

**DUTCHESS
COUNTY
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
COUNCIL**



2013 ANNUAL REPORT



**Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive**

Chairperson
Mary Ellen Still

Administrative Coordinator
Tami Deyo

Vision Statement

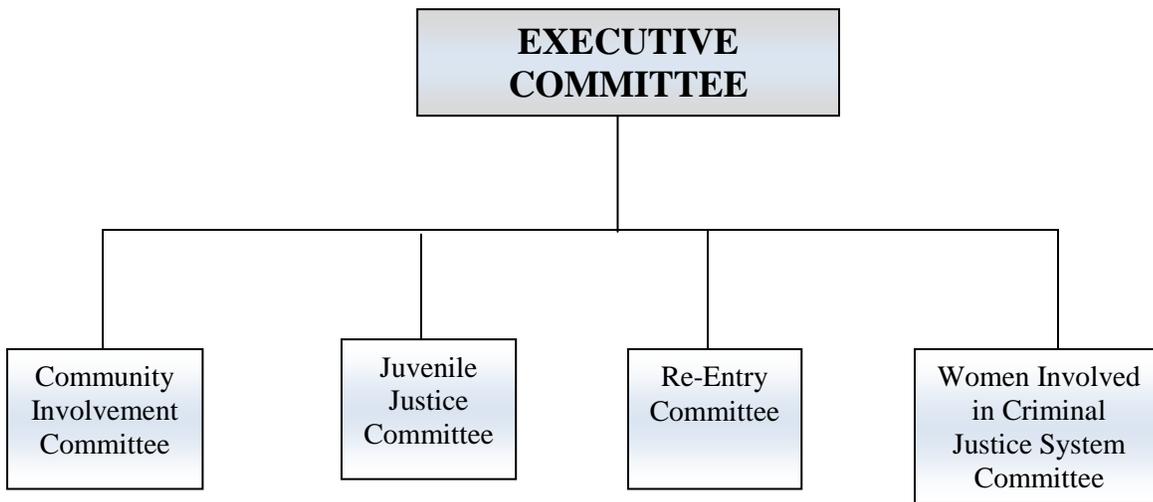
The vision of the Criminal Justice Council is a fair and effective Criminal Justice System.

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

The Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council was created in 1992 to serve in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and the County Executive. In 1993, the Dutchess County Legislature passed Resolution Number 61 which formally created and recognized the Criminal Justice Council as “necessary to support an efficient and effective criminal justice system.” In 1998 and 2010 the Legislature adopted amendments regarding membership and other operating guidelines. The 2011 resolution outlined the duties and functions of the Executive Committee.

Through a strategic planning process facilitated by the National Institute of Corrections, the Council developed a committee structure and committed to the use of evidence-based practices.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee oversees and guides 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.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

The Criminal Justice Council meets six times annually at 8:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday (unless there is a conflict with a holiday) of the following months: January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are open to the public. In 2014, the Council will move from the Chambers of the Dutchess County Legislature to Catharine Street Community Center located at 153 Mansion Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. General information, annual reports, agendas and approved minutes are available on the county’s website: www.dutchessny.gov

2013 Activities and Achievements

- An RFP was issued to hire a consultant to review and validate the findings of the *Dutchess County Criminal Justice System Needs Assessment* prepared by the Council in 2012. The Needs Assessment may be found on the Criminal Justice Council’s website.
- RicciGreene Associates was selected to conduct the validation study. The findings were presented at a meeting held at the Dutchess County Legislature on May 28, 2013. The report validated the findings and recommendations contained in the Needs Assessment including:
 1. A larger and more efficient jail facility was needed;
 2. Savings could be realized by using temporary pods;
 3. Bringing inmates back from other counties would expedite court processing, provide access to attorneys, facilitate programming and family contacts;

4. An updated facility would result in decreased staffing;
 5. A new facility would allow for a “campus” style transition center;
 6. Continued support and enhancement of ATIs (Alternative to Incarceration) should be maintained.
- The Council had a presentation from the J-RISC (Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination) team based at the Office of Probation at its March meeting. J-RISC is a state funded intervention for high-risk youth. It incorporates Functional Family Therapy (FFT), a nationally recognized evidence-based therapeutic model.
 - Under the auspices of the Council, the county was granted a sixth year of funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for re-entry services. Exodus Transitional Community is the provider for this contract.
 - Approved the annual ATI Update Plan that must be submitted to the state to maintain funding that helps support criminal justice programming.
 - The Council reviewed data compiled by its consultant on recidivism, race, gender and length of stay in the jail. This report is available on the county’s website.
 - Developed and distributed a survey to local agencies to determine what programs are currently being offered and whether they are evidence-based.
 - The committee structure was reorganized to reflect current needs. This process will continue in 2014.
 - The Office of Probation and Community Corrections received a technical assistance grant from the Center for Effective Public Policy to implement gender-responsive strategies in pretrial release services. To begin the process, Council members were invited to participate in an informational session held at Marist College with the consultants. The Council will continue to participate in this initiative through its Women’s Committee.
 - In partnership with the county, Project More applied for funding to establish a Women’s Reporting Center. In late December 2013, notification was received that \$450,000 had been allocated by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to create this center.
 - With the approval of the Council, the Public Defender’s Office applied for and received funds from the New York State Office of Legal Services to provide counsel at initial arraignment. The funds were made available as a result of a 2010 New York State Court of Appeals ruling that an individual has the right to counsel at arraignment. The project’s results will continue to be reviewed during 2014.

COMMITTEES

While the *Dutchess County Criminal Justice System Needs Assessment* was being completed, committee work, with the exception of Juvenile Justice and Re-Entry, was suspended. Following completion of the report and the subsequent validation study, the committees began to be reorganized and restructured in the latter part of 2013.

Much of the work of the Criminal Justice Council is conducted at the committee level. From time to time, special workgroups are formed to study and report on a specific but time limited issue.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Shirley Adams

The committee held its first post reorganizational meeting in October, 2013. At that time, committee members decided to focus on learning about the various programs and ATIs available in recognition of the fact that the jail is one element of a larger criminal justice system.

Marty Lynch from the Transitional Housing Program was the presenter at the October meeting. Mr. Lynch spoke about the 38-bed facility that provides housing and supportive services to men and women attending ITAP (Intensive Treatment Alternative Program) or waiting for a bed to become available at a residential facility.

The next meeting was devoted to learning more about the Ready, Set, Work program. Presenters from the Office of Probation, the Community Transition Center and Project More, which operates the Transitional Housing Program, explained how this evidence-based project, developed by the National Institute of Corrections, is provided to individuals in the criminal justice system.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Karen DeSimone

In 2010, the Criminal Justice Council added the Juvenile Justice Committee to its structure. This committee 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 six 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.

In 2013, the Juvenile Justice Committee gathered for bi-monthly meetings. The committee refocused its meeting agenda in 2013 to more accurately reflect the current issues, needs and concerns for Dutchess County at-risk youth. Topics of discussion included:

- New York State Juvenile Justice Reform initiatives;
- Review of current programs and statistics available to at-risk youth in the county;
- Participation in the Mid-Hudson Regional Youth Justice Team;

- Planning and implementation of the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI);
- Updates from related committees and notification of training and events;
- Increased committee membership seeking a broader range of participants from system stakeholders and community members.

This committee continues to monitor the Juvenile Justice Reform issues as they relate to the needs of the at-risk youth and potentially impact the Juvenile Justice System in Dutchess County. In 2013, New York State formed eight Regional Youth Justice Teams throughout the state and five members of the Dutchess County Juvenile Justice Committee agreed to participate on the Mid-Hudson Regional Youth Justice Team. Each regional team has a diverse roster of participants representing various stakeholders. The regional teams are currently meeting on a bi-monthly basis to discuss identified issues and needs of at-risk youth. Information and feedback is then related to the New York State Strategic Planning Action Committee (SPAC) for further review and consideration. Locally, the Dutchess County Juvenile Justice Committee engages in similar discussions so as to consistently filter the needs of our local youth accurately.

In June 2011, the first New York State Juvenile Justice Reform initiatives introduced the Supervision & Treatment Services for Juvenile Program (STSJP) requiring each county to propose a plan to decrease the use of juvenile detention while utilizing funds for alternative programming. A 2013 multi-systemic plan submitted and approved for Dutchess County included the funding of the Probation Curfew Monitoring Program utilized as an Alternative to Detention.

The Juvenile Justice Committee continued discussions regarding the possible transition in New York State to move 16 & 17 year old offenders out of the Criminal Justice System and into the Family Court jurisdiction. While there were no changes in New York State law in 2013, a future transition remains very possible.

During 2011 and 2012, Dutchess County participated in a Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) implementation pilot study that was conducted by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the VERA Institute. In 2013, Dutchess County's DRAI implementation plan was approved by OCFS and use of the tool was instituted statewide in October. As this is a multi-agency initiative, the Juvenile Justice Committee reviews the progress and concerns of the DRAI implementation at each meeting.

The committee membership was also extended in 2013; striving to include a more diverse group of community stakeholders. In 2013, new members included representatives from the faith-based community, an Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and a Juvenile Detective from a local police department. In addition, various community members have been invited and encouraged to join the committee and participate in the bi-monthly meetings.

This committee recognizes that recent years have been especially challenging for youth and families in New York State. Programming to address the needs of our youth has become limited by financial restraints and community resources are

often stressed to capacity. Despite these challenges, the county is fortunate to have excellent services and many dedicated and exceptional individuals who strive to meet the needs of our youth and enhance their lives daily.

RE-ENTRY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Thomas N. N. Angell

Chairperson: Jill Lenard-Horne

The Re-Entry Task Force started a new chapter of its work in 2013. We are fortunate to have a new not-for-profit partner, Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. with which to collaborate.

The Task Force targets its limited resources on assisting individuals who are released from State Prison with the highest actuarial risk of recidivism. During 2013 services were provided to a total of 283 individuals. Of these, 204 clients were determined to be high risk. With respect to the 204 high risk clients, the Task Force worked with 108 for 45 days and 88 for 90 days. The remaining 79 individuals were lower risk clients. Of the clients we assisted, 9 were violated for technical violations, 2 were arrested on new charges and 1 unfortunately is deceased as a victim of a crime.

The work of the Task Force continues to be completely funded by a grant that Dutchess County receives from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The focus of our intervention is to connect the participant with programs which will reduce criminogenic factors and thus the risk to reoffend. The Compas risk and need assessment instrument is used to determine the domains that need to be addressed for each client. In turn, Exodus Transitional Program coordinates monthly case management meetings with parole and various community and local governmental agencies to design specific programming for each identified need that the client has.

In addition, the Task Force met on a bi-monthly basis to address systemic barriers that individuals returning to the community from correctional facilities face. These meetings have been well attended with often 30 or more people present. Representatives from parole, social service agencies, jail, mental hygiene, substance abuse agencies, domestic violence agencies, concerned citizens and many others have attended on a regular basis. We have had presentations from program participants, employment specialists, housing providers, substance abuse providers, specialized program providers for domestic violence abusers and sex offenders, and educational providers. Based on these meetings, the Task Force has reported periodically to the Criminal Justice Council regarding its findings and with specific requests for advocacy for change in identified problems.

2013 was a year where a revitalized Reentry Task Force continued and expanded its efforts in helping those returning to our community. The Task Force remains

committed to using evidence based practices in an effort to assist those who have been incarcerated to successfully reintegrate into their home communities and equally importantly lower the recidivism rate among parolees. We plan to continue these important and necessary efforts in 2014.

WOMEN INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Chairperson: Susie Balutis

The committee was reorganized in late 2013 under the leadership of a new chairperson. The committee's focus is on the specific needs of women and the gender-responsive strategies that are most effective in reducing recidivism.

The primary focus of the committee in 2014 will be the progress of two grants that were received in 2013. The first grant is for technical assistance in developing gender-responsive strategies in the pretrial stage of criminal justice processing. The second grant will establish a Women's Reporting Center in the county.

Both grants are the culmination of an assessment that identified women's issues as an area that needed specialized services.

SUMMARY

Although the Dutchess County Jail continued to be a major topic of interest, the Council was committed to viewing criminal justice in a holistic and comprehensive way as the jail is just one component of a dynamic and complex system.

As a result, while taking advantage of opportunities to implement recommendations for programs and services, the Council never waived from its commitment to assess needs and evaluate existing programs and practices from an evidence-based perspective.

In 2014, the Council will continue the work started in 2013 as well as pursue new avenues and opportunities, especially in the mental health and chemical dependency areas.

The Council will support the two new women's initiatives, work with its consultant to evaluate data that will provide the information necessary for planning and program evaluation and continue to study criminal justice processing to better understand the factors that contribute to the jail population and recidivism.

2013

TOTAL

	JAIL	Parole	ITAP		THP		CTC	EM JD		EM		ROR to Probation	RUS	TOTAL ATI
			PRE	SENT	PRE	SENT		PRE	SENT	PRE	SENT			
January	476	31	36	22	25	3	69	18	13	99	18	207	19	529
February	480	28	33	22	23	3	69	19	11	93	18	221	18	530
March	475	20	34	22	22	7	75	16	11	92	17	225	15	536
April	453	19	34	29	27	7	85	22	18	87	16	216	18	559
May	460	22	29	29	30	5	82	18	18	97	15	215	15	553
June	436	21	29	30	28	4	86	19	18	87	9	226	18	554
July	438	25	25	34	24	3	85	21	20	89	10	251	17	579
August	419	28	22	30	30	2	82	19	19	87	10	254	16	571
September	440	23	16	29	34	3	81	14	17	83	12	268	14	571
October	460	27	13	29	30	5	80	15	13	79	12	262	18	556
November	459	22	14	27	27	6	76	13	10	74	10	248	16	521
December	450	17	14	26	23	7	75	7	10	80	11	251	16	520
monthly ave.	454	24	25	27	27	5	79	17	15	87	13	237	17	548

ADMISSIONS

	JAIL	Parole Admiss	ITAP		THP		CTC	EM JD		EM		ROR to Probation	RUS	TOTAL ATI
			PRE	SENT	PRE	SENT		PRE	SENT	PRE	SENT			
January	275	26	3	0	23	0	12	3	2	23	4	42	4	116
February	269	19	1	1	10	2	12	7	4	23	1	44	3	108
March	246	15	1	3	15	3	19	4	3	25	4	44	1	122
April	279	17	1	6	15	1	15	9	8	21	1	39	3	119
May	286	17	0	4	13	0	14	4	2	35	2	41	3	118
June	297	20	2	2	16	2	17	4	2	19	0	53	1	118
July	303	17	0	4	17	1	15	5	5	25	5	61	2	140
August	260	15	0	0	21	1	15	4	3	32	1	58	3	138
September	299	21	0	1	13	1	15	1	3	19	3	45	1	103
October	275	25	0	0	14	0	17	5	1	21	2	40	2	102
November	251	9	0	1	14	4	17	3	0	20	1	38	2	100
December	259	9	1	0	12	2	13	2	1	31	3	39	1	105
TOTAL	3299	210	9	22	183	17	181	51	34	294	27	545	26	1369

WAITING LISTS

	JAN	FEB	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	OCT	NOV	DEC		
ITAP												
THP												
CTC												

Legend
 CTC: Community Transition Center EM: Electronic Monitoring Program EM JD: Juvenile Electronic Monitoring Program
 ITAP: Intensive Treatment Alternative Program RUS: Released Under Supervision PRE: Pretrial Case
 SENT: Sentenced Case THP: Transitional Housing Program ROR: Released on One Recognition to Probation