

Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2018

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
William O'Neil, County Executive's Office
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, DC Family Court
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Karmen Smallwood, Dutchess County Probation, Women's Chair
Hon. Denise Watson, DC Family Court
Bill Eckert, DBCH
John Alessi, D.C. Jail
Sabrina Marzouka, DCFS
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appointment
Dan Hairston, Citizen Appt.
David Santiago, NYS DOCCS/Parole
Loren Petrella, County Executive's Office
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Rebecca Edwards, D.C. Legislator
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims' Chair
Dawn Hawley, Coordinator

Guests: Joanne Nellis, Dutchess County Probation
Fred Bunnell, Citizen
Molly Shanley, DCJ volunteer
Sam Busselle, Citizen

1. Approval of July 10, 2018 minutes — The minutes were approved on a motion by John Alessi seconded by Bill O'Neil.

2. Welcome – Mary Ellen introduced Loren Petrella who is a Communications Specialist for Dutchess County and welcomed Chris Baiano, from the County Executive's Office, to the meeting.

3. Jail/ATI Report—John Alessi and Mary Ellen Still

John reported that the jail count today was 422. Mary Ellen said part of the reason for the recent spike is due to a number of arrests for felony drugs. Many of the individuals arrested were not from this area.

Bill O'Neil added that the parole number is also up. Tom Angell said that parole has been adjourning hearings because they have not had administrative law judges available. The number of new admissions of parole violators is also up. Tom said that he hopes the new Re-Entry house brings this number down.

4. Research and Planning update – Dr. Gary Christensen

Gary distributed an analysis of the jail population 9/1/16-8/31/17 vs. 9/1/17-08/31/18. The purpose was to look at admissions year to year in all jurisdictions. There are some spikes and decreases but overall the admissions decreased by nearly 200 people.

Admissions by crime type are down in every category except violent felonies. This increases the average length of stay dramatically. The second chart shows the average risk of people in jail is increasing. As expected from the risk levels, the number of people released is down. The impact is reflected in the increased average length of stay for those people. These numbers show many factors impact the jail population. Gary feels that *Counsel at First Arraignment* has decreased admissions. However, as we have fewer people coming into the jail, those who are admitted or remain in jail tend to increase the average length of stay.

Rebecca Edwards asked if the higher intake of people coming into the jail from different places like Milan and Pine Plains is a result of the opioid epidemic. Gary answered yes but it is not the only factor. Tom said new judges, for instance, can change the pattern of incarceration. There are a myriad of factors influencing admissions. Rebecca also asked if we are discussing making MAT available in the jail. Gary said it is under discussion and Jon Heller added that a work group of Special Populations members has been formed to address MAT. They will meet on September 26. In addition, there have been a number of trainings on MAT. Bill Eckert added that vivitrol has been available for several years and we would like to add other options as well.

Bill O'Neil commented we have a program called RESTART for higher risk individuals which has been operating for almost two years. We are studying the statistics and the preliminary numbers have shown a decrease in recidivism. We plan to expand that program and are working with our partners in the community to provide a continuum of services. Bill said there is a meeting of the legislature on the JTC on October 4.

5. Presentation – Dutchess County's Path to Promise - Public Consulting Group (PCG)

Mary Ellen introduced Alex Chu from the Public Consulting Group (PCG) who joined our meeting and shared a power point outlining the vision for the Path to Promise initiative. "Dutchess County will work to create an innovative framework, called the Path to Promise that defines and categorizes the youth assets the community values. The county will use this framework to compare the needs of the county's youth to current activities in the community. This will help the county and community to better understand the domains and/or age groups with the most resources and which areas are ripe for additional investment."

The goals for Path to Promise are to reverse the trajectory that makes it more likely for children across the county to end up in prison due to lack of access to opportunities and to enhance the assets across Dutchess County and align efforts to provide the best mix of services to students of all abilities.

The attached power point outlines the vision, work plan, timeframe, community outreach and asset mapping as well as the current efforts. There was discussion following the power point.

Mary Ellen thanked Alex for the informative presentation and Sabrina for coordinating this initiative.

6. Committee Reports:

“Raise the Age: – Honorable Judge Egitto--As Judge Egitto had to leave, Mary Ellen reported that the committee met yesterday and they have prepared for “Raise the Age” as much as possible. There are some unanswered questions, but the workgroup continues to address them in a collaborative manner. The committee will be analyzing what is working and what may need to be addressed.

CIC – Shirley Adams--Shirley reported that they have a meeting scheduled for October 18 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Church.

Victims - Kelly Bunt--Kelly reported that the committee met on September 14. They have decided to focus on services for the aging population. Kelly will contact the chair of the Elder Abuse Task Force in Dutchess County and invite him/her to come to the next meeting to discuss gaps in the system and see what support they need.

Women in the Criminal Justice System -Karmen Smallwood--Karmen reported that the committee met on September 11 and renewed their discussion on the intersection between addiction and recovery services. Eric D’Entrone- Regional Coordinator of Behavioral Services at Arms Acres, presented an overview of treatment services available including detox, inpatient & outpatient treatment, Medication Assisted Treatment, Equine Therapy and Recovery Coach Services. Individuals at Arms Acres can volunteer to work with horses. They work in teams to guide a horse through an obstacle course without communicating verbally with their teammates or touching the animal. It is all about trust and relationship building. Arms Acres has done a wonderful job linking patients with recovery coaches. Karmen added that there is a need for more inpatient treatment facilities for pregnant women addicted to opiates who need to get fast tracked to MAT. Arms Acres is focusing on treatment and building social skills among their clients. They also have a pool onsite and work to help increase family activities.

Karmen added that the committee accomplished a recent goal of including underrepresented community sectors in their discussions about women in the criminal justice system. Sarah Alpert, Service Learning Coordinator at Dutchess County Community College, joined the committee this month. Karmen said that they are excited about developing ways to promote higher educational opportunities for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Legislator Edwards offered to help facilitate the involvement of these individuals on campus.

Karmen and Denise Rivera will be conducting a presentation on Interactive Journaling and the Women’s Center at the NY Association of Pretrial Service Agencies Conference in Troy (October 21-22, 2018).

Re-Entry – Tom Angell and Irma Machado –Tom reported that they had a good meeting on August 16 with members of the Department of Community and Behavioral Health. It focused on what services the department offers that are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to the re-entry population. The

next meeting will be October 18 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church. Sabrina Marzouka will speak about the new Re-Entry house on North Hamilton Street and the money available for shelter through DCFS. The Re-Entry house is full right now with eight people residing there.

Diversion – Steve Miccio – Steve reported that there is CIT training in September, October and November. Steve has been working with the departments to get outcome data. He is hoping to have some outcome data by the next meeting. Next year the coordinator and two officers will go to train-the-trainer for CIT at the Office of Mental Health. Steve added that he and Beth Alter are meeting with provider agencies to discuss the Stabilization Center.

Quality Assurance – Dr. Gary Christensen, Tom Angell and Bill Grady – Gary reported the Quality Assurance Committee had a number of meetings throughout the summer. They met with the City of Poughkeepsie Court judges to discuss court processing and other pertinent issues. The impact of the opioid problem was discussed.

The TCU process is being evaluated. There is a validated rider available that measures heroin addiction. We are looking at how we can include the rider. We looked at the top two reasons that people come into our jail. They are Petit Larceny and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th, both misdemeanors. We are looking at ways to speed up case processing and incentivizing treatment options. Gary is providing a list of people in jail for more than 30 days to the DA's office and the Public Defender. Tom Angell said that almost all of the people on that list were opiate addicts and almost all were offered treatment and declined. Tom said that he has reached out to CORE for assistance with some cases. Gary continued that they are measuring RESTART outcomes and Intake efficiencies.

Gary said that they have begun to look at geo mapping of the entire county. They will look at where arrests occur throughout the county and what the results of the arrests are. They have asked each of the committees to identify key areas where their efforts have had an impact. Gary added that this is a complex process, breaking it down into many, many small parts.

Special Populations – Jon Heller - Jon reported that the committee met on August 27 and had an update on RESTART. Jon highlighted changes to the RESTART intake process. Project M.O.R.E. has received a grant from DCJS that will add two 2 staff members for the RESTART program.

There will be a meeting of MRT facilitators from each agency tomorrow. Special Populations also had a presentation by Bill Eckert and his staff on Medication Assisted Treatment. It was then decided that Special Populations will form a work group charged with coordinating and identifying educational opportunities and the best ways to incorporate the use of MATS in our current criminal justice system. There is a meeting of the opioid task force this Friday and the work group will meet next Wednesday. Special Populations next meeting is October 1. Mary Ellen added that the grant we received will also allow us to add Interactive Journaling to the RESTART program. Interactive Journaling is an evidence-based program closely aligned to the COMPAS assessment instrument.

Juvenile Justice - Karen DeSimone - Karen reported the Mid-Hudson Regional Youth Justice Team was hosted by Dutchess County in September. The Juvenile Justice Committee meets again on November 15. The tenth annual Building Bridges Conference will be held on October 12 at Marist College. Tom Angell raised a concern regarding Raise the Age. He is concerned that the system could allow a youth to be in custody 23 hours before seeing a magistrate. Tom feels that this is not fair to the young person or

police. The focus was to try to create a more humane system for young people. Mary Ellen agreed and said there are several issues that have not been resolved and this is one of them.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business – Rebecca Edwards said that a recent audit of the jail found that finances looked fine, but there was a substantial amount of commissary funds that had built up. These funds are to be used for discretionary programs for the benefit of inmates. At the initiative of Legislator Nick Page, there was a meeting with Undersheriff Imperati to talk about the possibility of offering some classes. He was very receptive and that conversation is ongoing. Gary suggested that when considering new programs, Special Populations be included for coordination purposes.

9. Announcements – Bill Eckert announced that the Lexington Center for Recovery’s methadone program has completed renovations and had the cap lifted. It is now open for intake. As required by the state, more clinical and rehabilitative services will be provided on site.

10. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Carlos, seconded by Bill O’Neil.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at **230 North Road, Poughkeepsie.**