

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

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
Alex Rosen, Office of the Public Defender (for Tom Angell)
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
Dr. A.K. Vaidian, Commissioner of Behavioral & Comm. Health
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims Committee 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
Hon. Denise Watson, Dutchess County Family Court
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Therese Lee, DCJ Corrections Administrator
Loren Petrella, County Executive's Office
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment
Irma Machado, Bureau Chief, NYS Division of Parole, Co-Chair of Re-Entry Comm.
Hon. Jessica Segal, County Court Judge
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.

Guests: Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Paul Spagnoli, Dutchess County Probation
Matthew Weishaupt, D.C. District Attorney's Office
Molly Shanley
Jeffrey Schneider

1. Approval of March 9, 2021 minutes

The minutes of March 9, 2021 were approved on a motion by Karen DeSimone, seconded by Martin Lynch.

2. Jail / ATI report –Will Moore and Mary Ellen Still

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

3. Research and Planning Update–Dr. Gary Christensen

Gary reported on the admissions to the jail from the period of January 1 through May 3, 2021. Gary indicated that admissions have stabilized now that state-ready individuals are being accepted into DOCCS. Non-violent admissions have not significantly changed. Parole admissions are down from last year. There are 60 people incarcerated for violent crimes; the majority are from the city of Poughkeepsie. Weapons charges are the most frequent violent felony. There were no questions.

4. Women’s Residence –Marty Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.

Project M.O. R. E. is happy to announce that the proposed women’s residence will open within the next 3 or 4 weeks. Based on a needs assessment by the CJC recommending more programming for women, Project M.O.R.E. has made this a priority by creating a Women’s Center, implementing the use of a gender-specific assessment, the WRNA, and now creating a residence for women. Project M.O.R.E. also opened a Probation Violation Residential Center and the Employment program, with the support of DCJS. DCJS (through the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives) also provides funding for the Women’s Center. The cognitive behavioral curriculum, MRT, is the link across programs.

The residence is supported by a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. The program will be a 10 to 12 bed facility located at 45 Catharine Street. It is a convenient location and is currently being refurbished. It will be staffed 24/7. The women who are currently at the Transitions house facility will relocate to this facility. It has been shown that women function far better in a gender-specific program designed to meet their specific needs. Services will be provided by the Women’s Center, CTC and community-based treatment agencies. Nancy Kelly asked about the proposed length of stay. Marty responded that it is anticipated that the length of stay would be 3 to 6 months, but there is no set limit and that services would be individualized. Judge Watson asked if the residence would be able to accommodate women who have children. Marty responded that the accommodations are not adequate for children, but there is a need. Marty thanked the CJC for their support in making these programs possible.

5. Committee reports:

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

Gary indicated that they are continuing to review the jail population. They are also looking at the statistics for medically assisted treatment at the jail and developing benchmarks. Gary is awaiting data from jail medical.

Raise the Age – Judge Egitto

Judge Egitto indicated that the Youth Part is operating smoothly. There is a Dutchess County RTA committee meeting scheduled for 6/24. There were two Youth Part arraignments recently. The Probation Department has been very helpful. The committee will discuss disbanding as it was an implementation committee. The district wide committee will assume responsibility going forward. There will be centralized control over the district now that the plan has been implemented. Of note is that the Attorneys for the Child are now able to stay with the cases during the adjustment period, which has led to more successful adjustments.

Police Reform and Reinvention – Ken Roman

The committee met last Thursday and will meet again on the 20th of May. John Gildard drafted a template for the mission statement and scope. The acronym is MARS- (Monitor, Assess, Recommend and Support). DCSO and City of Poughkeepsie Police have been leaders in police reform efforts. DCSO has been leading in recruitment efforts in order to encourage candidates of color to apply. DCSO has established a clear path with their community policing unit. The City of Poughkeepsie police have been leaders in procedural justice and implicit bias training. They have worked closely with DCSO on this. Dutchess is doing a great job and is moving faster than other municipalities according to what Ken has read. CIT training continues to be offered to all police agencies in Dutchess County, and the county leads the state in this effort. DBCH continues to work closely with the 911 Center. Helpline has moved to the 911 Center. Kristin Parise from DBCH met with the Chiefs Association and she will serve as the law enforcement liaison for the Mobile Crisis Team, Helpline and the Stabilization Center.

Victims Committee—Kelly Bunt

Kelly indicated that the committee continues to focus on the Marist College collaborative survey. The second survey, for victims and survivors, went out on 3/30 and will come to a close on 5/14. As they have had difficulty collecting the completed surveys, the deadline might be extended. The next meeting is the 14th of May. At that meeting, Gary will present statistics on violent felonies at the jail, Margaret Walker from the PD's office will present on Bail Reform and the intern that is shared with the Juvenile Justice committee will update the committee on her project. The results of the victims' survey will be presented in June.

Juvenile Justice- Karen DeSimone

The intern is wrapping up her research and readying her presentation. Karen thanked all those who assisted. Currently, there are two individuals in non-secure detention. The impact of the pandemic was the focus of the last meeting. A few youth who were school-phobic were doing well with remote learning. Karen said that we should take note of this in addressing their needs in the future. The next important topic will be the effects of marijuana legalization. The next meeting will be 5/27 with a presentation from Project M.O.R.E.'s CTC program.

Re-Entry – Alex Rosen

The Re-Entry Committee met on April 15th. Approximately 25 people attended. Nicole Johansson, the Director of Residential Services for Hudson Valley Housing spoke on the intersection of homelessness and re-entry in the covid era. The next meeting is scheduled for 6/17 with a presentation from Step One Treatment Center.

CIC – Shirley Adams

The Community Involvement Committee is planning several virtual community forums. Possible topics include bail and police reform, opioids and information on the JTC. They are also attempting to have former program participants speak about their experiences. The dates have not yet been set, but they are targeting the end of June. There will be flyers announcing the virtual forums available both in English and Spanish.

Diversion – Steve Miccio

Steve indicated that 14 officers were trained from a variety of agencies at a recent CIT. There will be at least one more training this year. They are also working on training for corrections officers. The Stabilization Center has been operational and very busy; 90% of the officers that bring people to the center are CIT trained. As there have been issues with the hospital, Steve is contacting MidHudson Regional about the quality of care in the Emergency Department specific to mental health treatment. They plan to set up a meeting to discuss potential solutions.

Justice involved Women’s Committee—Alisyn Gaffney

The committee met last Tuesday and the meeting included a number of new members. The focus is on completing the re-entry manuals that will be provided to women upon release from the jail. They are hoping to start a writing group for women on probation. The next meeting is June 15.

Special Populations – Jon Heller

Special Populations met on the 22nd of March and the 19th of April. Kevin introduced Nicole Willoughby as the new program director for RESTART. Jon gave an update on RESTART Quality Assurance, which included a review of the recent correction officer training. Kevin gave an update on the progress of the trauma-informed training that is planned for the jail staff and discussed improvements to the referral process. Nicole gave a RESTART update. At that time, there were 35 males and six females participating in RESTART. The jail allowed for an increase in RESTART staffing. Nicole and the jail staff have been working on the schedule in order to accommodate all groups. RESTART has been working to enhance collaboration with Exodus and Parole. Jenna Sarvis gave an update on DVOP (the former IPVI). Kelly Bunt gave an update on sex offender treatment and the victims’ survey progress. The MAT workgroup met on the 21st of April. Overall, the MAT program is going well. Bill Eckert noted that overdose deaths are up, and while we are doing a good job connecting people to MAT at the jail, many no longer go to the jail because of bail reform. There was continued discussion on that topic. The next Special Populations meeting is the 17th of May.

6. Old Business

Bill O’Neil reported on the Justice and Transition Center indicating that we are on budget and on time. He is pleased with the progress. John Gildard asked about Centralized Arraignment. Mary Ellen said that Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia is coordinating a meeting to discuss the issue.

7. New Business – Mary Ellen welcomed Therese Lee to the CJC as the new Jail Superintendent.

8. Announcements -none

8. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Karen DeSimone seconded by John Gildard.

Next Meeting—July 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.