

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
William O'Neil, County Executive's Office
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Tom Angell, Office of the Public Defender, Re-Entry Co-Chair
Shirley Adams, Community Involvement Committee Chair
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Matthew Weishaupt, D.C. District Attorney's Office
Debra Long, Family Services
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt
Ken Roman - Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Pastor John Perez, Citizen Appointment, Faith Temple Church
Barrington R. Atkins, DC Legislator
Alisyn Gaffney, D.C Probation, Justice-Involved Women's Co-Chair
Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia, Centralized Arraignment Committee Chair
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, Commissioner of Behavioral & Comm. Health
Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Deputy Commissioner, DBCH
Sabrina Marzouka, DCFS
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, Dutchess County Family Court
Dr. Gary Collins, DBCH
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE USA, Diversion Committee Chair
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt
Loren Petrella, County Executive's Office
Irma Machado, DOCCS, Re-Entry Committee Co-Chair
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Anthony Pica, Deputy Superintendent D.C.Jail
Michele Romano, Coordinator

Guests: Kevin Warwick, Consultant ASAI
Tom Morris, Dutchess County Office of Probation
Molly Shanley

1. **Introductions:** Michele Romano, Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Council and Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, Commissioner of Behavioral and Community Health.
2. **Approval of November 16, 2021 Minutes-**The minutes of November 16, 2021 were approved on a motion by Ken Roman, seconded by William O'Neil.

- 3. Jail/ATI/Safe Act Report -Therese Lee, Mary Ellen Still, Jean-Marie Niebuhr**
The reports were sent out electronically. Jon Heller indicated that the TOTAL ADMISSIONS OF PERSONS UNDER 21 report was not included, but admissions for the month of November were zero. There were no questions.

- 4. Planning and Research Update—Dr. Gary Christensen**

Gary presented an analysis of the jail population for 2021. The jail population has been reviewed weekly since January 2020. The overall jail population has trended upward to what was projected— 210. Admissions for 2021 increased slightly since 2020. Gary showed admissions by jurisdiction. The average length of stay overall increased. This increase is mostly a result of bail reform as the non-qualifying offenses typically represented a shorter stay in jail. Additionally, the ALOS increase was driven by the sentenced violent felony population, with an average of 344.7 days. The sentenced versus unsentenced population remained relatively stable. Gary presented data on types of jail releases comparing each year. Of note is that the average length of stay overall is up. Gary then presented data on recidivism. The data indicated that the Proxy assessment screener was less predictive for 2020. It was noted that the sample sizes were small, but it will still warrant further investigation as this is the first time this has been observed. It was suggested that this could be a by-product of bail reform. There was further discussion on this topic. Deputy Superintendent Anthony Pica reported that the jail is in lockdown and all programming is on hold. There are many corrections officers out with Covid-19 and many inmates have symptoms or tested positive. They are unable to transport to court and they have made accommodations for virtual court. Over the next few weeks, the restrictive situation will most likely continue at the jail. The jail administration will provide updates periodically. RESTART staff met with jail administration to formulate a plan to keep the RESTART participants engaged using some form of remote communication. Tablets are available for the inmate's use. Gary indicated that other jurisdictions around the country are experiencing the same issues.

- 5. Committee Reports:**

Quality Assurance—Gary Christensen, Tom Angell, Bill Grady

Gary presented the year-end review. Gary thanked Mary Ellen, Jon, and Kathy McQuade for helping with the weekly evaluation. The RESTART recidivism study will take into account the impact of Covid-19. They will continue participating with the RESTART QA workgroup. Following this meeting, the RESTART QA workgroup will meet. They completed an evaluation of Dutchess County jail admissions for Violent Felony Crimes and there was an increase later in the year for Misdemeanors and Non-Violent Felonies. A study was conducted of MAT at the Dutchess County Jail and a recidivism evaluation for MAT participants. QA provided data to inform the statewide study conducted by City University of New York evaluating the effects of Bail Reform. Evaluation of trends in Court Referrals for Forensic Assessments from 2018 through June 2021 revealed there

was a decrease because of Covid-19. As requested by the CJC, an analysis of DCJ incarceration rates by race, gender, and ethnicity was publicized on the website. Continued to evaluate the impact of evidence-based programs, while also considering and documenting the many pandemic related changes and challenges. Our goals for 2022 include: 1) continued commitment to case processing designed to maximize system efficiency and evaluate the overall impact on long term public safety 2) monitoring the predictive value of the Proxy 3) assisting in the ongoing development of initiatives to mitigate the impact of Bail Reform for higher risk defendants who remain in the community and 4) improving ongoing data collection to facilitate periodic evaluation of RESTART and other assignments.

RTA Update—Hon. Joseph Egitto

Judge Egitto reported that there were no issues concerning Youth Part arraignments and informed the CJC of changes effective December 21, 2021 to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) amended by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA). He further explained the changes to the federal law that governs rules for youth placed in adult facilities. He expressed that these changes would impact the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and their ability to approve alternate jail placements for youth. He also expressed his concerns about the critical bed shortage for juveniles statewide. There was lengthy discussion regarding bed shortage/unavailability.

Centralized Arraignment—Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia

Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia reported that the Magistrates' Association of Dutchess County approved moving forward with centralized arraignment. The next step is to find a suitable location. A logical location is the DC Jail. A walk through was being planned but is presently on hold due to the lock down at the jail. Office of Court Administration will need to approve the site.

Diversion—Steve Miccio

Steve reported that the Stabilization Center has been extremely busy. Covid -19 caused staffing shortages, but they have continued operating and providing services. The next CIT session is scheduled for March.

Police Reform & Reinvention—Ken Roman

Ken reported that following a presentation to the legislature, the Police Reform plan will be presented to the CJC. The committee has continued to assist local law enforcement with their plans for police reform. The committee worked on increasing diversity in hiring and recruitment. Law enforcement training on hate crimes, procedural justice, and implicit bias took place. There was a virtual community forum on hate crimes run by the Commission on Human Rights. The feedback from the community was excellent. During 2021, members of the Criminal Justice Council attended various community events on police reform. Another project of the committee is body-worn cameras. A survey will be distributed to all local law enforcement agencies to ascertain their needs and concerns so

that the committee can make a recommendation to the County Executive's Office on how to proceed.

Victims—Mary Ellen for Kelly Bunt

Mary Ellen reported for Kelly who was unable to attend the meeting. The Victims Committee worked on a victim's survey to assess the impact of Covid-19 on the provision of services to victims/survivors. They partnered with Dr. Daria Hanssen from Marist College's Department of Social Work to develop and disseminate the survey. They had two surveys, one for service providers and one for recipients. The first one was distributed to victims, the second to providers. One of the principal findings was the need to enhance the availability of technology for victims. They are working with DCFS for potential funding to provide mobile hotspot that could be purchased by providers for their clients.

Juvenile Justice—Karen DeSimone

Karen reported that the Juvenile Justice Committee met virtually. Karen said that there is a kind of "perfect storm" in the juvenile justice arena. There is a "bed crisis" for youth in New York State. Additionally, there has been an uptick in gun violence across the state. City of Poughkeepsie youth have been involved in most of the shootings in the city. The committee has had ongoing discussions regarding the impact of marijuana legalization on their at-risk population. They worked on a project for gender-based services for juveniles. Karen has been working closely with SNUG and gave examples of some of the situations encountered. The stakeholders are supportive and communicating with each other. 2022 will likely continue to be dominated by these discussions. On the more positive side, Probation has been the fortunate recipient of a grant to have Dr. Keith Cruise assist in the implementation of a trauma screening tool to better understand and respond to the trauma youth may have been exposed to. This will have tremendous impact on the system. Karen also indicated that her committee would seek out presentations on gang violence with a focus on evidence-based programming. They are continuing to monitor the impact of Covid-19 on their youth population.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell and Irma Machado

Tom reported that the committee meets every other month. Exodus Transitional Community provides direct group work, case management services, counseling, anger management as well as the MRT program. The residential housing program is operated by Community Housing Initiatives. The committee is reviewing the impact of the Parole "Less is More" initiative. On 1/26/2022, Kevin Warwick will give a presentation to Exodus administration on the MRT and other cognitive interventions. On 2/17/22, the committee will have a presentation on Joseph House.

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that technology has helped connect her committee with the community. They have had several Virtual Public Forums that her committee has sponsored. The next virtual public forum will be on February 17th and the topic will be "Law Enforcement: A

Challenging Response to our Mental Health Crisis”. It will highlight the collaboration between behavioral health workers and law enforcement. They will focus on the partnership between MHA and the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department. Also upcoming in 2022 will be a presentation on opiate use and its impact.

Justice-Involved Women — Alisyn Gaffney and Cherrell Evans-Tillery

Alisyn reported that the re-entry guides are complete and awaiting approval. They are continuing to work with Marist College on the survey for the Women’s Center. Their future goals for 2022 include: completing the project with Marist College 2) hosting guest speakers to learn more about needs of women in the community and 3) exploring ways to meet those needs. The next meeting is the 12th of January.

Special Populations—Jon Heller

The goal of Special Populations is to create, implement and evaluate programming for special populations and examine how these programs will function in the new JTC. Jon reported that Special Populations met on 10th of January. The committee continued to meet monthly with consultant Kevin Warwick, President of Alternative Solutions Associates. They had a presentation on Interactive Journaling. Special Populations worked to establish MAT at the jail. Working with Jail administrators, they committed to the goal of assigning trained corrections officers to the program unit. They focused on MRT classes during the pandemic and offered training for Exodus leadership on evidence-based programming and practices. A current focus has been on mental health services. They coordinated with the jail and behavioral health to develop a training program for corrections officers on trauma-informed correctional services. They plan to continue to monitor and guide the progress of the RESTART program. There will be an in-depth review of the recidivism data. The committee will continue to support MAT within the facility and will focus on strengthening mental health service connections in the community. They will also continue to work with the JTC team in the development of the new facility. The next meeting is February 14th at 10:30 a.m.

6. New Business

None

7. Old Business

None

8. Announcements

No Announcements

9. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Karen DeSimone, seconded by Jon Heller.

10. Next Meeting—March 8, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. (virtual)