

Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Eric Knapp, Public Defender
Matthew Weishaupt, Dutchess County District Attorney
Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia, Town of LaGrange Court; Centralized Arraignment Chair
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appointment
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims Committee Chair
Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, Commissioner of Behav. & Comm. Health
Sandy Carroll, Probation, Juvenile Justice Co-Chair
Hon. Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Hon. Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Hon. Joseph Egitto, Dutchess County Family Court
Barrington R. Atkins, DC Legislator
John Penney, Community Engagement Director City of Poughkeepsie
Shirley Adams, Catharine St. Center, CIC Chair
Michele Romano, Coordinator

Guests: Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Gully Stanford, Board Member of Dutchess County BOCES
Megan Chetner, Dutchess County Probation
Molly Shanley, Professor Emerita of Political Science Vassar College

Due to inclement weather, the meeting was held virtually.

1. **Approval of January 10, 2023 Minutes**-The minutes of January 10, 2023 were approved on a motion by Jon Heller, seconded by John Gildard.
2. **Jail/ATI/Safe Act Report -Therese Lee, Mary Ellen Still, Jean-Marie Niebuhr** – The February Jail/ATI/Safe Act reports were sent electronically. There were no questions.
3. **Planning and Research Update—Gary Christensen**
Gary and Mary Ellen presented a PowerPoint on Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and its application in Dutchess County. The presentation detailed the use of scientific evidence to guide and inform criminal justice practices in the county. The presentation is attached. A subcommittee of Quality Assurance and Council members was formed to further explore the use of screening and assessment instruments. Gary also presented a PowerPoint detailing the demographic findings of the jail population over the last three years. The presentation included data on jurisdiction, race, gender, and ethnicity. The presentation is also attached. There was significant discussion on screening and assessment instruments and how they are used in the county to determine the type of interventions needed. Kelly, who has experience with these tools, volunteered to join the workgroup.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Quality Assurance—Gary Christensen, Tom Angell, Bill Grady — Gary reported that he continues to monitor the jail’s weekly population. The average jail population is 190 and has shown a slight increase over the past few months. There were no questions.

Raise The Age Update—Hon. Joseph Egitto

Judge Egitto reported that since the 1st of November 2022, six cases were filed in the Youth Part, four of which were removed to family court with two still pending in the Youth Part as of the 8th of March. He attended the Regional Youth Justice virtual meeting where they discussed Woodfield Detention Cottage in Valhalla, NY and Westchester County’s plans for an 80-bed new detention facility. He further discussed the bed shortage. Judge Egitto talked about raising the lower age of juvenile delinquency which went into effect at the end of December. Youth seven to eleven formerly charged as Juvenile Delinquents will be served by DCFS in a voluntary program. There were no questions.

Centralized Arraignment—Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia

Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia reported that the Centralized Arraignment Committee’s current main focus is establishing a suitable location. Once the location is established, the next step is a written plan to be approved by OCA. Centralized Arraignment would operate under an administrative order of the New York State Office of Court Administration. Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia was happy to announce that she received a letter from the Sheriff saying the anticipated opening of the new facility is in July. She also announced that Centralized Arraignment was mentioned in the County Executive’s State of the County address. Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia mentioned that as chair of the Education Committee of Centralized Arraignment for the Magistrates Association statewide, she will attend an annual conference in October. One of the classes is going to be on Centralized Arraignment parts. They are going to collaborate with other counties in the state that have developed Centralized Arraignment. She further discussed how Centralized Arraignment is on everyone’s radar across the state. There were no questions.

Diversion— Steve Miccio

Steve was unavailable to attend the meeting.

Victims—Kelly Bunt

Kelly reported that the Victims Committee is planning focus groups. Sharon King of the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence had been giving suggestions because she has experience running focus groups. Their next meeting will be held on April 14th. There were no questions.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell

Tom was unavailable to attend the meeting due to weather issues.

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the committee is working to host a public (virtual) forum with a tentative date of the 6th of April. The forum will include the impact of increased opioid deaths due to overdoses in Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson Region. The forum will feature a local consumer who will share his experiences and struggles with drugs. DBCH officials will provide information about local resources available for the prevention and treatment of opioid abuse. There were no questions.

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

Jon reported that the committee met on the 1st of March. They are working on their community event 'We Are Your Village' that will tentatively be held on the 25th of March from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Adriance Library. They will have refreshments, a therapy dog, community resources, free books, and people on hand to assist with library cards. Their next meeting will be held on the 15th of March. There were no questions.

Special Populations—Jon Heller

Jon reported that the committee met on the 6th of March virtually. The RESTART program is running smoothly. They have 26 men; 13 are on MAT and five women; two are on MAT. Of the total jail population, 43 are receiving MAT. Kelly gave an update on sex offender treatment. The Incarcerated People with Special Needs Committee meets monthly, and it continues to be successful in making the appropriate connections. They discussed 14 individuals at their last meeting. Mental Health Community Challenges will meet soon. Kevin gave updates on MAT. Kevin also gave updates on the new JTC; they are still working on staff trainings. There will be a 3-hour training for all staff, an 8-hour training/meeting for the corrections staff who will be posted on the unit and a MAT 30-minutes training. There were further discussions on JTC and space. Their next meeting will be held on the 10th of April at 11:00 a.m.

Juvenile Justice—Zoe Berko and Sandy Carroll

Sandy reported that the committee expanded their membership and are excited to welcome Y'kim Anderson (SNUG Coordinator at Family Services) and Larry Moore Esq (Bureau Chief of the Family Court Unit at the PD's Office) to their committee. The committee had a presentation from SNUG following recent discussions about the best practices to address youth gang involvement and shootings. Sandy reported that Zoe held a DBT skills training for Probation Officers on the 21st of February. Sandy announced the welcoming of the new Astor J-RISC clinician to the Probation Juvenile Unit. He will be working alongside the Astor clinical supervisor who is trained in trauma. Sandy mentioned that the department organized a Peer Support Team to support wellness and reduce stressors for Probation staff. Sandy said they are working on a service matrix to address the specific areas of need identified by the YASI assessment instrument. There was further discussion on the collaboration of the Youth Police Initiative program with Probation. There were no questions.

Police Reform & Reinvention— Shawn Castano

Shawn was unavailable to attend the meeting.

5. **Old Business**— None
6. **New Business**— None
7. **Announcements**— None
8. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn was made by Jon Heller, seconded by Sandy Carroll.

Next Meeting- May 30, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting is in-person at 230 North Rd.