

DUTCHESS COUNTY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL



2008 ANNUAL REPORT



**William R. Steinhaus**  
County Executive

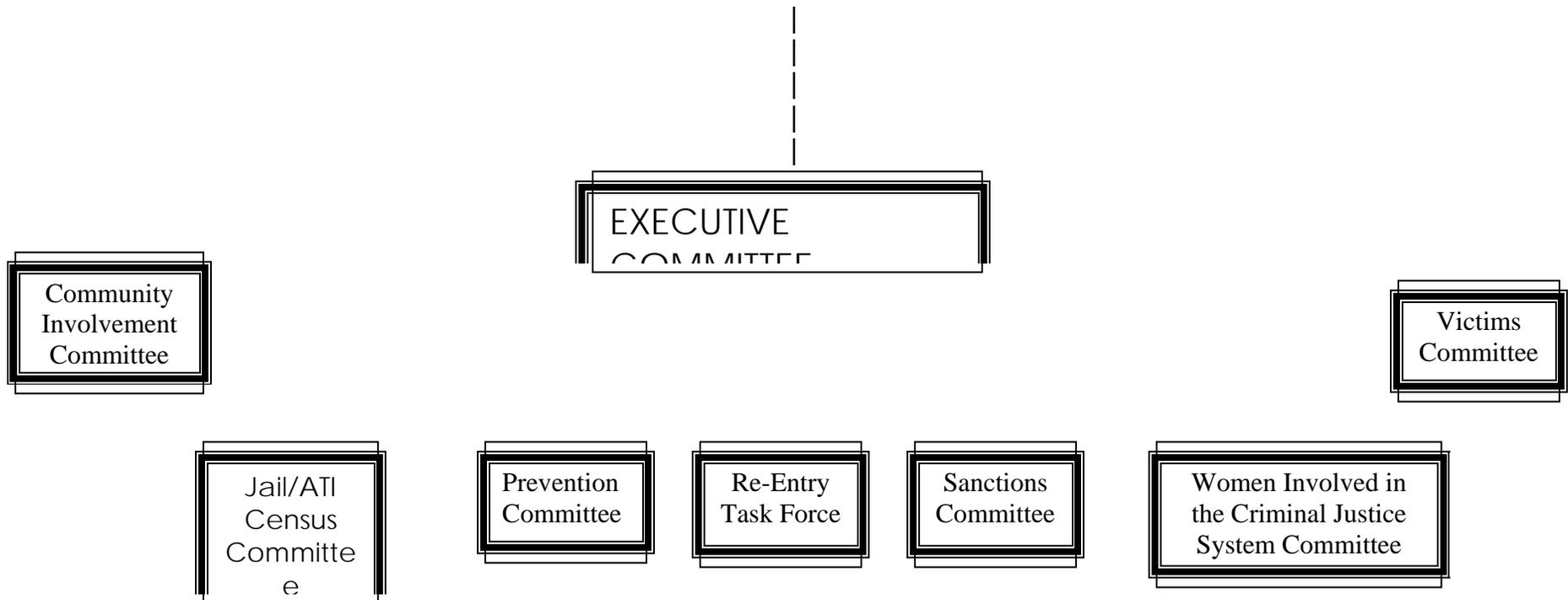
CHAIRMAN: **Mary Ellen Still**  
Director  
Dutchess County Office of Probation  
and Community Corrections  
**Joan Micucci**  
CJC Coordinator

**Vision Statement** - The vision of the Criminal Justice Council is a fair and effective Criminal Justice System.

**Mission Statement** - The Criminal Justice Council engages in a collaborative process of information sharing to maximize resources resulting in an enhanced criminal justice process. This work is done through utilizing research based practices to ensure community safety, through the promotion and support of: intervention for at risk youth and adults; addressing victims' needs; and reduction of recidivism.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL



## **BACKGROUND**

In 1992, Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus recommended the creation of a Criminal Justice Council to serve in an advisory capacity. The Dutchess County Legislature subsequently passed Resolution number sixty-one in 1993 creating a Criminal Justice Council as "necessary to support an efficient and effective criminal justice system." Representatives of all elements of the criminal justice system, as well as representatives of human service agencies, not-for-profits, and citizen appointments, participate on the Council.

As one of ten national sites selected, Dutchess County worked with the National Institute of Corrections during 1998-1999 to develop a strategic planning process and a committee structure. The Council, based on the strategic planning process, committed to the use of evidence based practices.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL**

The Criminal Justice Council meets six times annually at the Office of Probation and Community Corrections from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the following months: January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are open to the public.

The Council reviewed presentations about the strategic planning process, various programs and initiatives and data relating to the Dutchess County Jail and Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) programs.

The Council depends on its sub-committees and task forces to provide in-depth evaluation and analysis on various topics. Support for the Council is provided by a part-time coordinator who organizes its activities and records.

## **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

The Executive Committee oversees the work of the Council and its committees, establishes strategic direction and analyzes available data to insure decision making is informed by research. The

Executive Committee meets monthly and serves as the steering committee for the full Council.

In 2008, the Executive Committee engaged in a strategic planning process with the assistance of the Office of Community Research. On June 24, 2008, the process was initiated when members of the Executive Committee participated in a one day retreat facilitated by the Office of Community Research. The purpose of the retreat was to determine the future direction of the Council, develop goals and strategies and establish measurable outcomes.

At the retreat, the progress and accomplishments of the Council were reviewed and the vision, mission and values statements updated. Goals and strategies were identified as well as desired outcomes for the criminal justice system.

The strategic planning process continued throughout the remainder of the year culminating in a Logic Model and Strategy Planning document. This document will serve as a guide for 2009.

The Executive Committee also undertook the oversight of a \$100,000 re-entry planning grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. The Executive Committee created a Re-Entry Task Force, chaired by an Executive Committee member, to execute this project. Working with the Office of Community Research, Inc. consultants, "*A Collaborative Model for Effective Community Reentry and Systems Coordination*" document was produced and submitted to the State Division of Criminal Justice Services. This document provided a model planning guide to successful reentry of offenders returning to the community from prison or jail.

In addition to the above, the Executive Committee performed the following:

- The committee approved the annual Alternatives to Incarceration Plan Update that the Office of Probation and Community Corrections submits to the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives each year. Its adoption permits the county to receive a designated amount of funding for Pretrial Services and the Intensive Treatment Alternatives Program (ITAP);
- Reviewed available statistics from the Dutchess County Jail and Office of Probation and Community Corrections\*;
- Monitored the work and activities of the CJC committees.

\*Due to the transition of criminal justice agencies from one computer system to another, data and statistics were not available during most of 2008.

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### **Community Involvement Committee**

Co-chairs: Jacki Brownstein and Shirley Adams

The committee meetings were temporarily suspended due to work on the Re-Entry Project. The committee was reactivated in the beginning of 2009.

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### **Jail/ATI Census Committee**

Co-Chairs: Tom Angell and Susan West

The Task Force examined the following issues in 2008

- Reviewed Family Court incarcerations due to failure to pay child support. Developed mechanism for civil detainees to obtain legal counsel through new referral form made available at the DC Jail.
- Worked with jail to start a Fatherhood Program. "Inside out Dads" curriculum now being funded and implemented by DC Jail.
- Failure to Appear (FTA) initiative expanded to Hyde Park.
- Continued interfacing with Re-Entry Task Force.
  
- Reviewed mechanism utilized by DMH Jail Based services to assist inmates to apply for public assistance.
- Continued to monitor population at DC Jail and monitored trends.
- Set Strategic Planning goals.

Goals and Priorities for 2009

1. Maximize efficiencies based upon the evaluation of available data within the jail system and regarding the utilization of ATIs;
2. Promote cross systems coordination by developing a strategic framework of research questions and related findings that allow for information sharing with the Criminal Justice Council;
3. Define the "goal posts" of the criminal justice system for Dutchess County by conducting an evaluation of current practices to identify process strengths and areas of opportunity.

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### **Prevention Committee**

Chair: William Sanchez

The Prevention Committee met on a bimonthly basis to discuss ongoing issues regarding services.

#### CJC Prevention Meeting Dates for 2009:

- o Wednesday, January 21, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- o Wednesday, March 18, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- o Wednesday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- o Wednesday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- o Wednesday, Sept. 16, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- o Wednesday, Nov. 18, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Location: DC Jail Conference Room, 150 N. Hamilton St.  
Poughkeepsie, NY.

#### **UPDATED PREVENTION COMMITTEE GOALS AND ACTION STEPS:**

Recommendations were made by the committee for changes to existing goals, phases and tasks in the 2007-2009 Plan for 2009.

**GOAL I:** To identify and enhance appropriate after school activities specifically directed to the needs of at-risk youth ages under 21.

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.

The committee will collaborate with existing groups in the distribution of surveys.

**GOAL II:** To support youth criminal activity intervention initiatives.

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

Task A – Support collaborative efforts of those working to address youth criminal 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.

Task C – Monitor the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

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

Task A – Inventory existing prevention and intervention programs.

Task B – Identify for 16-20 year olds re-entering the community what services are available by developing resource material.

Phase 4 – Educate - Support initiatives in school districts that provide prevention and intervention services for at-risk youth. Invite program representatives to educate community members on their services and to discuss additional needs.

**GOAL III:** To identify and support safe housing needs of youth in the community.

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 and Jail Coordinator to provide regular updates on youth housing issues to committee members.

The prevention committee will continue on the goals set forth on the updated plan and report any changes as required.

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### **Re-Entry Task Force**

Chair: Tom Angell

Through a planning grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council hired Office of Community Research, Inc. (OCR) to establish a Re-Entry Task Force to develop a Plan for Effective Community Re-Entry for offenders from prison or jail. The Task Force had five outcomes linked closely with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services primary outcome: “creating a safer New York resulting from

the successful transition of offenders from prison to living law-abiding and productive lives in their community:" The five outcomes are:

1. Increase Dutchess County's awareness of evidence based practices regarding Transitioning Prisoners to Community Initiatives (TPCI) regionally and statewide;
2. Increase the local understanding of the pathway the individual follows from entry into the prison through re-entry into the community;
3. Develop a comprehensive inventory of local and regional services for use by prisoners returning to the community;
4. Create an effective strategy for re-entry cross systems communication and strategy coordination between Dutchess County and other TCI's across the state;
5. Increase community awareness of local and regional services utilized by formerly incarcerated individuals.

The Re-Entry Task Force was organized into three outcomes-specific work groups:

- Evidence Based Practices
- Resource Mapping
- Individual and Systems Pathways

Critical issues that will impact any future actions are:

- 1) NYS Department of Correctional Services and NYS Parole leadership, facility, and field staff must be active participants in the implementation of any plan on both the state and local levels for the collaboration of local re-entry services to be successful.
- 2) It is essential that a common standardized assessment tool be implemented statewide. It is our understanding that all state agencies plan to use the COMPAS instrument in the near future. Assuming that New York agencies commit to this new tool, Dutchess County is agreeable to using the same instrument in its criminal justice agencies and will undertake the required training, technological changes, expenditure of

resources and work plan for successful implementation. Currently, Dutchess County uses the LSI-R, another actuarial assessment instrument. We expect that it would take the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections and other agencies such as the Jail approximately ten months to convert to the COMPAS tool.

3) The Re-Entry Task Force understands that effective re-entry work requires much greater integration of effort between state and Dutchess County agencies.

The contents of the re-entry blueprint represent the findings of the latest and best research in the field as well as the collective wisdom of the members of the Re-Entry Task Force. It may serve as a model not only for Dutchess County, but for other jurisdictions as well.

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## **Sanctions Committee**

Co-Chairs: Margaret Hirst and Ronald Knapp

### **Mission Statement**

*The Sanctions 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 sanctions continuum.*

### **Strategies**

1. 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.
2. Committee will research and promote the development of new intermediate sanctioning programs to address targeted special populations.
3. Committee will broaden representation of the committee to include broad representation of community and criminal justice system.
4. Committee will collaborate with the CJC evaluation staff to define effectiveness and measure program outcomes.

5. Committee will educate public and CJ system regarding issue of mental illness.

### **2008 Goals**

- Monitor the progress of the new Sentencing Guidelines. Final report due in the Spring, 2008

\*\* Guidelines have still not been promulgated.  
Committee continues to monitor.

#### **Ongoing**

- Monitor the implementation of new Social Service law changing the wording in Social Service law to allow suspension of Medicaid during incarceration

\*\* Law was implemented and local procedures have been designed to allow for suspension of Medicaid while incarcerated.

#### **Achieved**

- Explore with local DSS for video conferencing/deputizing staff in DCJ to complete and determine eligibility for PA and MA. This will decrease need for Corrections staff to transport inmates to DSS for application process

\*\* Permission received from Commissioner, DSS to have DMH Jail-based team members deputized to accept MA/PA applications from inmates who are mandated to inpatient treatment from DCJ. Procedures have been developed. **Achieved**

- Explore Police-based Diversion Program with City of Poughkeepsie Police

\*\* City of Poughkeepsie Police Officers have been trained in resources available to them 24/7 for psychiatric evaluation and diversion.

**This is an ongoing**

**project.**

- Collaborate with Office of Court Administration to develop MH CONNECTIONS program in other jurisdictions in Dutchess County

\*\* Protocols for MH CONNECTIONS have been established in the Town of Hyde Park Court. ( in addition to City of Beacon)

**This is an ongoing project**

- Explore how restitution and fees fit into system of graduated sanctions

**Not achieved**

- Office of Probation will continue to monitor advanced technologies for Electronic Monitoring.

**Ongoing**

- Juvenile detention costs have been eliminated from NYS budget: explore impact on Dutchess County

**Not achieved**

- Explore impact of housing (or lack thereof) on individuals successful completion of alternatives to incarceration

**Report pending**

***Other Activities***

- Committee representation broadened to include Chamber of Commerce representative, Transition House and Community Transition Center representatives and a representative from the Judiciary.
- New Intermediate Sanctions and Laws reviewed
  - \*Ignition Interlock Devices
  - \*Dutchess County Social Host Law
- Committee explored challenges of employment for individuals with criminal records (this will be a focus in 2009).
- Committee participated in the CJC Strategic planning activities with the Office of Community Research.

***Program Review***

- Pre-trial Diversion: This program had very good outcomes for the first year. Of the 55 admitted to the program, 30 served no jail time as a result of the intervention and 42 have not been rearrested since the intervention.
- Parole; Committee reviewed the continuum of intermediate sanctions utilized by Parole prior to violation and incarceration.

***Education***

- CONNECT Training continued to be provided to Probation staff: 12 trainings offered.
- City of Poughkeepsie Police Officer trained in mental health issues.

***Goals 2009 (as developed in the revised Strategic Plan)***

- Educate participants in the criminal justice system about treatment versus punitive sanctions.
- Educate the general public about treatment versus punitive actions.

- Identify and examine current barriers to effective operation of sanctioning programs
  - Explore improving the employment opportunities for the formerly incarcerated
  - Explore improved diversion protocols for individuals with mental illness
- Research and promote innovative sanctioning programs
  - Review under 21 year old age group and the 21-25 year old incarcerated in DCJ and research effective intermediate sanctions
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the graduated sanctions continuum.

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### **Victims Committee**

Co-Chairs: Marjorie Smith and Rob Rolison

The Victims Subcommittee meets on the first Monday of every month at the Dutchess County District Attorney's office at 9:30 am. Attendees include a broad range of members. The District Attorney's Office is represented as well as law enforcement agencies, the DC Office of Probation, DC Family Services, Grace Smith House, Marist College and the Hudson Valley's Citizens Alliance. The input received from this group is invaluable. While the victim is the main focus, improving the process that the victim must undergo after being involved in a crime is helpful and encourages agencies to keep in close touch with the victim and to know what is effective.

The main focus of this year was the Crime Victims Summit which took place at Marist College on October 8, 2008. Much preparation went into this Summit and it proved to be very successful. Approximately 90 people were in attendance including the DC District Attorney's Office, the DC Public Defender's Office, the Dutchess County Attorney's Office, Family Services, Mental Health, Grace Smith House, the Hudson Valley's Citizen's Alliance, the Office of Probation and others. The half-day session included speakers, discussions, breakout groups and an exchange of ideas which proved to be very beneficial. It was very well received and the feedback was favorable. Out of the Summit came numerous

suggestions primarily on how to improve communication between agencies.

Goal for 2009: Organizing and holding a conference for law enforcement and victim advocates on the subject of trauma.

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## **WOMEN INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM COMMITTEE**

Co-Chairs—Mary Ellen Still and Susan West

The committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Family Services, Inc., 50 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY.

In 2008, the committee refined their goals and objectives at a retreat sponsored by the Criminal Justice Council. With technical assistance from the Office of Community Research, Inc., the committee developed the following goals:

- 1) Institutionalize ongoing training;
- 2) Build support to provide services for female offenders;
- 3) Diversify committee membership;
- 4) Continue to work toward transitional, supportive housing.

Under the sponsorship of the committee, the networking “Brown Bag Breakfasts” continued to offer opportunities to share information, strategies and support to various providers and agencies.

In 2008, the committee formed three workgroups: Media, Resources and Education. The media group will focus on ways to educate professionals and the

public about women's issues and began with a review of the Criminal Justice Council's website. The Resources group is primarily concerned with housing and employment. The Education group will explore ways to educate both professionals and the community through various means including workshops and conferences.

In 2009, the committee will explore ways in which to enhance communication and coordination between the various committees and to keep the public informed about women's issues.



