Task C – Support program enhancements to address gaps in services

GOAL II: To support youth gang prevention and intervention initiatives.

Phase 1 – Encourage information sharing and data collection of youth gang activity.

- Task A – Support collaborative efforts of those working to address youth gang issues.

Phase 2 - Educate the community at large about Youth Gang related issues.

- Task A – Support training of professionals.
- Task B – Support efforts to educate parents, youth and community members.

Phase 3 – Support evidence based programs that target youth that are gang involved or at-risk of becoming gang involved.

- Task A – Inventory existing prevention and intervention programs.

Task B – Pursue the expansion of the GREAT program throughout Dutchess County communities.

GOAL III: To identify and support safe housing needs of youth in the juvenile/criminal justice systems.

Phase 1 – Review existing safe housing data for DC youth.

Task A – Invite representative from the DC Housing Consortium to educate committee members.

Task B – Encourage the Runaway and Homeless Coordinator to provide regular updates on youth housing issues to committee members.

GOAL IV: To support initiatives in school districts that provide prevention and intervention services for the at-risk youth.

Phase 1 – Invite program representatives to educate community members on their services and to discuss additional needs.

SANCTIONS COMMITTEE

Margaret Hirst and Ronald Knapp, Co-Chairs

Vision Statement: There is a system of graduated sanctions which identifies fair, equitable, and cost-effective enforcement and treatment programs which are available to every individual entering the criminal justice system.

Mission Statement: The Sanction Committee will educate participants in the criminal justice system and the general public about treatment versus punitive sanctions, research and promote innovative concepts and programs, and evaluate effectiveness of the graduated sanction continuum

Strategies

- Committee will meet regularly to define the purpose of the Alternative To Incarceration (ATI) system and make recommendations to CJC about the philosophy and purpose of a system of intermediate sanctions
- Committee will research and promote the development of new intermediate sanctioning programs to address targeted special populations
- Committee will broaden representation of the committee to include broad representation of community and criminal justice system
- Committee will collaborate with CJC evaluation consultant(s) to define effectiveness and measure program outcomes
- Committee will educate public and CJ system regarding issue of mental illness

Activities

Education and Training:

Committee supported the development of CONNECT: a training program to teach probation staff and other staff involved in ATI programs about the effects of mental illness and working with individuals who suffer from mental illness in the criminal justice system. During 2006, 20 trainers were trained in the CONNECT curriculum. The curriculum will be presented to all probation staff and other ATI staff during 2007.

Transfer of mentally ill between HRPC (Hudson River Psychiatric Center) and DC Jail: several meetings were held with staff from Corrections, Prison Health Services, Department of Mental Hygiene (DMH), HRPC, Office of Mental Health (OMH), Mid-Hudson Field Office and NYS OMH (New York State Office of Mental Health) Forensic Services to learn more about the policies and procedures that govern individuals who are inpatient at HRPC, who no longer can be treated successfully at HRPC and require a higher level of psychiatric care. This may require transfer to a forensic psychiatric facility. Individuals in the past have been arrested and incarcerated in DCJ before transfer to a more secure forensic facility. Two issues were identified: 1) parole violators: these individuals must be incarcerated while a part 402 is processed. In this situation, OMH will assist in processing these individuals through the parole system as quickly as possible and 2) individuals in HRPC on civil commitment. In this situation, a Part 57 can be completed at HRPC and the transfer to a psychiatric facility completed without going to DCJ. OMH will assist with this as well

Alternative to Incarceration, Support Services and Bail Options Manual was updated with the assistance of Sue West and David Steinberg and distributed to all judiciary and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

New Initiatives:

ACT Team: Committee reviewed the activities of the Assertive Community Treatment Team and how it interacts with other ATI programs. The ACT Team accepts referrals of the most difficult to treat individuals with serious mental illness. These individuals have failed in all other treatment programs. The ACT Team provides 24/7 mental health staff availability including a psychiatrist. As an example of how these individuals impact the criminal justice system, it was noted that 3 individuals treated by the ACT Team accounted for a total of 160 arrests. The ACT Team has been in existence just one year. The effectiveness and impact on the criminal justice system will be reviewed in 2007.

Enhanced Pre-Trial Diversion Program, City of Poughkeepsie Court Pilot: Probation in collaboration with DMH will, as part of the pre-trial diversion process, screen all individuals in the City of Poughkeepsie for mental illness. If present, a DMH Social Worker will assess for support needs for pre-trial release. Supports include but are not limited to: mental health treatment, psychiatric evaluation, housing, case management services, medication. The goal of this pilot is to avoid incarceration at the pre-trial level for individuals who are mentally ill but could remain in the community with adequate supports. This project will be monitored by the committee during 2007.

Mental Health Outreach: Probation in collaboration with DMH have partnered to place a mental health worker at Poughkeepsie Probation offices to provide on-site evaluation, short term support

services, crisis intervention and consultation to probation staff regarding individuals under supervision that suffer from mental illness. The goal is to engage individuals in ongoing treatment and avoid unnecessary violations of probation that result in incarceration. This project will be monitored by the committee during 2007.

Mental Health Court: Dutchess County requested to be considered for a Mental Health Court during 2007. The Office of Court Administration (OCA) has asked that Dutchess plan for a new initiative called Mental Health Court Connections. Essentially, this initiative would provide judges with sentencing options for mentally ill in all jurisdictions. A Planning Team has been identified to explore this initiative for Dutchess.

Juvenile Justice Treatment Court: The OCA and the DC Family Court developed this program to address youth who have been adjudicated by the courts as juvenile delinquents (JD), who suffer from chemical dependency and are non-violent to provide a court monitored program to reduce the need for secure detention. This program will be monitored in 2007.

Electronic Monitoring with Youth: Probation has developed this program for JD youth. Statistics from the beginning of the program to date (February-November, 2006) were: 28 youths were on electronic monitoring, 21 were hooked up and 7 were in inpatient treatment programs or some other form of treatment. There were 8 successful completions, 2 cut off bracelet and were placed in detention. There are 3 officers assigned to the program. This program has grown faster than Probation had expected and the youth have responded well to the program. The committee will monitor this program in 2007.

Electronic Monitoring: Probation has been asked to explore the feasibility of using Global Positioning System (GPS) for the Electronic Monitoring program. Probation continues to monitor this technology but it has not become available for use throughout Dutchess County. The Committee will continue to monitor, through the Probation Department, the development of this technology.

Underage Drinking Education Program: The District Attorney's office in collaboration with the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE) has developed a program for individuals under the age of 21 who are charged with any underage drinking offense or use of false identification. This program holds individuals, under the age of 21 accountable for these actions. CAPE has developed an education program which the person must attend followed by an enhanced Victim Impact Panel. The program started late in the 4th quarter of 2006. To date, more than 15 individuals have been referred to the program by the courts.

Program Evaluation

Defender-based Advocate: the Committee reviewed this program in 2006. The Defender-based Advocate is a mental health professional working for the Public Defender's Office to assist attorneys with assessments, planning, linking and advocacy for individuals who are mentally ill and/or chemically dependent to obtain the supports and treatment services that they may need.

Statistics for 2006
Number of referrals: 98
Number placed in program: 36
Number of psychosocial assessments completed: 33

Electronic Monitoring for Youth: Committee reviewed this new program in 2006. Please see statistical information above

Needs Identified:

Youth: there has been an increase in crimes committed by youth. City of Poughkeepsie and Town of Poughkeepsie have identified an increase in robberies' by individuals' under 16. Town and City Police have expressed a desire to return to the JEPERS system or any system that will provide information among the various police departments in Dutchess County regarding the activities (criminal) of youth

Parole: reentry issues continue to be a need. Currently the Mental Health Association (MHA) provides a case manager for ½ day per week to assist with identifying and linking individuals to services including treatment.

2007 Activities

- Explore the development of a video about the ATI options available in Dutchess County.
- Target audience: potential candidates for ATI programs and Referral sources (lawyers, judges, etc)
- Continue to monitor current ATI programs and schedule presentations for committee review.
- Mental Health Sentencing Option: begin planning for this initiative in 2007
- Participate in the Criminal Justice Council Program Evaluation initiative
- Update ATI Matrix to identify special populations that could be addressed through new ATI programs
- Explore implications of new Sex Offender Management laws
- Explore implications of new DWI laws.

JAIL/ATI CENSUS COMMITTEE

Thomas Angell and Susan West, Co-Chairs

Vision Statement: To increase system effectiveness through the evaluation of system process issues (day-to-day practice).

The Task Force examined the following issues in 2006

- Reviewed feasibility of a Bail Fund

- Made recommendations to the Criminal Justice Council Executive Committee re: Bail Fund Initiative
- Continued comprehensive review of “Jail Bloating” and “Alleviating Jail Overcrowding” articles
- Discussed need for additional forensic evaluation
- Monitored and expanded the Failure to Appear (FTA) initiative in the City of Beacon Court and the Town of Hyde Park Justice Court
- Reviewed intersection of Mental Health System with criminal justice system
- Parole Re-Entry issue
- Reviewed feasibility of hiring efficiency expert
- Reviewed processing of misdemeanor cases from March 2004-2005 regarding timeliness of case processing
- Worked with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to streamline application process for offenders

Goals and Priorities for 2007

- Continue to assess feasibility of the Failure to Appear (FTA) elsewhere in the County
- Continue to monitor Parole Re-Entry issues
- Assisting non-Public Defender indigent clients to access alternative programs and resources (18B lawyers)
- Assess impact of Family Court commitments on jail population
- Continue to monitor and review efficiency of all systems impacting the jail population

VICTIMS COMMITTEE

Marjorie Smith and Robert Rolison, Co-Chairs

Vision Statement: Victims are restored to their sense of dignity and empowerment.

During 2006, the Committee sponsored training aimed at improving the systems’ responses to violent crime. Further, the Committee finalized and, with the assistance of the Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office, distributed Pocket Resource Guides to police officers throughout Dutchess County. The specifics of these accomplishments are described below.

- **Campus Training.** In recognition that crimes of violence, including sexual assault, can occur on the numerous college campuses in Dutchess County and surrounding areas, the Victims Committee sponsored training for college personnel. The Culinary Institute of America generously provided use of the Danny Kaye Theater and refreshments to over 100 representatives from Bard College, Marist College, Vassar College, Dutchess Community College, Mount Saint Mary College, SUNY New Paltz and the Culinary Institute who were present for training on crime scene documentation, forensic medical examinations, victimization and the legal issues attendant to criminal investigation and prosecution. Training was provided by representatives from the Town of Poughkeepsie

Police Department, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, Family Services, Inc., and the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office.

- **Crime Victim Advocate/Police Training.** The investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases is laden with significant emotional issues for the victims affected. The Committee sponsored training for police officers and crime victims' advocates who assist victims in the aftermath of crimes. Beginning with a presentation from Rob and Debbie Smith (Lieutenant, Williamsburg, Virginia Police Department, retired, and his wife, the survivor of a sexual assault perpetrated by a stranger within the confines of the family's backyard), participants learned from both the victims' perspective and the police perspective. The day ended with candid discussion and a commitment from all present to continue the dialogue with the goal of assuring that victims are provided with the quality of services that will assist them to deal with the aftermath of crime and enable the criminal justice system, within the bounds of the law, to hold offenders accountable for their crimes. The Committee is grateful to Marist College for its generosity in providing a place for the training as well as for its having provided refreshments for those who attended.
- **Pocket Resource Guides.** Members of the Victims Committee created a pocket size outline of resources that can be of assistance to people in need of services in Dutchess County. This guide was developed with recognition that members of law enforcement are often faced with questions and needs of people who have been victimized by crime. Many times, the police officers are the first line of response for people in need and those officers need to be aware of the vast array of resources in Dutchess County. The resource guide is an outline of telephone numbers for services, governmental, not-for-profit, and otherwise, that can help people at any hour of the day or night. These guides have been distributed to all police agencies in Dutchess County. The expense of printing the Pocket Resource Guides was underwritten by District Attorney William Grady.

Members of the Victims Committee include representatives from Grace Smith House, Battered Women's Services, the Child Abuse Prevention Center/Child Advocacy Center, New York State Police, Family Services, Inc. Crime Victim Assistance Program, Family Services, Inc. SAFE/FNE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner/Forensic Nurse Examiner Program), New York State Police, Universal Response to Domestic Violence, Dutchess County Legislature, Marist College, Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department, Dutchess County District Attorney's Office and the community at large.

In 2007, the Victims Committee is working to further education and training for police and victim service providers. In addition, the Committee has undertaken to explore the impact of recent state legislation on crime victim rights and to advocate for implementation of adequate services to assure that crime victims are afforded access to the rights required by law. Given the expansive impact of this legislation, it is anticipated that this work will require significant commitment by all criminal justice agencies as well as those human service providers that work with victims of crime in Dutchess County.

WOMEN INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Mary Ellen Still and Susan West, Co-Chairs

Vision Statement: To address the unique challenges of women who are involved in the criminal justice system by utilizing evidence-based practice to enhance long-term effectiveness and reduce recidivism.

As part of the Action Plan developed in 2005, the Committee was asked to conduct a system assessment.

SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Using a national model, the Committee developed a survey to assess the strengths as well as areas that might need improvement of the Dutchess County criminal justice, education, employment, and treatment systems in addressing the needs of women involved in the criminal justice system. Marist College provided a research intern, who conducted the survey. The primary finding was a need for more education about the unique service needs of women in the system.

The system assessment was conducted as part of an action plan developed in a 2-day workshop in 2005 with technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections.

In response to this finding, the committee developed two educational forums, both of which were based on NIC trainings developed to promote gender-responsive strategies to improve outcomes.

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

A ½ day conference will be held in January 2007 on gender responsive strategies. In addition, the next steps of the action plan will be developed at this workshop. The workshop will include a report on the findings of the survey as well as a presentation by 3 NIC trained Probation facilitators.

TRAUMA CONFERENCE

A one or two day conference will be provided with technical assistance from the NIC and other national agencies. The topic will be Trauma Informed Care.