

Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Bill Carlos, Citizen Appt.
John Crodelle, T/O Northeast
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Mary Haight, Project MORE, Women's Committee Chair
Margaret Hirst, DBCH
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Comm. Chair
William O'Neil, D.C. Executive's Office
Julia Pagonis, D.C. Executive's Office
Hon. Frederick Romig, T/O East Fishkill
Marjorie Smith, Citizen Appt.
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Karen DeSimone, Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Micki Strawinski, Dutchess County Legislator
Hon. Peter Forman, County Court
Dawn Hawley, Administrative Assistant (Acting Coordinator)
Guests:
Tom Morris, Deputy Director of Probation
Marty Lynch, Project MORE
Bill Rubin, ENJAN
Colleen Feroe, DBCH

Mary Ellen Still called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

1. Approval of November 17, 2015 Minutes--Tom Angell made a motion to approve, seconded by Bill Carlos with the correction of Marge Smith's name.
2. Jail/ATI Report—Kevin Carey and Mary Ellen Still

No one from the jail was present; however, the jail/ATI stats were e-mailed to all members. Tom Angell commented that housed-out numbers are down again. One of the reasons for the decrease is that the county asked the Commission of Corrections to reconsider their decision to prohibit housing females in the PODS. This permission was subsequently granted, therefore resulting in a decrease in housed-out inmates.

3. Planning & Research Update—Mary Ellen Still reported that Gary is working with OCIS and continues to analyze data. As part of the Stepping Up initiative, we are gathering data on the number of people entering the jail with a mental health

diagnosis. Probation interviews everyone admitted to the jail and will be recording this data. A few questions will be added to the screening process. This will give us the data for a baseline. The goal of Stepping Up is to reduce the number of people in local jails with mental health issues.

4. Presentation on ITAP—Colleen Feroe presented a power point on ITAP. She gave a brief history of the program and its current status. It was followed by questions and comments about the statistics. The changing dynamics of who is being served warrants some further attention. Colleen stated that ITAP is using evidence-based programming and has evolved throughout the years. Colleen reported that ITAP is running at or near capacity which is 60. Tom Angell added that it is sometimes a challenge convincing people to go into treatment.

5. Committee Reports:

Special Populations

Ron Knapp could not be present. Mary Ellen reported that the Special Populations Committee met yesterday and the focus of this committee is on RESTART. RESTART has moved from planning to implementation. We are in the process of training staff in evidence-based practices and programs. The programs available in RESTART are designed to be approximately 6 to 8 weeks long. It is essential for these same programs to be available in the community for a smooth transition and continuation of treatment. The RESTART program is fully staffed. Admission into the RESTART program is based on risk as determined by the PROXY and COMPAS. The program is geared to high risk people. We are using the COMPAS software which is used in other parts of the system as well.

A focus group with current inmates revealed they were very positive about the program. Mary Ellen added that the program is off to a very good start. In the future, as more people go through the program and enough time elapses, we will look at recidivism. Mary Ellen reported that the program is basically full. We have very quickly reached capacity, but additional slots will open up as people complete and leave the program.

Women in the Criminal Justice System

Mary Haight reported that the committee met on November 30th and is working on continuing to build relationships with possible employers. They also met with the Professional Culinary Academy to see if we can develop a collaborative relationship with this organization. They continue to inform clients about Snap benefits. In 2015, 85 women went through the Women's Center. The committee meets the last Monday of the month.

Diversion

Steve Miccio reported that the committee met on December 14th. The December BCIT training was full with 25 people attending including five from the State Police. It was very successful and he received great feedback. The next training will be on February

10th and there will be a full training on February 22nd. Steve stated that word is spreading and additional police agencies are now involved. Steve also reported that the funding has been approved for the Stabilization Center. Steve is now working on policies & procedures. A steering committee is now meeting weekly. The construction starts in March with the goal of an October 1st opening. The next meeting of the committee is January 22nd.

Juvenile Justice

Karen DeSimone reported that the committee will meet at the end of January. The J-FIRE program had a start date of January 1st and already has three active referrals. Karen received reports back on two cases and they are doing well. Karen reported she is happy to have a youth that is joining the committee. Karen was asked the protocol for referrals and informed us there is a phone number and web site. When a referral comes in, the coordinator picks an intervention specialist.

Re-Entry

Tom Angell reported that they had a very good year with a 0% recidivism rate 45 days out which is much better than the state average. Tom reported he has a strong active committee and at the last meeting they had a representative from the Salvation Army. Tom added that this is an underutilized resource in the community. Tom reported on an exciting program that matches parolees with mentors.

The committee is working on exploring work connections. The next meeting is February 18th at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. Everyone is invited.

Victims

Sharon Doane was unavailable.

CIC

Shirley Adams reported that the Community Involvement Committee had a presentation by Jon Heller (Probation) and Bill Eckert (DBCH) at their last meeting. Jon and Bill explained the RESTART program. Shirley and the members were very grateful for their time. Shirley reported that the committee plans to encourage participation in the public forums and other events including the upcoming EAG meeting on February 16th.

6. Old Business - none

7. New Business - none

8. Announcements

Bill O'Neil announced that there will be a series of meetings about the Justice and Transitions Center during January, February and March. The meeting dates will be available on the county web site.

Bill added that the Commission of Corrections agreed with our approach and is supportive, but if we do not get approval to move forward by the end of March they will pull our waiver and we will not be allowed to use temporary housing.

Shirley announced that the Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast will be on Friday, January 22nd at 7:15 a.m. at the Civic Center. Invitations are being sent out.

9. Adjourn- The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.**

Catherine Street Community Center

(Entrance on 152 Mansion Street)

Poughkeepsie, NY