

Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2018

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
William O'Neil, D.C. Executive's Office
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Court
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt.
Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, DC Family Court
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Karmen Smallwood, Dutchess County Probation, Women's Chair
Bill Eckert, DBCH
Steve Miccio, PEOPLe Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Dan Hairston, Citizen Appt.
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appointment
A. Gregg Pulver, DC Legislator
Hon. Thomas J. O'Neill, City of Poughkeepsie Court
Hon. Denise Watson, DC Family Court
Rebecca Edwards, D.C. Legislator
Denise Rivera, Project MORE, Inc.
Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims' Chair
Irma Machado, NYS Parole
Dawn Hawley, Coordinator

Guests: Joanne Nellis, Dutchess County Probation
Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Geri Wilmott, ENJAN/UUFP
Molly Shanley, DCJ volunteer
Martin Lynch, Project MORE, Inc.
Shannon Wong, NYCLU
Jill Lenard-Horne, NYS Parole
Sam Busselle, Citizen

The order of the agenda was changed in order to allow enough time for the presentation by Linda Woodbine on the CORE program.

1. Presentation –Linda Woodbine, CORE Program

Mary Ellen introduced and welcomed Linda Woodbine to our meeting. Linda spoke about CORE (Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Expansion Program) which started in February 2018 and is funded by a three year federal grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) through Lexington. They are one of three in the state to be awarded this grant. The grant money is meant to provide a foundation from which to continue a sustainable program after the three year period. This is a pilot program. CORE meets with SAMHSA and OASAS regularly.

One focus of the grant is to develop MAT (medication assisted treatment) including access to suboxone, vivitrol and methadone and to develop and implement harm reduction techniques. CORE is looking to help people sustain recovery over a period of time. CORE staff will meet people where they are. They focus services on special populations. They work on overdose prevention, treatment engagement and retention. Clients they have worked with typically have had multiple treatment experiences and return to using opioids. Clients have to be a Dutchess County resident and have some type of opioid misuse.

Linda said they are providing case management. The people that they are seeing often have multiple challenges: mental illness, untreated Hepatitis C and/or involvement with the justice system. CORE staff focuses first on basic needs: housing, health care, etc. They frequently work with people who are newly discharged or on their way to being discharged from a facility. They work to coordinate services before the person leaves the facility.

CORE is opening a clinic at Lexington on Main St. in Poughkeepsie. Linda said we need opioid specific treatment programs. At Main St., they will have opioid specific groups, co-occurring specific groups, and re-entry specific groups.

One of the barriers that they have encountered in working with this population is the nature of opioid addiction itself. Incidents of overdose can result in some type of brain damage. They are working with people who are trying to figure out basic living skills as they had previously focused all of their energy on finding drugs. The physical withdrawal can be very difficult. There is prostitution history with almost every woman they work with. Human trafficking is also an issue and women have safety issues. MAT accessibility can be a huge barrier along with living in a rural area and negative attitudes toward MAT even by providers.

Linda said that getting people to detox is one of the biggest challenges they have. Linda said that they frequently use Arms Acres. For heroin users, detox is a start, but only the beginning of recovery. A five day detox is not usually effective. A 28 days detox is enough time to get people on MAT and away from their former environment. Bill Eckert added that heroin is very different from other drugs and rapid detox and return to the street doesn't work. Linda said that there are long term residential treatment centers that have no understanding of what the heroin addict is going through. Linda said a forensic evaluation is very helpful. Linda added that they are talking to OASAS about the need for more long term care treatment centers.

Mary Ellen said that it is important to understand that the CORE program is still in the development stage. Mary Ellen added that we do have a tool, the TCU, which we are using for drug screening that will be helpful in identifying treatment and criminogenic needs and connecting with CORE.

Linda indicated that CORE and Lexington greatly valued communication after Judge Watson expressed concern about maintaining ongoing contact between the agency and the courts. They hope to have a point person to facilitate communication. Judge O'Neill asked if they have been able to utilize the Stabilization Center. Linda said they work with the Stabilization Center and the Mobile Crisis Team. They also work with many other providers. Judge O'Neill also expressed the need for easy and reliable communication with CORE and Lexington.

Bill Grady said we should look at what we have now as well as what we need. We have a Drug Court that deals with misdemeanors after a plea of guilty and a Diversion Court at the felony level. Bill said we could look at low level drug offenders who could benefit from going directly to treatment following arraignment. Bill said the concern has been public safety without supervision and some degree of accountability post arraignment. The Stabilization Center and Probation can serve to meet this need. When appropriate cases go before the judge, a recommendation for release under the supervision of probation with the condition that the person go to the Stabilization Center and/or work with CORE or other treatment programs may be made. Mary Ellen thanked Linda for the informative presentation. As the program develops and evolves, Linda can come back and update the Council.

2. Approval of May 15, 2018 minutes — The minutes were approved on a motion by Steve Miccio, seconded by Bill O'Neil.

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

The jail reports were sent out by e-mail. We are waiting for some ATI numbers. The jail average for June was 370 and had been 385 the month before. Copies were available at the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

4. Committee Reports:

CIC – Shirley Adams--Shirley reported that they will schedule their next meeting for the middle of September and it will probably be at St. Paul's Church.

Victims – Kelly Bunt --Kelly reported that the tracking form developed by the committee has been turned over to SART which was their eventual goal. At their last meeting, they had debriefed on the project and discussed what was learned and what needs were identified. They had identified training needs within law enforcement and the need to support victims. The committee will meet on July 13 and will start a new project in the fall.

Women in the Criminal Justice System – Karmen Smallwood--Karmen reported that she works closely with the Director of the Women's Center, Denise Rivera. The number of participants has increased rapidly since January. This month the committee is continuing to focus on the intersection of addiction and recovery services. Elaine Trumpetto, Executive Director of the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education along with Christine Groenewegen, Community Educator, presented an overview of recovery coach services in Dutchess County. CAPE is continuing to explore ways to combat addiction by utilizing multiple resources to meet clients' immediate and long term recovery needs. They currently have two recovery coaches on staff. More resources are needed.

Representatives from Lexington Center for Recovery, Linda Woodbine from the CORE program and members from the Department of Community and Behavioral Health joined the committee this quarter.

At the June meeting, Molly Shanley distributed copies of her DCJ newsletter and requested submissions from committee members. Interactive journaling has been implemented at the Women's Center. This is a client centered, evidence-based tool that is used to guide individuals through positive life change. It utilizes the COMPAS risk and needs assessment to determine which journal would be most appropriate for an individual. This can be used in a group setting or on a one-to-one basis. The Probation Department and Project MORE are working collaboratively to expand interactive journaling. The committee is looking for ways to engage under represented community sectors to promote knowledge sharing, leverage resources and to expand our capacity. Plans are underway to connect with local educational institutions for research program development and intern opportunities. The committee's next meeting will be in September.

“Raise the Age” - Hon. Joseph Egitto--Judge Egitto reported that he and the city court judges met with Judge Davidson on June 20. They reviewed the juvenile holding facility at the Poughkeepsie City Court building. They are working on getting it approved to be used for detention. Under the new law, there is currently no place in Dutchess County to hold these adolescents. Judge Egitto intends to submit a plan by July 20. A copy of the draft plan is available by e-mailing Judge Egitto's secretary. Westchester is expanding non-secure beds. They have been designated an anchor county. They will be upgrading a facility where they will have an additional 49 beds. That does not include the Adolescent Offenders.

Judge Egitto said that we will need to look at the number of youth coming into the system once RTA is fully implemented. The Youth Part and the Family Court are working to integrate the computer system so they can share needed information. Legislator Edwards said she was glad that we are looking at housing for youth in Dutchess County. Judge Egitto said that Woodfield is undergoing an enormous expansion. They will have pods for 30 beds while the 100 bed expansion is being built. Judge Egitto said that we are more prepared than many counties in the state, but this is still a work in progress. Our workgroup is prepared to deal with whatever problems come up.

Re-Entry –Tom Angell--Mary Ellen reported for Tom and welcomed Jill Lenard-Horne, our former Bureau Chief, and introduced the new Bureau Chief, Irma Machado. Irma will co-chair with Tom Angell on the Re-Entry Committee. Tom's report stated: we have a 7 to 8 bed re-entry facility that we plan to open within 10 days to two weeks. The facility is run by CHI (Community Housing Interventions) and will be staffed 24/ 7. It is a 90 day transition stay for people returning to the community from the state system and it is funded by DCFS on a per diem basis. The next meeting is August 16 and Bill Eckert will present. The committee's last meeting was June 21 and they had a presentation from Abilities First.

Diversion—Steve Miccio--Steve reported that the CIT training team is going to the CIT International Conference. They will be presenting on the work being done in Dutchess County. There are additional CIT trainings: Sept. 24—28 and October 22 – 26. The November 5 – 9 training will be in Putnam County, but open to Dutchess County. They are currently working to determine the dates of the academy training for this year. They are meeting with all departments in the county regarding data collection. Steve said that we are trying to measure the effectiveness of the CIT training.

Steve is on the Board of CIT international and advocated for them to develop a 4-hour training for first responders and an 8-hour training for correction officers. This is currently being developed.

Quality Assurance – Dr. Gary Christensen, Tom Angell and Bill Grady--Gary reported that the Quality Assurance Committee continues to meet regularly. They have been focusing on jail average length of

stay. Gary said that we have made a lot of progress with the group transferred to prison from jail. We are focusing on the two main reasons people come to our jail: misdemeanor charges of Petit Larceny and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th. Gary said they had a very productive meeting with City of Poughkeepsie court officials around case processing. The committee is also reviewing the TCU/forensic process.

Special Populations - Jon Heller--Special Populations met on June 25. DCJS released a grant opportunity for jail-based programs utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions. The description of the grant fits well with RESTART. Project MORE, in consultation with the county, applied for the grant and awards will be announced on or about July 20. At the committee's last meeting, they had a presentation on Interactive Journaling by Denise Rivera and Karmen Smallwood. The next meeting is scheduled for August 27 and there will be continued discussion on MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment).

Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone--The committee is working closely on Raise the Age issues and challenges as well as developing the structure to support the Raise the Age changes.

5. Old Business - none

6. New Business – none

7. Announcements – Mary Ellen announced that our remaining two meetings for 2018 will be held at 230 North Road in the training room. We will send out written notification as the date approaches. Mary Ellen thanked Shirley for her hospitality over the years.

Shirley said she was grateful that the council was able to come to Catherine Street and that they had the space to accommodate us. The Center will be transitioning to a new service model after 96 years. As of September 1, the building will be turned over to another nonprofit and Catherine Street will partner with services such as the school district and the Civic Center. They will continue to have the Martin Luther King breakfast. If they do not have the building to support, funds can go to support families and children. Shirley said they are thrilled at this transition and thanked everyone for their support in the past and in the future.

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at **230 North Road, Poughkeepsie**