

Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2019

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
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, DC Family Court
Karmen Smallwood, Dutchess County Probation, Women's Chair
Bill Eckert, DBCH
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Rebecca Edwards, D.C. Legislator
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims' Chair
Faye Garito, D.C. Legislature
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appointment
Loren Petrella, County Executive's Office
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Dr. A.K. Vaidian, Commissioner of Behavioral & Comm. Health
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Irma Machado, NYS Parole
Dawn Hawley, Coordinator

Guests: Joanne Nellis, Dutchess County Probation
Kelly Myers, Family Court
Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.

1. **Approval of November 20, 2018 Minutes** - Minutes were approved on a motion by Jon Heller seconded by Tom Angell.
2. **Welcome** - Mary Ellen welcomed Legislator Faye Garito to the Criminal Justice Council.

3. **Expanded Committee Reports** - Mary Ellen said the first meeting of the year is devoted to expanded committee reports with a summary of activities and goals for the new year.

Committee Reports:

Raise the Age – Judge Egitto - Judge Egitto invited his court attorney, Kelly Myers, to attend today. Since the last meeting, they have been working on issues regarding after hour arraignments. The state RTA committee sent out bench cards, which is a brief summary of the case that a judge can review. Because this is a very involved law, the bench cards for these cases are very lengthy. The plan is to get every judge to be an accessible magistrate so that police can access local courts. Currently, judges are required to complete a 90-minute training. As of today, no one in Dutchess County is currently approved to be an accessible magistrate except the four city court judges. Police will take those under arrest to them until the other judges are trained and approved. Woodfield (detention center) is not available for females yet. Kelly Myers said there was recently a new administrative order sent out to all police agencies with the specific hours of accessible magistrates. The new hours are: Monday through Friday from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is based on the rotation schedule that the judges set up in October. Mary Ellen and Kelly are working on a notification system for changes in schedule. Judge Egitto said that we need to have a central place where police can call to get information on the duty judge. Bill O'Neil asked if this is a temporary situation until all the judges are trained. Judge Egitto said one idea was for the county to maintain a website. Bill O'Neil said we could have the 911 Center coordinate and he will have Kenny Roman get in touch with Kelly. Mary Ellen mentioned that our plan submitted to the state has not yet received approval. There are still areas that will need to be resolved as we go through the year. The next meeting of the work group is 12:45 p.m. on January 29. Mary Ellen thanked Judge Egitto and Kelly.

Quality Assurance – Gary Christensen- Gary looked at the year in retrospect. The Quality Assurance Committee is comprised of members from Probation, the District Attorney's Office and the Office of the Public Defender. Gary showed a power point. We are looking at how court processing contributes to the jail population. Gary said there is a reduction of over 200 admissions from 2017-2018. Gary said that they are determining what the reasons for some of the reductions are. The admissions by crime type have reduced in every category except violent felonies. You can also see that the vast majority of admissions in the jail still remain misdemeanors. Almost all misdemeanors and a majority of nonviolent felonies are people eventually released to the streets. Gary showed the top jail admissions for 2016, 2017 and 2018. This is the first year that Gary has seen Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th overtake Petit Larceny as the number one reason for admission. Gary said from the research we have done, we know that Petit Larceny relates largely to substance abuse and much of that is opioid use. These two areas still remain important targets for our programming. Next, Gary showed release figures. Admissions are down from 2016-2018. The number of people going to prison has remained fairly constant and people released to our streets decreased by about 300. Average length of stay by release type has decreased by over 20 days per person. This was a significant accomplishment. One of the targets we chose last year was to reduce the amount of time for prison bound people to go through the court process. Overall, our length of stay has remained fairly constant and that is largely due to the fact that our street releases for nonviolent felons and misdemeanants have increased ALOS; offsetting reductions for those going to prison. There are fewer people but increased average lengths of stay,

resulting in higher use of jail days. Gary next looked at the parole numbers. 88% of DCJ parolees were either returned to state prison or convicted and sentenced locally.

Recidivism analysis for 2018 shows very positive figures for our RESTART program. Our RESTART release is 30+ days. We evaluated everyone with the Proxy risk tool. All releases to the street recidivated at a rate of 51.6%. Our RESTART population, with high risk scores, recidivated at a rate of 41.8%. These are one year recidivism rates. These are encouraging figures.

We continually work with RESTART on quality assurance and recidivism reduction. We have looked at the special classification category inmates to assist in managing those with severe mental illness. We have developed a new program to incentivize participation in RESTART, the Release Interim Option. We have also worked with the Department of Behavioral and Community Health to look at the forensic assessment process and implemented a tool called the TCU. The Texas Christian University Drug and Alcohol screening instrument is used on every person admitted to our jail facility by Probation Pretrial Services. Referrals to DBCH are made in appropriate cases. We have developed specific performance measures with the Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health and Probation.

Goals for 2019 – Gary said 2019 goals include conducting detailed analysis of all release to street populations. Gary has set a goal for the Special Populations work group to achieve an additional 5% recidivism reduction over the next year. Gary feels this is attainable. We will continue to work with the TCU assessment matrix. As a result of these initiatives, Gary hopes we can reduce our overall average length of stay by five days.

Re-Entry – Tom Angell and Irma Machado – Tom reported that the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services funds re-entry services in Dutchess County. The Re-Entry Task Force partners with Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. to provide these re-entry services to Dutchess County residents. Our Re-Entry coordinator is Carlos Valencia.

In 2018, services were provided to a total of 384 individuals. During 2018, 248 participants completed the Anger Management program, 134 participants completed the Ready, Set, Work vocational program and 108 participants found employment. Additional services provided include individual advocacy, counseling, case management services, and community building exercises. The Re-Entry Center is located at 97-99 Cannon Street in the City of Poughkeepsie.

The primary source of referrals is the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. In addition, referrals have come from the Office of Probation, Dutchess County Public Defender, and other partnering community agencies. In most cases, the COMPAS risk and need assessment instrument is used to determine the domains that need to be addressed for each client. In turn, Exodus Transitional Program coordinates monthly case management meetings with parole and various community and local governmental agencies to design specific programming for each identified need that the client has. Exodus continues to meet the performance goals of its various contracts.

In addition, the Task Force met on a bi-monthly basis to address systemic barriers that individuals returning to the community from correctional facilities face. These meetings have been well attended with an excess of 20 people present. Representatives from parole, probation, social service agencies, jail, mental hygiene, substance abuse agencies, domestic violence agencies, concerned citizens and many others have attended on a regular basis. There have been presentations from Dutchess

Community College, Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Enhancement Program, Abilities First, Department of Behavioral and Community Health, Community Housing Initiatives, Department of Community and Family Services, Project M.O.R.E. and the Office of Probation. In addition, the task force continues to assist Fordham University and the Unitarian Church's Coming Home Program--a mentoring program for parolees in Dutchess County.

Over the last several years, the Task Force spent a tremendous amount of time and effort in seeking a solution to the homeless parolee problem. Working with our partners at the Department of Community and Family Services and Community Housing Initiatives, we were able to open an eight bed 90-day transitional housing facility for homeless parolees on North Hamilton Street in the City of Poughkeepsie.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services recently completed a statewide study on the recidivism rates of parolees participating in Re-entry Task Forces statewide. The overall one-year re-arrest rate among 2017-2018 participants statewide while in re-entry programs was 7%. The re-arrest rate in Dutchess County was 5%.

Our goal for 2019 is to institutionalize the cognitive behavioral treatment program, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) into the programming of Exodus Transitional Community. The goal is to have 50 participants complete MRT in 2019

Community Involvement Committee - Shirley Adams – The Community Involvement Committee (CIC) engages and encourages residents to participate in public forums, community discussions and other activities that will assist them to make informed decisions related to the county's Criminal Justice System.

Over the past year, the CIC was involved in a variety of activities to promote and facilitate an information sharing process with county residents. Community contact was conducted by outreach through the distribution of flyers, announcements at local meetings, emails and face-to-face contacts. The CIC also adjusted its regular meeting schedule and location to the third Thursday of the month at St. Paul's Church, Poughkeepsie. This schedule change was implemented to make the CIC meetings more accessible and convenient for residents.

In 2018, CIC's participants expressed an interest in learning more about the proposed Justice and Transition Center. The CIC conducted ongoing discussions, disseminated printed materials and shared information about the proposed size of the "new jail" as well as its internal design and layout. Committee participants were concerned that the new structure would adequately accommodate programs and services for the inmates.

CIC participants' concerns were shared with the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Council, resulting in special presentations to legislators as well as public forums. The materials from these presentations are displayed on the county website, providing county residents with easy access to pertinent information.

The CIC's goals for 2019 include continued efforts to make it easier for residents to become more involved in community discussions and to make information about the Criminal Justice System more accessible. The CIC will also work to connect with residents through social media outlets and establish new collaborations with countywide organizations and local groups.

Diversion – Steve Miccio – Steve reported that in 2018 there were five 40-hour classes of CIT. We trained a total of 79 law enforcement personnel. In total, we have trained 480 law enforcement personnel since 2015. In June, we started collecting data on officers' engagement with people. We are measuring the number of behavioral health calls. 791 out of 851 law enforcement responses to incidents were answered by CIT trained law enforcement. 280 transports from those calls went to the Stabilization Center, 184 went to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital. Two officers and 12 citizens were injured in these calls. The goals for 2019 are the introduction of a CIT Newsletter for all trained officers. There will be four more trainings this year. We are improving outcome data. We will have an annual awards dinner which will help raise money to continue to invest in this program. Steve said we will be attending and presenting at the annual CIT conference.

Steve wants to continue to develop the relationship with the MTA. They have sent some officers to train with us and we are in discussions with them regarding training 800 of their officers. Bill O'Neil said that a large percentage of the 280 transports to the Stabilization Center would probably have ended up at the jail in previous years. Gary asked if there is a way to quantify this. Steve said the question could be added to the document. Bill O'Neil added that it is great that CIT training is now incorporated into the academy. New recruits that are coming into law enforcement are getting trained at the academy. We are making strides getting to the 100% trained goal.

Steve said they will be working on advocacy and looking at what the state is doing regarding people with severe mental health issues incarcerated in our jails.

Stabilization Center--Bill Eckert reported that the Stabilization Center has been in operation almost two full years. There have been 4,895 visits. There have been 1,710 utilizations of the sobering services. 46% of the guests have either a primary substance use disorder or a co-occurring disorder. Of that group, approximately 13% were opioid dependent. The largest age group has been between 22- 39 (38%.) In 2018, approximately 73% of the law enforcement assisted admissions were CIT trained. Guests speak very highly of the CIT trained officers. Bill O'Neil asked what we can do better at the Stabilization Center. Bill Eckert said that he thinks having a practitioner at the Stabilization Center will be a game changer. OASAS has assured Bill that we will get a grant to support a practitioner at the Stabilization Center. Our goal would be to do MAT same day, thereby increasing access to Medication Assisted Treatment.

Rebecca Edward asked if the county could do anything to make that happen faster such as funding the provider for a month or two until the grant is received. Bill will look into it. Dr. Vaidian said the most challenging issue is finding the provider.

Victims - Kelly Bunt - Kelly reported that the goal of the Victims Committee is to enhance the services provided to victims by assuring a victim-centered approach at all points of the criminal justice system with which victims interface, as well as locating any gaps where victims are not being served or a victim-centered approach is not being utilized.

In 2018, the Victims Committee faced both challenges and successes. The Victims Committee is comprised of representation from the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office, City of Poughkeepsie PD, Town of Poughkeepsie PD, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, DC Jail, Office of the Public Defender, Center for Victim Safety and Support, Universal Response to Domestic Violence, Office of Probation and Community Corrections and Dutchess County Sexual Assault Response Team. The committee meets monthly.

In the first half of 2018, the committee remained focused on oversight of their 2017 “pilot” project; the development and implementation of the Dutchess County Sexual Assault Incident Report form, a form developed by the committee and implemented by the City and Town of Poughkeepsie Police Departments, as well as the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office. In June 2018, the committee discontinued the project as it was transferred to the Dutchess County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) coordinator for further development. During the time the project was under the auspices of the Victims Committee, much was learned about gaps in services for survivors of sexual assault. Those gaps included the need for additional training for law enforcement regarding services available for victims and survivors, as well as a deeper look into why survivors decline advocacy and/or prosecution.

The second half of 2018 was spent reshaping committee goals and identifying future projects. In December of 2018, the committee chose to focus its efforts on assisting agencies who provide services for seniors. More specifically, the committee focused on how to increase access to “safety tips” for seniors who are isolated, as isolation increases their vulnerability to victimization. The Mediation Center of Dutchess County and Dutchess County Office for the Aging have joined the Victims Committee to assist with this goal. To address the accessibility issue, the committee has identified home-based meal services as a means to deliver “safety tips” to their consumers. The “safety tips” will be included with the delivered meal in the form of a magnet on a weekly basis for a period of three months. The committee will work with the Center for Victim Support and the Sheriff’s Office if they get reports from seniors.

This project is still in the conceptualization phase, the goal for the first half of 2019 is to develop the “safety tips” prototype, provide training to the home-based meal program delivery personnel and finally to implement the project.

The District Attorney’s office has offered to help with funding the magnet or stickers with asset forfeiture funds.

Women in Criminal Justice System – Karmen Smallwood - Karmen reported that the Women’s Committee achieved many important goals this year. Capacity was expanded by engaging under represented community stakeholders. The recruitment efforts resulted in representatives from Step One, Lexington Center for Recovery, Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Expansion Program (CORE), Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, Dutchess Community College and the Dutchess County Legislature joining the committee this year.

In January, the committee kicked off our monthly presentation series to expand our knowledge of national and local trends and learn about community-based resources. Presentations included:

- Janet Tullo- Bureau Chief, Dutchess County Attorney’s Office (DCDCF)
Intersection between Female Offenders and the Family Court System
- Chris Dennehy- Clinical Director, Step One
Gender-Specific Strategies for Substance Abuse Treatment
- Dr. Kia Newman- Deputy Medical Examiner
Who’s Dying? An Overview of Opiate Addiction in Dutchess County
- William Eckert- Director of Behavioral Health Clinic Services
Dutchess County Justice and Transitions Center--Female Offender Survey

- Elaine Trumpetto-Director--Council on Addiction Prevention and Education
Peer Recovery Services
- Eric D'Entrone-Regional Coordinator of Behavior Services at Arms Acres
Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Women at Arms Acres
- Linda Woodbine, Program Director-Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Expansion Program (CORE)
Overview of CORE Program in Dutchess County
- Karmen Smallwood-Probation Officer--Office of Probation
Denise Rivera, Director, Project MORE's Women's Center
Women's Risk/Needs Assessment (WRNA) and the Women's Center
- Jay Landolfi-Public Health Advisor-Department of Behavioral and Community Health
Trends in Sexually Transmitted Disease

The presentations were designed to help develop a framework for assisting this population and helping to find gaps in services. This population has many challenges. In 2018, there were 147 admissions to the Women's Center. That number included medium and high risk offenders. Most of the women are referred by probation officers.

The committee also spoke about the "Voices of DCJ" newsletter which generated important discussions regarding supportive resources for individuals incarcerated in the Dutchess County Jail. This newsletter, spearheaded by Molly Shanley, contains descriptions and contact information for community-based resources to assist individuals as they return to their communities. It also includes excerpts (poems and artwork) from participants in the jail-based writing program.

In 2018, the Interactive Journaling pilot project was established through a partnership between the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections and Project M.O.R.E. Interactive Journaling, developed by The Change Companies, is an evidence-based client-centered tool. A series of journals with writing prompts guides individuals through the process of positive life change. The IJ program began at Project M.O.R.E's Women's Center in May. To date, six Women's Center participants successfully completed the IJ pilot program. Efforts will be made to increase the number of IJ participants during the upcoming year.

Looking toward 2019, the committee's goals will be to encourage a smooth transition from jail to the community. We would also like to increase the number of Women's Center participants and the services that are provided at the Center. The committee will also look at gaps in services. The committee will also be working on a collaborative research project in conjunction with The Marist Center for Social Justice Research. This research study will examine the life experiences of justice-involved women in Dutchess County. Study participants will engage in interviews to gather information relative to their involvement in the criminal justice system, experiences with handling stressors and dimensions of stigma in their relationships and their overall sense of wellness, resistance and coping.

Special Populations - Jon Heller - Jon reported that Special Populations has had a very busy year. RESTART is a big focus of the committee. RESTART quality assurance worked through the year to monitor RESTART's performance, implement enhancements and insure program fidelity. With the help of our consultant Kevin Warwick, we had a participant focus group in February. The screening process

for RESTART has been improved. Enhancements were made in the collection of data for RESTART. Improvements to the RESTART curriculum include three new programs: Stages of Change, New Directions for Co-occurring Disorders and a Grief and Loss Group. Jon said we plan to introduce Interactive Journaling into the curriculum. Project M.O.R.E., with the support of the county, applied for and received a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services that will support the hiring of two additional case managers beginning in 2019.

Another MRT quality assurance meeting was held in September. MRT (Moral Recognition Therapy) is the cornerstone of the RESTART program. At the quality assurance meeting we insure facilitators are adhering to the fidelity of the program. At the September quality assurance meeting we had 27 people representing nine agencies that provide MRT. In December the District Attorney's Office and the Office of the Public Defender had a joint staff meeting where the enhanced RESTART program RIO was introduced. RIO (Release Interim Option) targets recidivists who have exhausted most or all community-based ATIs. One of the gaps identified by Special Populations were individuals who are frequent recidivists spending multiple sentences in jail for misdemeanors. That is the population who use most of our jail days. With RIO, they would do a specified period of time in jail participating in intensive RESTART services followed by community-based programming to complete the course. If successful completion is achieved, they will get a better outcome in court. Mary Ellen said we hope to interrupt the cycle of people repeatedly returning to jail. Tom Angell said that the clients really like RESTART and overall say it was a very positive experience for them.

In March, Anderson School provided training for staff from the Office of the Public Defender, the Jail nursing staff and the Probation Department on how to effectively deal with people on the autism spectrum. This was made possible through Dutchess County's Think Differently initiative. We continue to monitor the use of Texas Christian University (TCU) drug screening tool. We developed a shared database to facilitate tracking.

Input from the Special Populations Committee was welcomed in the design of the RESTART and PRE-START units as well as the infirmary unit in the JTC.

The emerging focus for the Special Populations Committee has been the opioid issue and supporting appropriate utilization of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). In August, staff members from DBCH gave a presentation on the scope of the issue. The presentation included overviews of interventions in other areas of the country that included MATs for incarcerated individuals. After the presentation, a subcommittee was formed with the goal of further study and an implementation plan. Members of the subcommittee joined the county's Opioid Task Force.

Throughout 2018, the Special Populations Committee was fortunate to view various presentations. In April, a presentation on Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) was given by Hudson Valley Mental Health. DBT is an evidence-based intervention and is utilized at RESTART. In May, staff from Lexington Center for Recovery gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Expansion Program (CORE). In June, staff from Project M.O.R.E. and the Office of Probation gave an overview of the Women's Center and Interactive Journaling.

The committee's plans and goals for 2019 are an increased focus on opioid addiction and the impact on the jail with emphasis on supporting MAT. We will continue to monitor and guide the progress of

RESTART including incorporation of new staff provided by the DCJS grant. We will support the RESTART Release Interim Option and incorporate new evidence-based interventions such as Interactive Journaling. We will continue the work of Quality Assurance to ensure fidelity to the MRT curriculum is maintained. We will support the Stabilization Center and plan to have further study and discussion on individuals with mental health issues.

Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone - Karen reported that Raise the Age dominated conversation for the committee this year. In January 2018, we had a presentation on a new alternative to detention, the Berkshire Farms program. Karen said the committee also spent time talking about different trends that committee members are seeing. In July several agencies discussed the rise in very young people seeking psychiatric assistance. In October 2018, there was the Building Bridges Conference. It was co-hosted by Marist College this year. It was attended by nearly 200 participants including every school district and 24 agencies. Karen said the committee added *Path to Promise* as a regular agenda item. Karen said 75% of the PINS diversion cases coming into Probation are being successfully diverted from the court process and overall youth placements are down in the county.

In 2019, Karen would like to return the committee back to a discussion about mentally ill youth in our system and how to better serve them. Karen hopes to review the film *Resilience* and also bring that to this group. The committee will also continue to keep disproportionate minority contact on the agenda. The state representative from DCJS on disproportionate minority contact has offered to come to a meeting to do some training. Karen will be seeking some new school representatives to join the committee to replace those that left. Karen reported that they will be starting Interactive Journaling with juveniles and running MRT for juveniles as well as the Strengthening Families program.

Mary Ellen thanked all the committee chairs for their reports and hard work.

5. Jail/ATI Report—John Alessi and Mary Ellen Still --Jail/ATI report has been sent out. Tom Angell commented that we are seeing the most sustained reduction he can ever recall. Mary Ellen commented that much thought and effort has been put into addressing issues impacting the jail population.

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business - None

8. Announcements - Shirley announced that the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast will be on Friday, January 25, 2019 at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie. There are tickets available.

9. Adjourn - Motion to adjourn made by Bill Carlos, seconded by Karen DeSimone at 9:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie