

**Dutchess County  
Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes

March 09, 2021

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation  
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant  
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair  
Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Co-Chair  
Bill Eckert, DBCH  
Nancy Kelly, DBCH  
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair  
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt.  
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair  
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE USA, Diversion Committee Chair  
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney  
Jacqueline Johnson, DBCH  
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt  
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims Chair  
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court  
Rebecca Edwards, D.C. Legislator  
Barrington R. Atkins, DC Legislator  
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, Dutchess County Family Court  
Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment  
Debra Long, Family Services  
Ken Roman - Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative  
Will Moore, Dutchess County Jail  
Alisyn Gaffney, D.C Probation, Justice-Involved Women's Chair  
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice  
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.  
Chief Tom Pape, City of Poughkeepsie Police Dept.  
Hon. Denise Watson, Dutchess County Family Court

Guests: Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation  
Kevin Warwick, Consultant ASAI  
Matthew Weishaupt, D.C. District Attorney's Office  
Jen Herman  
David Garcia  
Edgar Rodriguez  
Molly Shanley  
Amy Dallas  
Kathy McQuade, Dutchess County Probation  
Jenna Sarvis, Family Services

**1. Approval of January 12, 2021 minutes**

The minutes of January 12, 2021 were approved on a motion by Tom Angell, seconded by Debra Long.

**2. Jail / ATI report – Lt. John Alessi and Mary Ellen Still**

The Jail/ATI reports were sent electronically. There were no questions or comments.

**3. Bail Reform Update–Dr. Gary Christensen, Jonathan Heller, Matt Weishaupt, Tom Angell and (guest) Kathy McQuade**

A PowerPoint was presented on bail reform. Jon reviewed the 2020 reforms to bail reform. This reform added new qualifying offenses starting mid-2020. Bail can now be set on an individual arrested for a felony or misdemeanor while released on their own or on pretrial supervision.

Gary reviewed jail admissions data comparing past several years to 2020. There was a significant population decrease once bail reform began and the pandemic also contributed to this reduction. There was an overall decrease for all offenses, except violent felonies which increased substantially. Gary currently prepares a weekly report identifying all sentenced and un-sentenced inmates. The report then further breaks down the list by crime type, drug court remands, violations (parole & probation) and a variety of felony statuses. Kathy McQuade then reviews each case to provide further detail to obtain an accurate picture of who is in the jail and why. Kathy added that all new sentenced inmates are on the report as well.

Kathy reports that it has been very difficult to assess the impact of bail reform due to the pandemic. Pretrial interviews and treatment referrals have been reduced. .

Matt Weishaupt spoke about the bail reform impact on the courts. Matt noted the decrease in jail admissions and after-hour arraignments. Matt pointed out that it has been difficult to get individuals involved in treatment as there has been a reduction in probation/pretrial involvement. Tom Angell agreed with Matt on the treatment issue and added that avenues are being explored to initiate treatment without involvement of the criminal justice system. The biggest impact on the DA's Office has been discovery. Bail reform includes a requirement of full discovery on all misdemeanor and felony cases. This is an overwhelming amount of work for the DA and Public Defender's offices. Matt stated that the number of cases now being disposed of has been substantially reduced. Covid-19 has also contributed to the difficulties with discovery as the DA's Office has not been able to hire additional staff. The body-worn cameras being implemented shortly will further impact this issue. Last year, between January 1<sup>st</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup>, the DA's Office disposed of 1,018 cases. This year, for the same time period, they disposed of 70 cases. Tom Angell noted that the crime rate has appeared to remain stable. Tom agreed with Matt that the discovery requirements have slowed the process. Reviewing discovery material takes hours and Tom's office has had to add staff to assist. Both Matt and Tom spoke about the impact of the pandemic on the functioning of the courts. Matt noted that the courts are about to open for trials on a limited basis. John Gildard thanked the presenters. He asked if there was data on failures to appear. Tom noted that from his observations it was negligible, but difficult to ascertain because of covid. Judge Romig noted that FTAs seemed to be up, but it may be attributable to covid-19.

#### **4. Domestic Violence Report-- Dr. Gary Christensen, Kelly Bunt and (guest) Jenna Sarvis**

Gary Christensen reported that the Quality Assurance Committee looked into DV related offenses as part of the jail review. Gary presented a slide that showed DV data from 2019 through 2020. Overall, while admissions were down, the percentage of DV related offenses as part of the overall jail population is up. Jenna Sarvis is the Project Coordinator for the Universal Response to Domestic Violence (URDV). URDV is a multi-disciplinary county wide team. URDV was created in 1994 in order to foster a coordinated community response to domestic violence. URDV oversees the High Risk DV group, DART and the Lethality Assessment Program. Jenna reviewed the roles of each program. Jenna reported that in 2020, 3,805 Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) were filed, with 56 percent of those involving intimate partners. This data is consistent with what Gary reported. Kelly Bunt discussed the impact of covid-19 on victims. Working with Marist College, a survey was developed and released; one for service providers and one for service recipients. Preliminary data from the first survey was provided (information from service providers). While the surveys were not specific to DV, some of the responses can be related to DV offenses. Preliminary results indicate there has been a disruption to services. Victims responded that they did not reach out for services due to fear of the offender, lacking access and isolation. The results also indicated an increased need for mental health services. The full survey findings will be presented once the report is completed. Legislator Atkins asked if the survey specified the definition of DV as culture plays a big role in identifying it. Kelly responded that the service providers have an understanding and awareness of this issue. Legislator Atkins asked if the Emergency Departments were included. They were, however the data from the EDs is somewhat sketchy, so they are primarily relying on direct service providers. Tom Angell said it appears there is no evidence of an uptick in DV for 2020. Gary and Jenna confirmed this.

#### **5. Committee reports:**

##### **Quality Assurance – Dr. Gary Christensen, Tom Angell, William Grady**

Tom indicated that they are looking at the violent felony population in the jail. Gary said that given the increase in violent felonies by percentage of population in the jail, they would expect an increase in the length of stay. Gary is reviewing the data now.

##### **Raise the Age – Judge Egitto**

Judge Egitto gave an update. There have been 28 cases since the beginning of 2018 filed in the Youth Part. The Youth Part has been impacted heavily by the pandemic. He did a study of cases filed in Family Courts for 2019 vs 2020 for all counties in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. While Dutchess was down in filings, it was notable that the rest of the district showed an increase, particularly in Rockland and Westchester counties. There is a district committee meeting for RTA on 3/22/21.

##### **Police Reform and Reinvention – Ken Roman**

The subcommittee is taking shape. Last night, the Sheriff's reform package was approved by the legislature. There were some concerns raised and DCSO is committed to working on them. Legislator Edwards expressed concern that the plan proposes to create a civilian review board as part of the CJC. She indicated that such a board should not be the responsibility of the CJC,

which is an advisory council. Oversight is more appropriately the responsibility of the legislature. The Police Reform and Reinvention committee will meet again in the near future.

### **Victims Committee—Kelly Bunt**

Kelly had one thing to add not covered in her presentation. The service recipient portion of the survey is nearly ready for distribution and will ultimately result in a report that will be presented to the CJC.

### **Juvenile Justice- Karen DeSimone**

The committee met last week on the 28<sup>th</sup> and had two presentations. The first was about the Juvenile Intervention Pilot Program at the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department. They also had a presentation on the YAP program. The program is due to begin soon. It will serve eight families at a time and will be directed toward the more serious PINS cases to keep them out of court and placement and to achieve better outcomes. Karen reported that there are currently no youth from Dutchess County in detention at this time. She reported that there is an uptick in PINS cases. The project with the Victims Committee intern is up and running. The committee will meet again on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

### **Re-Entry – Tom Angell and Irma Machado**

The Re-Entry Committee met on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. There is a new co-chair, Charlie Figel, who is designated by DOCCS as the region's Re-Entry manager. Kevin Warwick and Gary Christensen gave a presentation on the intersection between the RESTART program and Parole with a specific emphasis on building new pathways of collaboration between the agencies. Larry King from the Public Defender's office is assigned Parole matters and is an active member of the RESTART flow committee. Kevin and Gary recommend that both Exodus and DOCCS send staff to these meetings and they stressed the importance of creating a seamless transition for parolees who participated in RESTART and are now in the community. They also stressed the importance of program fidelity from jail to community. Jon Heller has assisted Exodus to add MRT to their programming. Gary also reported on the study of the Parole Re-Entry residence. The next meeting is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

### **CIC – Shirley Adams**

The Community Involvement Committee is currently canvassing members for topics of interest so the committee can set up virtual presentations. This will help increase their involvement in the community. Topics are due March 19<sup>th</sup> with the hope that the first presentation will take place late April or early May. They are looking to do three or four per year. Legislator Atkins requested the forum dates be blasted via Email and that the announcement also be presented in Spanish.

### **Diversion – Steve Miccio**

Steve was not present, but he sent Mary Ellen his report. He indicated that they were planning a CIT training in April, but the specific date has not been set. Mary Ellen reported that there were 20 police officers and two probation officers who brought guests to the Stabilization Center last month. About 80% of officers who bring guests to the Stabilization Center are CIT trained. Capacity has risen at the center. A monthly stakeholders' meeting has been added.

### **Justice -Involved Women's Committee—Mary Ellen Still**

The committee has new chairpersons and will be meeting shortly. The new chairs are Alisyn Gaffney and Cherrell Evans-Tillery.

### **Special Populations – Jon Heller**

Special Populations met on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. Jon gave an update on RESTART Quality Assurance. They are continuing to work through Gary's recidivism study. There was an MRT Facilitators meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. There were 44 participants from six different agencies. There was a presentation on Interactive Journaling and the consultant from CCI (the MRT developers) was able to join the meeting. RESTART training for corrections officers took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. Kevin Warwick indicated that the training went very well. Kevin gave an update on the RESTART program. The staff returned to limited in-person groups last week. Kevin and Kyle gave a MAT update and indicated that things were going very smoothly with credit going to the jail staff and PrimeCare medical. The MAT case manager position has been filled and this individual is working closely with jail-based services. Jean-Marie noted that efforts are underway to increase access to community providers and enhance peer support. Jenna Sarvis gave an update on IPVI. She also announced that she is the new URDV coordinator and will work with both programs. Planning is underway to provide trauma-informed training for all jail staff. Bill Eckert provided an update on the Opioid Task Force. Next meeting is 3/22/21.

#### **6. Old Business –None**

- 7. New Business –** There was a request for an update on WiFi and tablet availability in the jail. Will indicated that the jail is actively seeking remedies to the current situation. They are looking at options to put a cost-effective temporary solution in the old facility. This will not be an issue in the new facility.

#### **8. Announcements**

Bill Eckert gave an update on COSSAP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program) activities and the Opioid Task Force. They are in year-3 of their grant. Tomorrow is a training for providers. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a Coach and Advocate training. This is a 46-hour certification training. Also, there will be a first responder motivational interviewing training. Friday is a workgroup meeting for the Opiate Court/LEAD program. Legislator Atkins asked who the coach training was for. Bill indicated it was for members of the community in recovery.

Molly Shanley asked if the WiFi at the jail could be of assistance to the resumption of outside volunteers. Will responded that they are currently developing their plan for reopening to volunteer programs. They will continue to explore WiFi improvement across the board.

- 9. Adjourn –** A motion to adjourn was made by Rebecca Edwards, seconded by Karen DeSimone.

**Next Meeting—**May11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. (virtual)