

DUTCHESS COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL



2010 ANNUAL REPORT



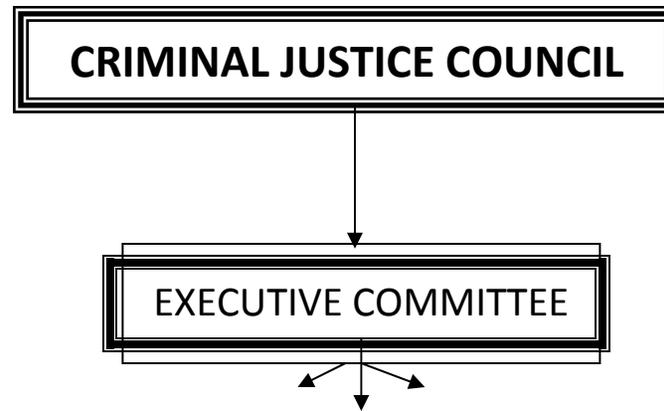
William R. Steinhaus
County Executive

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

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



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| Data Management Workgroup | Community Involvement Committee | Jail/ATI Census Committee | Juvenile Justice Committee | Re-Entry Task Force | Sanctions Committee | Victims Committee | Women Involved in the Criminal Justice System |
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BACKGROUND

In 1992, Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus recommended the creation of a Criminal Justice Council to serve in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and the County Executive. 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 8:00 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.

In 2010, the Council received presentations from a variety of programs and agencies in order to keep abreast of current and upcoming initiatives.

In 2010, the Council was updated on the following:

- Joanne Nellis, Unit Administrator in the Office of Probation and Community Corrections and Michael Hill, from the Drinking Driver Program at Dutchess Community College, gave a presentation on the impact of new DWI legislation, commonly referred to as Leandra’s Law. The legislation increases criminal penalties for driving while intoxicated with a minor in the vehicle and requires the installation of an ignition interlock device for individuals convicted of misdemeanor or felony DWI’s;
- Catherine Lane, Deputy Director in the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, gave an overview of Juvenile Pretrial and Sentencing Options;
- Tabitha Sieloff from the Center for Court Innovation presented information on the new Enhanced Programming for Young Adults Project;
- Elaine Trumpetto, Executive Director of the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE) presented the agency’s findings on the results of surveys of county youth and their involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

During 2010, the Council:

1. Created a Data Evaluation Workgroup to analyze available data and explore ways to obtain data determined to be necessary for the planning and evaluation needs of the Council.
2. Created a Juvenile Justice Committee that will replace the former Prevention Committee. This committee will focus on all aspects of the Juvenile Justice System and how it impacts both the community and the Criminal Justice System.
3. Approved the ATI Service Plan Update which must be submitted to the state annually. Completion of the plan is required for the county to receive \$217,064 in state funding during 2010 to support criminal justice programming.
4. Explored opportunities to apply for technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections. The Council was particularly interested in the Evidence Based Decision Making project and how it could be applied to local criminal justice processing.
5. Under the auspices of the Council, the county successfully applied for a third year of funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the re-entry project. Counties throughout the state may apply for funding to assist in the transition of offenders from state prison, or in some cases local jails, back to the community. The Osborne Association has been hired to implement the project under the guidance of the Re-Entry Committee of the Criminal Justice Council. Funding of \$180,909 was awarded for 2010.

The Council depends on its sub-committees and task forces to provide in-depth evaluation and analysis on various topics. Support for the Council was provided by a part-time coordinator who organized its activities and records. However, this position has been eliminated in 2011.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee oversees the work of the Council and its committees, establishes strategic direction and analyzes available data to ensure decision making is informed by research. The Executive Committee meets monthly and serves as the steering committee for the full Council.

DATA WORKGROUP

Chairperson: Mary Ellen Still

The Data Workgroup was formed by the Council in 2010 to review data needs and availability. In view of the changes that occurred to the computer information system over the past several years, the committee's first objective was to determine accessibility and availability of data. The committee is also working on determining what data is necessary for the planning and evaluation needs of the Criminal Justice Council.

During 2011, the workgroup will continue to address the Council's needs and may coordinate its activities with any technical assistance that may be available from the National Institute of Corrections.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairs: Jacki Brownstein
Shirley Adams

The Committee sought funding to create a local web based data and information site on line that would list Evidence Based and local Promising Programs for the prevention of anti-social behavior. The information had been collected by the Committee in 2009 and early 2010. The programs were selected by the committee either because they were not currently in the county but fit the demographics, current available resources or could be integrated into existing programs/groups/schools and because they were fairly economical to run. The local programs that were presented could be replicated if found suitable for a population being served. The idea was to create a short list of programs with basic information that existing organizations/schools could use when they were seeking funding for prevention programming. Unfortunately, funding was not received for the project but a list has been created and will be available in print and perhaps on-line.

The Committee decided to concentrate on bringing together experts and providers in different areas of concern to the criminal justice system and the community to present opportunities, gaps and barriers in meeting needs. The first topic that was brought before the committee was the issue of housing for individuals reentering the community

after incarceration, particularly to coincide with the Dutchess County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

A meeting of interested individuals including representatives from Dutchess County Reentry Program, Mental Health America, Hudson River Housing, DC Department of Mental Hygiene, DC Jail, DC Planning, DC Department of Social Services and Community Housing Innovations was held in October. There was a discussion of housing availability, specific barriers in obtaining housing and outstanding needs. Feedback from the meeting indicated that some barriers were recognized and were being addressed. A follow-up meeting will be called to report on what has been done, what information needs to be updated and what needs can and cannot be addressed at this time.

JAIL/ATI CENSUS COMMITTEE

Chairs: Thomas Angell
Susan West

The committee met eleven times during the year and sponsored one special meeting. The committee continued to look for new efficiencies and processes to enhance the effectiveness of our criminal justice system.

Many of the efforts were focused on developing a new alternative to incarceration residential program focused on employment. The committee met with a representative of Hudson River Housing to discuss the feasibility of using a rooming house under renovation for such a program. Also considered was the utilization of a building on the campus or near the campus of the Family Partnership Center. The committee sponsored a special meeting for community employment specialists to discuss the feasibility of such a program. A study of the jail population to ascertain whether there would be sufficient participants of such a program was conducted. Two members of the committee visited an alternative to incarceration employment program in Rockville, Maryland.

After considerable investigation and consideration, the committee determined that given the current posture of the criminal justice system in Dutchess County, a residential employment alternative to incarceration program was not feasible. There was a difference of opinion within the committee as to what steps would have to be taken to make such a program feasible. Some felt that it would take a change of statutes at the state level; others were convinced that it would be possible to reconfigure our systems locally to make such a program work.

The committee also explored and reviewed an innovative program in Hawaii focused on reducing the number of individuals violating probation as a way of reducing the jail census. The probation department has taken this proposal and placed it under review.

The probation department is considering a pilot project utilizing some of the aspects of the Hawaii program.

The final area the committee explored was the time that it takes to process felony cases through the court system. This was in response to findings that the principle reason that the jail population increased in 2010 was due to an increase in non-violent felony arrests. We further determined that approximately ½ of the individuals in jail with felony charges pending in lower court had been there for more than 45 days. The committee discussed the possibility of adhering to the Criminal Procedure Law requirement that felony cases in lower court either be transferred to the superior court within 45 days or be reduced to misdemeanors so that the case could be adjudicated in lower court. The committee could not come to agreement on a proposal to amend current practices.

In addition to the above, the Jail/ATI Census Committee actively monitored the jail population and the arrest statistics for Dutchess County during the year.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Karen DeSimone

In 2010, the Criminal Justice Council added the Juvenile Justice Committee to its structure. This committee was evolved from the already existing Juvenile Justice Task Force; a long-standing group hosted by the Office of Probation, comprised of members from various public agencies and organizations serving the at-risk youth population of Dutchess County. The Juvenile Justice Committee meets 6 times per year to discuss issues relating to the Juvenile Justice System, identify needs and trends, share information from related committees, and monitor statistics/outcome measures of the various programs in place for the at-risk youth. At the onset of this addition, the Deputy Director of the Office of Probation presented an overview of the Juvenile Probation program to the Criminal Justice Council.

As the Juvenile Justice Committee formed, membership was expanded to include a police representative and a representative from the Office of Children and Family Services. The committee hopes to further increase its membership in 2011.

During the 2010 meetings, the agenda included:

- Review of current Family Court Probation programs and statistics;
- Review of the Youth Services Unit statistics and programs;
- Status reports from: The Functional Family Therapy program, the MAYSI Probation utilization, the Juvenile Delinquent Restorative Justice Program, the Probation Family Court Pre-trial Services, the Probation JRISC program, and the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice program;

- An on-going discussion regarding the use of detention and out of home placements and the many programs in place to reduce both.

The Juvenile Justice Committee goals for 2011 include: monitoring the NYS Juvenile Justice Reform initiatives, a continued systematic review of the detention and out of home placements by all agencies involved in the process, forming a sub-committee to review and enhance re-entry efforts with schools as at-risk youth return from a period of absence.

RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE

Chair: Thomas Angell

The Task Force in conjunction with the Osborne Association hired staff, opened an office at 25 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY and started providing services to the formerly incarcerated. Over 74 individuals were served on a walk-in basis. Case management services were provided to 46 people. Further, various seminars, workshops and support groups for both clients and members of the community were sponsored. The work of the Task Force is completely funded by a grant to Dutchess County from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Working closely with the New York State Division of Parole to identify parolees and other individuals returning to the community from prison who are at high risk of re-offending, their criminogenic needs (challenging areas of their lives which lead to criminal behavior) are identified. Once the needs have been identified, attempts are made to address these identified needs in a systematic way.

The Task Force also seeks to identify institutional barriers at a local level which limit the successful reentry of the formerly incarcerated into Dutchess County. The group then advocates and works for solutions which will lower these barriers. The Task Force worked with the Department of Social Services, Hudson River Housing and Department of Mental Hygiene and their contract agencies to address many of these concerns.

The Task Force continues to have active participation from both state, local, faith based, and charitable organizations. Five full Task Force meetings were held during the year. Our Task Force was restructured with the development of a Steering Committee, which meets monthly.

The Task Force's success is a result of the assistance we have received from many other segments of the community; all working together to promote community safety by lowering the recidivism rate of those returning to our county from places of incarceration. Together we have been able to ease the often stressful transition of the formerly incarcerated and at the same time create a safer atmosphere for all of Dutchess County residents.

SANCTIONS COMMITTEE

Chair persons: Margaret Hirst
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

Committee members 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 the CJC evaluation staff to define effectiveness and measure program outcomes;

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

2010 Goals

PROMOTE & SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY

Evaluate the effectiveness of the graduated sanctions continuum

1. Evaluate effects of Leandra's Law:

- ✓ Leandra's Law became effective 8/15/2010. 73 individuals were sentenced to Probation under this law from 8/15/10 through 12/31/2010. An additional 75 individuals were sentenced to Conditional Discharges. Not all offenders have an Interlock Device installed as many of them do not own vehicles.

2. Evaluate the Judicial Diversion Program:

- ✓ Judicial Diversion is open to any eligible person in the County Court. In 2010, 95 referrals were made to Judicial Diversion, 43 individuals were accepted for participation.

3. Evaluate the ITAP program relative to LSI scores.

- ✓ Intensive Treatment Alternatives Program(ITAP) statistics:

Total individuals served: 123

Admissions: 67 (11 year average= 67)

Discharges: 41 positive (57%) (11 year average= 464 / 65%)

Volume of service was highest in the 11th year and 11% higher than 11 year average.

*Lower positive completions in 2010 were due to increase in younger, opiate addicted individuals who are more difficult to treat. The ITAP program is currently reviewing evidence based practices for this population.

* LSI-R is no longer used by county Probation as NYS Probation has selected the COMPAS as their assessment instrument. LSI-R comparisons could not be made as a result of this change

4. Alternative to Incarceration program updates:
 - ✓ Road to Recovery Program terminated March, 2010 due to funding loss.
 - ✓ Poughkeepsie Drug Court program terminated July, 2010. OCA determined closure.
 - ✓ Judicial Diversion became operational July 2010.
 - ✓ Leandra's Law (Interlock device) effective August 2010.
 - ✓ New Hope Manor residence certified as community residence (OASAS) for 10 women and up to 3 pre-school children.

Research and promote innovative sanctioning programs

1. Follow up with the results of the student surveys completed by the eastern corridor schools plus Rhinebeck, and Red Hook. Link "Under 21" Jail Study to determine what interventions might be needed. Increased use of heroin is state-wide. Recently increased numbers of deaths by overdose.
 - ✓ Youth survey results currently being analyzed by Mt. St. Mary College. Full results will be presented at a community forum on March 5, 2011.

Educate public and CJ system regarding issue of mental illness and addiction

1. Develop a proposal to provide an in-service to raise the consciousness of local physicians and dentists on the danger of over-prescribing pain medications.
 - ✓ Council on Addiction Prevention and Education, Inc. sponsored a day long conference on the misuse of prescription medications and heroin addiction on October 22, 2010. Licensed prescribers were invited. Opening remarks were given by Kari Reiber, M.D., D.C. Medical Examiner.
2. Assist with establishing voluntary drop-offs of surplus medications on a county wide basis. In the past the Resource Recovery Agency in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office has held successful drop-offs.

- ✓ D.C. Resource Recovery Agency sponsored monthly drop off days through 2010.
3. Additional educational seminars presented:
- ✓ CONNECT Training: trainings for Probation staff and other community provider staff on mental health issues were held throughout the year. A total of 9 trainings for approximately 200 participants were held.
 - ✓ Attended webinar on Diverting People with Mental Illness; Sequential Intercept Model.
 - ✓ Presented Mental Health CONNECTIONS protocol to D.C. Police Chiefs Association. This protocol allows law enforcement officers, county wide, when encountering individuals suffering from mental illness to more effectively screen and transport an individual for an assessment rather than charge with criminal offense and incarcerate.

Identify and examine current barriers to effective operation of sanctioning programs

Moral Reconciliation Therapy training was held for law enforcement and treatment providers. This is an evidence-based program designed to enhance social and moral behavioral growth in criminal justice involved, substance abusing populations to improve decision making skills by raising moral reasoning and promoting self-image.

VICTIMS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Marjorie Smith

The committee identified the need to create a Victim Impact Panel for non-DWI offenses. Modeled on the successful DWI Victim Impact Panel, Marge Smith from the District Attorney's Office and Senior Probation Officer Diane Whiteman developed and instituted such a panel. A presentation was given at the Magistrates' Association to familiarize judges with the purpose of the panel. The first panel was held in September 2010 and was deemed successful.

The committee also sponsored a presentation by Cheryl Heineke, a victim's advocate from Texas who had done extensive work in restorative justice. The committee noted that during Victims Rights Week, Family Services recognized Robert Allers, Commissioner of Social Services, Roberta Staples from Marist College and Diane Whiteman from the Office of Probation and Community Corrections.

Plans for 2011 include continuation of the Victim Impact Panel and a focus on schools' response to domestic violence and teen dating violence. Partnering with PTA's was one suggestion for dealing with these issues.

WOMEN INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs—Mary Ellen Still and Susan West

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

The committee continues to work on 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” continues to offer opportunities to share information, strategies and support to various providers and agencies. To enhance communication and coordination between the various committees and to keep the public informed about women’s issues, members of the Women’s Committee attend some Brown Bag meetings. This has been useful in understanding priorities and information-sharing.

In addition, in 2010 the committee accomplished the following:

- Reviewed New York Times article about women in the military;
- Compiled and circulated lists of Violence Prevention Education activities in Dutchess County Schools;
- Presented a concept paper to the Poughkeepsie Journal in consideration of a potential article to educate the public about the needs of Women Involved in the Criminal Justice System;
- Revisited clothing and personal care needs of women in jail;
- Received a presentation on the Women with Disabilities Project by Family Services;
- Received a presentation on the collaborative re-entry project between the county, Osborne and DCRP by Bonnie Allen;
- Suggested a presentation at the Brown Bag meeting by the Women’s Prison Association;
- Explored ways this committee can contribute to the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness;
- Created a plan to survey women in jail via Department of Mental Hygiene & DCRP staff. Data to be presented in 2011.

