

## **Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2018

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 Chair  
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment  
Bridget Goddard, DCFS  
Karmen Smallwood, Dutchess County Probation, Women's Chair  
Bill Eckert, DBCH  
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appointment  
Loren Petrella, County Executive's Office  
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair  
Rebecca Edwards, D.C. Legislator  
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair  
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims' Chair  
A. Gregg Pulver, DC Legislator  
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.  
Irma Machado, NYS Parole  
Dawn Hawley, Coordinator

Guests: Thomas Morris, Dutchess County Probation  
Molly Shanley, DCJ volunteer  
Sam Busselle, Citizen  
Shannon Wong, NYLLV/ENJAN  
Lorice Rodney, ENJAN  
Cody Harmon, Citizen, Vassar College  
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.  
Will Moore, Sergeant – DCSO  
Bob Balkind, Commissioner, Dutchess County DPW

**1. Approval of September 18, 2018 minutes** — The minutes were approved on a motion by Bill Eckert seconded by Karen DeSimone.

### **2. Report on "Raise the Age" – Hon. Judge Egitto**

Judge Egitto heads the committee in Dutchess County for the implementation of the RTA plan. The plan has been revamped in response to issues that arose. At the present time, the only bed for a 16 year old or younger girl is in Nassau or Albany County. By the end of November, it is hoped that there will be beds at Woodfield in Westchester County for girls. Judge Egitto said they are talking with police agencies and all Judges will need to be trained and certified. The revised plan should go into effect no later than Jan 2, 2019.

### **3. Presentation – JTC – Commissioner Bob Balkind DPW, Kevin Warwick, ASAI**

Bob Balkind, the Project Manager of the LEC (Law Enforcement Center) and JTC (Justice and Transition Center) gave an update and presentation. Bob distributed an informational handout. The LEC project is close to completion. The building is being furnished and there are some finishing touches to be completed. The budget for the project was \$36.5 million and we anticipate spending about \$34.5 million upon completion. We expect to be about \$2 million under budget which includes anticipated expenses.

All control and security systems will be brought on line between December and February. The staff will be relocated in February. The punch list and the entire project will be completed in February with the exception of some of the landscaping which must be done in the spring. In May 2019 the intent is to tear down the Sheriff's old building.

JTC -- we are in the design development phase. This is a three phase process. The first is the schematic design where the general spaces and areas of the building are designed. The design development phase is where we put those ideas on drawings, blueprints and create the actual walls, windows, stairs, etc. By the end of November, the plan for the entire facility will be done. The next phase is called construction document phase which is preparation of the documents that will go out to bid.

The project budget for JTC is \$154 million. Bob said that based on the estimates, we think we will come in at about \$151 million. They are estimating approximately a \$3 million savings overall when the project is done.

#### Schedule for the JTC project:

Design development will be complete in November 2018.

Building plan will be submitted to NYSCOC in April 2019. The COC (Commission of Correction) must confirm and verify that the building plan will meet the standards of the COC. We will also present a staffing plan which they must approve. We hope to have that approval by May. Construction documents will be complete in June and we will go out to bid in June 2019. Bids will be back in July and the contractor chosen will be given notice to proceed in August 2019. In May 2022, Phase 4 (new housing units) will be complete. When the COC visits and approves the building as ready for occupancy, the inmates will be moved into the new JTC. In August, they expect to move the inmates out of the 1984 building and pods and into the new building. Bob said the hope is to move everyone out of the 1995 building and into the new JTC facility. Once that occurs, the 1995 building will be rehabilitated and used for administration. The second floor will have housing units when the project is complete. It is anticipated that all phases and site work will be complete by December 31, 2023. Bob said that when the facility opens, it will have 484 beds and 35 medical beds for a total of 519. If needed in the future, there is capability to expand by 24 beds. Bob showed drawings of the building and went over the layout of each section.

There will be a public information meeting on Tuesday November 27, 2018 in the Training Room at 230 North Road in Poughkeepsie.

Judge Romig asked if there is space for arraignments in the new facility. Bob said they have space in the facility that could be used for centralized arraignments if that comes to pass.

Tom Angell asked where the brown field is on the site. Bob pointed out the area that is the brown field. Part of the building will be built over the brown field area. Bob added that we have approval from the DEC and the COC for a housing unit in this area provided we create a soil vapor negative pressure system below the floor slab of that space.

Legislator Edwards asked about programming space availability for all inmates. Bob replied that in the new facility the design philosophy has been to create programming spaces directly within and adjacent to the housing units. This serves the purpose of minimizing inmate movements throughout the facility. It also reduces the staffing that is needed. The idea is to bring the programming to the housing units. Bob added that they don't share all the details of jail design due to security concerns. Kevin added that there are general programming spaces as well.

Legislator Edwards also asked if the size could be reduced if we have a decrease in population. Bob said if the daily population decreases, we would decommission the housing units in the 1995 section. The first floor would remain because that is administrative and training areas. We could decommission the second floor housing units if the daily population remains low and that space could be repurposed.

Kevin Warwick stated that he has worked on facilities around the country and this is one of the best designs he has seen, especially in terms of programming space and services. Kevin spoke about the overview of current and future programming in the JTC. Programming in the jail and the community was developed using an evidence-based model.

The RESTART program (Re-Entry Stabilization Transition Integration Track) is a program for men and women who are incarcerated with high risk (to recidivate) scores and significant needs. They have a proxy score in the 4-6 range. The RESTART units are large and well set up in the new facility. There is centralized programming right off the units. Participants will have a full day of evidence-based programming. The average person stays in these units about two months so approximately 600 people a year will be served in the RESTART program. A group of well qualified people have worked to develop the curriculum. Research shows that CBT (cognitive behavioral therapy) must be at the core of effective programming. The programs in the jail are offered in the community. MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy), DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) and New Directions are offered. DBT is used to look at trauma and emotional behavioral response. New Directions deals with substance abuse. Kevin also showed the list of community agencies that interact with the RESTART program and provide services.

There are many other services not connected to the RESTART program. Many are offered by members of the community and community agencies. Some of the groups include: GED, Parenting, Critical Thinking, Recovery Coach Classes, and a Grief and Loss group. The limited space in the current jail makes it challenging to provide these services.

Mental Health services are available for anyone who is in the jail. Kevin added that there has also been a lot of work done on Medication Assisted Treatment.

Future programming will include expanded services for men and women as we move into the new facility. Linking people to services in the community as they leave the jail will also be expanded. Kevin said it is his opinion that the county has given much consideration toward improving the quality of life for inmates so that they can turn their lives around.

Tom Angell commented that Dutchess County is very fortunate to have Kevin working with us. He has brought valuable knowledge and experience to our county and helped with our overall focus so that we can achieve our goals. Kevin replied that the people in this community did a tremendous amount of work and he has never seen such a committed and dedicated group.

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

Mary Ellen reported that the population had increased in September but went back down in October. There were no questions.

#### **5. Research and Planning update – Dr. Gary Christensen**

Gary said that overall our goal is to have a jail facility that is used to enhance long term public safety. Our jail should hold those who have committed an egregious crime and will therefore be sentenced to time in our facility or be sent to State prison. Currently we are working on the two crimes, Petit Larceny and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7<sup>th</sup> that are the number one and two reasons people are admitted to our jail. Everyone who comes into our jail gets a full pretrial risk assessment. Gary said we are working on processing issues. Gary is also doing a large RESTART study to determine outcomes for RESTART clients. Early reviews show favorable results.

### **6. Committee Reports:**

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

Tom reported that he and Irma Machado of the Poughkeepsie Parole office are the co-chairs of the Re-Entry Task Force which met on October 18. The focus was on the new Re-Entry homeless program which is a facility on North Hamilton Street. The purpose of the facility is to reduce the number of parolees ending up in jail again. There have been 17 people housed there and only two have been re-incarcerated. The facility is meant to provide transitional help and get parolees permanent housing within a 90 day window. Tom said they are very appreciative of the work that DCFS has done to make that possible. The next meeting is December 20<sup>at</sup> 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church.

#### **CIC--Shirley Adams**

Shirley reported that the group met on October 18. They had an update and discussion encouraging everyone to come to the public forum on November 27 to learn more about the Justice and Transition Center. The next meeting will be on December 20 and they hope to get feedback from the forum.

#### **Diversion—Steve Miccio**

Steve was unable to attend the meeting. Bill Eckert spoke about the Stabilization Center. Bill said that they are quite certain that they have obtained funding from OASAS to have a prescriber at the Stabilization Center. This will be for MAT and will enable us to begin induction at the center. Bill said this is a major development. Since the opening of the Stabilization Center in February 2017, we have had 4,428 visits to the center. Of those, 67% of the people have primary mental health disorders and about 45% have a substance abuse disorder. There is also a lot of co-occurring disorders. The center has seen 47% female and 53% male guests. The biggest cohort of 40% is the 22 to 39 year range. The next largest cohort is 40 years old to 59 years old. In the month of August, there were 12 people transported to the center by law enforcement. Tom Angell asked if the numbers for the Stabilization Center could be sent to the committee. Bill will send the numbers to Dawn and they will be distributed to the CJC.

### **Victims—Kelly Bunt**

The committee will be focusing on senior citizens that are victims of crime. They are looking to partner with other agencies such as “Meals on Wheels”, “Friends of Seniors”, and the Dutchess County Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team. The next meeting is December 14 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Women in the Criminal Justice System – Karmen Smallwood**

Karmen reported that Linda Woodbine, Program Director of the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Expansion Program (CORE) presented an update on Medication Assisted Treatment at the October 9 meeting. CORE is working with Dutchess County Jail staff, probation and parole officers to engage individuals in treatment while they are in jail and immediately upon release. Linda highlighted the increasing numbers of women seeking substance abuse treatment who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. She also illustrated the need for more local MAT prescribers to meet their needs. The profile of CORE’s female clients has similar characteristics which include the following: trauma history, self-medicating history, involvement in prostitution and human trafficking, CPS involvement, drug dealing, personality disorders, and exposure to violence.

Due to the number of women in substance abuse treatment and in the criminal justice system who report engaging in prostitution and sex trafficking, this topic needed to be explored in greater detail. Jay Landolfi, Public Health Advisor, Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health attended the November 9 committee meeting and made a presentation on sexually transmitted diseases. There was a very engaging discussion regarding the correlation between social dating sites and increased numbers of local and statewide STD cases. Increased efforts will be made to educate individuals about local treatment and prevention initiatives.

Karmen said that in an effort to quantify the committee’s goals for the upcoming year, they are in the process of developing a research project in conjunction with Marist College’s Social Justice Research Department. The purpose of this project is to explore the experiences of justice-involved women which include their pathways to criminal justice involvement, mapping trajectories, identifying needs and highlighting assets. During the next few weeks, they will focus on finalizing the study design and recruitment methods for the research participants. The next meeting will be on December 18.

### **Special Populations - Jon Heller**

Special Populations met on October 29. As this was also the day that the county budget was released, many key members of the committee were unable to attend. Some of the proposed improvements for RESTART were discussed. The group will meet again on December 3.

### **Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone**

The committee met on November 15 and spoke about RTA and plans for 2019. The group will look at how we can better serve mentally ill youth in our system and discuss disproportionate minority confinement trends.

The Building Bridges Conference was held on October 12. There were over 200 participants from 24 agencies and representatives from every school district in the county. We partnered with Marist College for the conference and it was tremendously successful. The Path to Promise initiative will be added to

the committee's agenda. Karen said there are a couple of positions to fill on the committee. She is looking to fill the vacancies for school representative and faith-based representative.

**7. Old Business – None**

**8. New Business** - The proposed 2019 meeting schedule was sent out. If anyone sees a conflict, please let Mary Ellen know by 12/31/18. Otherwise, the proposed schedule will be adopted.

**9. Announcements** – Loren Petrella from the County Executive's Office announced that she had just learned that the November 27<sup>th</sup> date for the public meeting may be changed. Loren will provide updated information as soon as possible.

**10. Adjourn** - Motion to adjourn made by Bill Carlos, seconded by Jon Heller at 9:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie**