

**Dutchess County**  
**Criminal Justice Council**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2020

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation  
William O'Neil, County Executive's Office  
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant  
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court  
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair  
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt.  
Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair  
John Alessi, D.C. Jail  
Bill Eckert, DBCH  
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair  
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair  
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair  
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney  
Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment  
Jacqueline Johnson, DBCH  
Irma Machado, DOCCS  
Eoin Wrafter, Commissioner of Planning  
Dr. A.K. Vaidian, Commissioner of Behavioral & Comm. Health  
Loren Petrella, County Executive's Office  
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment  
Chief Tom Pape, City of Poughkeepsie Police Dept.  
Ken Roman - Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative  
Barrington R. Atkins, DC Legislator  
Joanne Nellis, Justice Involved Women's Chair  
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, Dutchess County Family Court  
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt  
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice  
Dawn Hawley, Coordinator

Guests: Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.  
Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation  
Kevin Warwick, Consultant ASAI  
Molly Shanley  
Shannon Wong  
Sam Busselle

**1. Approval of July 14, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of July 14, 2020 were approved on a motion by Tom Angell, seconded by Judge Mora.

## **2. Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative Update—Ken Roman**

Ken reported the mayors, supervisors and chiefs meeting took place last week. The meeting was productive and there was a lot of discussion about next steps. Jody Miller will schedule the meetings which are listed on the county's website. Ken said he thinks that there is a better understanding of the fact that we are not issuing mandates to agencies. Each municipality will tailor ideas to their own community. Ken said there were a number of creative ideas discussed.

There was a community stakeholders meeting the same afternoon. Ken said there was open, honest conversation from a lot of people who had experiences with law enforcement. One topic that came up frequently is community policing. It meant different things to different people. The City of Poughkeepsie Police Department has been a leader in implementing this concept. One gentleman noted that it would be nice to see police officers interact as members of the community.

Next Thursday, the topic will focus on professionalization. Chief Pape was asked questions about the programs he has been working on and the trainings for procedural justice and implicit bias. Ken said that he had the privilege of attending both trainings and they were very powerful. We are endeavoring to schedule these trainings for every police officer in Dutchess County. The County Executive has offered to help with the process by offsetting the cost of the trainers. Each department will have to pay for their own officers, however. We are fortunate to have several certified trainers in the county.

De-escalation training was discussed. CIT, which most officers have received, covers most of the requirements for de-escalation training. Some municipalities may decide to obtain their own or additional de-escalation training. The goal is not to mandate one particular type of training, but provide municipalities with the tools they need to comply with the executive order. The County Executive is committed to continuing the stakeholders group after the executive order is satisfied. Tom Angell said that his office is prepared to send staff to assist municipalities as needed. Mary Ellen thanked Ken for the update.

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

The statistics were emailed. The August ATI numbers were not yet ready, but July stats were included. Mary Ellen noted that, as predicted, admissions to the jail showed an increase over the past few months.

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

Gary has been reviewing the impact of bail reform and reform to bail reform on the jail population. Post-bail reform, our average daily population was in the 180 to 200 range, but covid reduced it further to the 130-140 range. We continue to monitor the population by misdemeanor, violent felony, non-violent felony and violation offenses. We are looking at both sentenced and pretrial. With the assistance of the QA group, we are reviewing RESTART recidivism for a population of about 400 people. Gary said they

are also working with the MAT treatment group to understand the impact of MAT on recidivism.

## **5. Committee Reports:**

### **RTA—Hon. Joseph Egitto**

Judge Egitto said that 90–95% of cases that are originating as Adolescent Offenders (AOs) from Youth Part are coming to Family Court. Most of them are 17 year-olds and are serious cases. We continue to have a serious problem finding secure beds for youth. There have been several meetings about this topic. One meeting involved representatives from OCFS. Youth going to locations such as Rochester and Buffalo hampers the ability of their attorneys and families to have contact. They are supposed to have virtual access, but there are often problems with that. Woodfield in Westchester County has always accommodated us, but recently issues with their pods has hindered that availability. John Gildard asked if we could get a report that indicates where youth are located. DCSO has a report and the judge will inquire if it can be made available. There will be another RTA meeting scheduled soon.

### **Juvenile Justice—Karen DeSimone**

Karen reported that the Juvenile Justice Committee began meeting again on July 23. At each meeting they survey service providers for a status update. They had a Path to Promise and RTA update. There is concern about the lack of structure for youth when schools are not in normal session. The next meeting will be on September 24.

### **Centralized Arraignment—Hon. Jerry Hayes**

Judge Hayes reported that they have requested information from the jail administration about the feasibility of Centralized Arraignment in the current jail. They also had an informal poll of magistrates regarding their support for centralized arraignment. They are waiting for responses. The attorney for the Administrative Judge asked for a specific count of where judges stand on the issue. Judge Hayes feels they will be in favor of it, but the details will need to be worked out with the jail administration as well as the Administrative Judge. Tom Angell offered his assistance in setting up a virtual meeting if that would be helpful.

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

Tom reported they met on August 20. Kent Goldwire, a SUNY Professor who oversees the University's Center for Academic and Work Force Development, spoke at the meeting. They focus on helping people who have not been part of the traditional educational system to get employment skills and training. They have a particular interest in the re-entry population.

Tom reported that Exodus, our primary agency for parole re-entry services in Dutchess County, has received permission from the City of Poughkeepsie to house people at their building on Cannon Street. Once this comes to fruition, this will be the second re-entry house for people coming out of prison. We continue to work with CHI, who runs the re-entry house on Hamilton Street. Jon Heller has been very helpful in getting the MRT program functioning at Exodus. There has been discussion between Exodus, Dutchess Community College and Vassar College

about holding some college classes at their center on Cannon Street. The next meeting of the Re-Entry Task Force is scheduled for October 15 at 2:00 p.m. Tom is planning to have Molly Shanley as the presenter.

#### **CIC—Shirley Adams**

Shirley reported that Bill Eckert reached out to CIC to talk about ways they can work together for collective outreach to the community. Bill is part of COSSAP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program). There are several subcommittees and a steering committee of COSSAP. Shirley said they have been invited to the next meeting of the Opioid Task Force on October 16. Bill Eckert added that data sharing and building community coalitions are part of COSSAP's goals.

#### **Diversion—Steve Miccio**

Steve reported that there is another CIT training scheduled for October 19–23. There was an academy class in July which graduated 11 students. The CIT International Board is working on a certification process for CIT. We will apply as soon as the application is released.

The Stabilization Center will open to the public on September 15. Covid safety measures have been instituted.

#### **Victims—Kelly Bunt**

Kelly was unable to attend the meeting. Mary Ellen read an update for Kelly. They are working on a collaboration with Marist College. They plan to produce a survey to better understand the impact of covid on victims and survivors and the agencies that serve them. They are looking at what resources might be needed to better respond in the future. They are also looking to see if there were challenges or gaps in services and what was working well. They are creating two surveys, one for service providers and one for recipients. The next meeting will be virtual on Friday, September 11.

#### **Justice-Involved Women—Joanne Nellis**

Joanne reported that the committee met in August and again on September 2. They continue to focus on developing a resource guide for women who are being released from incarceration. This is primarily for women being released from our jail but will hopefully be a worthwhile resource guide for women being released from state prison as well. They included information from five surrounding counties. A Vassar College intern is helping to update the information. . Joanne said we also plan to continue our collaboration with Marist College which is currently on hold due to covid. The next meeting will be in late October.

#### **Special Populations—Jon Heller**

Jon reported that they met on July 20 and August 24. At the July 20 meeting, they had an update on RESTART Quality Assurance. They are recommending and facilitating Interactive Journaling for non-RESTART inmates in the jail.

RESTART was restarted on June 29 and stopped on July 1 due to a positive covid inmate. It was started again on July 20 with two staff at a time. They have smaller groups to maintain social distancing. Project M.O.R.E.'s Women's Center resumed in-person intakes on July 27. The RESTART resource packet will be added to the Dutchess County Jail's website when it is completed. MRT groups resumed by all providers using a combination of remote, in-person and hybrid contacts.

A MAT update was given. The subcommittee met on July 14 to discuss induction. New regulations as a result of covid were discussed. Dr Ramsey offered any resources necessary to help us begin induction. Induction of buprenorphine will begin on October 1.

At the August 24 meeting, we had an update from Jenna Sarvis on IPVI. They have six level A offenders identified. The Office of Violence Against Women under the Department of Justice eliminated all funding for the IPVI grants nationwide. Jenna is attempting to secure funding from other resources.

The Women's subcommittee is making progress on the resource guide. The RESTART Women's subcommittee was successful in organizing space and time at the Women's Center for recent RESTART alumni who continue to need resources in the community. The site will be staffed by RESTART staff under an arrangement with Project M.O.R.E.

RESTART update – There are currently 32 groups in operation in the jail. We can accommodate 25 men and all the women who are currently in the jail. RESTART is continuing to provide individual sessions as well as groups. When there is more space available, we can include Interactive Journaling. RESTART is also conducting 75-100 contacts per week in the community.

Gary and Mary Ellen reported that 90% of Transitional Housing residents admitted in 2019 were still engaged in treatment well after their release. The next meeting is September 21.

#### **6. Old Business—Update on JTC—Bill O'Neil**

Bill reported that the bids came in for the JTC a couple of weeks ago. Bill said that we received six bids from large construction companies with the lowest bid from Pike Corporation. They were the construction managers on the LEC project. Their bid came in at \$110 million for the base product which is well below the \$126 million we have available in our remaining budget. The contract will be finalized this week and we hope to start construction by the end of the month.

Juvenile stats—Mary Ellen said that at our last meeting Legislator Edwards asked about statistics regarding juveniles. For the first half of the year, there were 19 misdemeanor Appearance Tickets for the under 16 group and 27 for 16 and 17 year-olds for a total of 46 misdemeanor Appearance Tickets. We had five felonies for the under 16 group and 14 Appearance Tickets for 16 and 17 year-olds for a total of 19 cases. For under 16, 13 youth were charged with property offenses; 22 property offense were charged to the 16-17 year-olds for a total of 35. The under 16 year-old group had one violent offense and the 16-17 year-old group

had eight charged with violent offenses for a total of nine. Alleged offenses under other categories were 10 for the under 16 group and 11 for the 16 and 17 year-olds for a total of 21. Mary Ellen said that the 16 and 17 year-old (RTA) group had a higher number of offenses which is not unexpected, but has an impact on the entire system and requires different types of interventions.

Mary Ellen added that we are continuing with the technical assistance we are receiving for the analysis of the juvenile justice system. Everything is currently being handled virtually and the researchers are gathering data and interviewing staff. We hope at some point to resume in-person meetings, but the work has not stopped.

**7. New Business** – none

**8. Announcements** – none

**9. Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn was made Tom Angell, seconded by Shirley Adams.

Next meeting is November 24 at 8:00 a.m. This will be a virtual TEAMS meeting.