

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes

May 21st, 2019

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Bill Eckert, DBCH
William Grady, District Attorney
Irma Machado, DOCCS
Hon. Denise Watson, Dutchess County Family Court
Faye Garito, D.C. Legislature
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, DC Family Court
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt.
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Austin “Brud” Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment
Rebecca Edwards, D.C. Legislator
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment
Loren Petrella, County Executive’s Office
Karmen Smallwood, Dutchess County Probation, Women’s Chair
Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice

Guests: Joanne Nellis, Dutchess County Probation
Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Geri Wilmott, ENJAN/UUFP
Ali Muhammad, DCFS
Dr. Andrew Bell, Westchester Department of Mental Hygiene
Nicole Willoughby, Project M.O.R.E.
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.

Approval of March 12, 2019 Minutes - Minutes were approved on a motion by Loren Petrella seconded by Legislator Rebecca Edwards.

Jail/ATI Report—Mary Ellen Still – The jail and ATI reports were sent out electronically. Copies were available at the reception desk. The admissions and the average daily population decreased slightly.

Research and Planning/Quality Assurance – Dr. Gary Christensen – Gary reported that much of the focus lately has been on the effect that bail reform will have on the jail population. We looked at a 2015-2018 data sample from the jail of bailable offenses under the new law which will take effect on 1/1/20. The QA group is reviewing the data. The state is also looking at the probable impact of bail reform. Brud asked how many of the people who go to jail are repeat offenders. Gary replied that the group with higher risk scores have a significant number of priors. Tom Angell added that the number of people who get sentenced to jail on a first offense is very small and the system is now driven by plea bargaining. The system has limited capacity to hold trials; there were less than 20 misdemeanor trials last year. The new system presents a different reality as most people will not be incarcerated at the time of arrest. This type of bail reform has not been done before. Bill Grady added that bail reform is further complicated by those defendants with drug and alcohol issues. Many programs now deal with drug dependency while people are in the Dutchess County Jail. Tom said we need to determine what we will do differently. Gary said that New York State has based reform on the offense rather than risk levels.

It is difficult to predict how the system will respond. Sentenced people in the jail might increase. Judge Mora mentioned the courts will be faced with handling situations where defendants fail to appear. Tom replied that an evidentiary hearing to determine if the failure to appear was persistent and willful will be required. Gary indicated that jail admissions will be lower. There will be very few people incarcerated for one or two days. Discussion on the potential impact of bail reform continued. Mary Ellen thanked everyone and added that we will be discussing this topic at the next few meetings.

Presentation – Film Resilience presented by Dr. Andrew Bell, Westchester County Department of Mental Hygiene – Karen introduced Dr. Bell. Dr. Bell showed the film, which had been shown previously to the Regional Youth Justice Team. It illustrates the need for trauma informed practices and care. After the film there was a discussion led by Dr. Bell. Karen indicated that there is an ACES (Adverse Childhood Experience Study) task force here. The county has applied for the film along with required facilitator training to show it. After further discussion, Mary Ellen thanked Dr. Bell for his presentation.

Committee Reports:

Raise the Age – Judge Egitto - Judge Egitto reported that they had their first PPD—Pre-Petition Detention application. There are 15 AFCs (Attorneys for Children) on the list at present. The first off-hour arraignment went well. On October 1 of this year, 17-year-olds will be included in RTA.

Diversion – Steve Miccio—No report.

Community Involvement Committee - Shirley Adams – No report.

Re-Entry – Tom Angell and Irma Machado – Tom reported that the focus of the committee continues to be on homelessness. The committee met on April 18 with a presentation by Hudson River Housing detailing their services. The next meeting is June 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Victims - Kelly Bunt - Kelly was not present, but Mary Ellen reported that she would present the magnet/puzzle at the July meeting.

Women in the Criminal Justice System – Karmen Smallwood - Karmen reported that the Women’s Center currently incorporates ACES practices. They will also be bringing a Public Health nurse to the Women’s Center site. Karmen reported that Rebecca Edwards has spearheaded the Day 1 Early Learning Center in the City of Poughkeepsie. The committee met on May 14 and had a presentation on human trafficking. Karmen also indicated that she and Dr. Carol Rink from Marist College will present on their ongoing research project at the *Engage for Change Conference* at Siena College this coming Thursday.

The theme for this year's conference is "Mobilizing Campuses and Communities." The next meeting for the committee will be in August.

Special Populations - Jon Heller – Jon reported the committee met on April 8 and on May 13. At the April meeting, data from the RESTART focus groups was reviewed. Many of the comments were about issues that will be addressed by the new jail design. There was also positive feedback about the new jail medical provider. Jon and Charlie Robitaille (DBCH) are going to present an overview of the RESTART program at the Rural Reentry Conference sponsored by ReEntry Columbia at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson. At the May Special Populations meeting, there was significant discussion on the potential impacts of bail reform on the RESTART program and the need to be proactive and evolve as needs change. There was discussion on the progress of providing MAT in the jail. Some members visited the MAT program in Franklin County, Mass. which was arranged by Kevin Warwick. Dr. Ramsey reported that HRH received an OASAS grant to increase staff. Jon stated that the MRT Fidelity group met on May 13 and had 35 participants representing nine different agencies. There is very consistent program delivery. Kathy Burnett from Corrections Counselling, Inc. participated on a conference call with the group. There will be another MRT fidelity meeting in the fall. Special Populations will meet again on June 17.

Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone - Karen reported that the committee meets next week.

Old Business – Mary Ellen reported that a workgroup has been formed to look at the possibility of centralized arraignment again. Centralized arraignment will be considered in light of bail reform.

Announcements – Marty Lynch announced that the county recently completed an audit of Project MORE's programs. The results were very favorable and there was an article in the Poughkeepsie Journal. Bill Eckert reported that the Stabilization Center had 328 registrations in April; 27% by law enforcement and 41% with substance abuse as a priority. Cumulative from February 2017 through April of 2019 was 3,311 admissions, 45% being substance abuse involved. Bill reported that it is very good news that a prescriber will be funded at the center.

New Business – Rebecca Edwards thanked the presenters at the recent legislative committee meeting for the update on the progress of the Justice and Transitions Center. She inquired about the possibility of talking about the size of the project at the July meeting. There was discussion and concern expressed about the housing of juveniles in Westchester County. The state approves where detention centers are located. The emphasis is on keeping youth out of detention out of detention

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn made by Karen DeSimone, seconded by Tom Angell at 10:10 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie