

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes**

July 21, 2015

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Ctr., CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Onaje Benjamin, DCJ, Citizen Appt.
Bill Carlos, Citizen Appt.
Kevin Carey, DCJ
Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Karen DeSimone, Probation, Juv. Justice Chair
Mary Kaye Dolan, Chair, H&HS Cabinet
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Hon. Stephen Greller, County Court
Mary Haight, Women's Center, Women's Committee Chair
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Chief Ron Knapp, C/Pok. Police, Special Pop. Chair
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Comm. Chair
Hon. Katherine Moloney, C/Pok. Court
William O'Neil, DC Executive's Office
Julia Pagones, DC Executive's Office
Ken Roman, DC Legislator
Hon. Frederick Romig, T/East Fishkill Court
Hon. Denise Watson, DC Family Court

Guests:

Fred Bunnell, Christ Episcopal Church, DCIC
Karen Johnson
Darrett Roberts, ENJAN
Bill Rubin, ENJAN
Peteo Sabuni, DOCCS
Molly Shanley
Dolores Thompson, ENJAN
Lisa Velazquez, Beck Institute, Coming Home Program
Geri Willmott, ENJAN

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

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Tom Angell and Ken Roman.

2. Jail/ATI Report—Kevin Carey and Mary Ellen Still

Lt. Kevin Carey will assume the position left vacant by the retirement of Greg Gale at DCJ. The Jail reports were emailed. Kevin reported that there were 1,392 admissions for 2015, which is down 153 from last year at this time. The current count is 435, with 415 in-house and 20 housed out. Mary Ellen stated that the ATI report was not yet complete because we are waiting for stats from ITAP as ITAP has had many staff changes recently. Once the stats are in, the reports will be emailed to everyone. There were no questions.

3. Presentation by Gary Christensen

Gary reported that we are continuing to focus on the average length of stay (ALOS) each month at the jail. We are looking at actual releases each month. For those released locally, we can now report that those individuals have the lowest ALOS so far this year. We have also been making some progress in reducing ALOS for those released to prisons or other institutions. We are now looking at the outliers that have over 300 days. This month there were seven such cases and we are looking at them individually to see if there are factors in common that we can impact. In some instances, there are circumstances beyond our ability to control.

4. Presentation by Department of Mental Hygiene:

HELPLINE--Beth Alter; Suicide Prevention App—Marie Dynes

Beth started by saying that the mobile team is now available 24/7. Due to recent funding from Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital, they were able to expand their partnership with others. Their core team now consists of Lexington, MHA, and Astor, as well as the core staff that started the program. The hospital based team is in the hospital 24/7, and they conduct evaluations. They are now able to expedite ER services and better serve the community. The emphasis is on "what does this person need at the moment and how can we move them through the ER". They create a dispositional plan while working with the ER staff. The community-based team then steps in and connects them to community-based services.

In October 2014, Astor and DMH merged mobile teams. In 2014, 900 people were served, with 9,480 services. These services are now available in all parts of the county. A new area for the mobile team is working with children and youth. They had traditionally worked only with adults, so there has been a learning curve working with this new, younger population. A youth intervention generally takes much longer and involves different types of training. The mobile team has worked with the police, River Haven, Family Court, the hospital, etc. Mid-Hudson Regional has helped greatly and there is a need for a community liaison to help make a dispositional plan so that families do not have to wait so long in the ER. Tom asked how often they receive multiple calls at the same time. Beth said that this happens daily, so they try to be efficient in answering

calls throughout the county. Judge Denise Watson said that the work of the mobile team has been a great help to the Family Court.

Beth said that in the first quarter of 2014, there were 209 referrals. In the first quarter of 2015, there were 320 referrals. They meet three times a week to go over all the referrals they have received. They try to be trauma-informed as they often do not know what type of situation they are walking into. Tom asked if there are any gaps and where could we do better. Beth said there could be improvements with youth respite. She is excited about the coming Crisis Stabilization and Wellness Center as this will provide services for youth as well. There are many younger people with high levels of need. Judge Watson added that she found that 80% of her juvenile cases have mental health issues.

Beth said that in the first three months, they covered 54 shifts at the hospital. There were 199 individuals that were admitted to the ER; of that number 89 were diverted. There are other options than being admitted to the hospital. Data shows how many times a person has gone to the ER so the team tries to develop different plans for the person utilizing community-based services.

Tom asked how long it takes to respond to someone who calls the Helpline. Beth said that the average length of time to respond is about one hour, depending on the location of the caller. When a person does call the Helpline, they will stay on the phone with the person. They respond to the highest risk first. They are encouraging all referrals to come through the Helpline as the single point of access. They just moved the texting service from a national service to a platform-based application that they own. Now there is one number that a person can call or text. In 2014, there were 6,400 calls to Helpline. To date, over 8,000 call have been made to Helpline in 2015.

Beth added that physical health issues sometimes present as behavioral health issues. They try to connect the person with primary care physicians. They do have two highly skilled nurses on the team to assist individuals. Ken Roman congratulated the mobile team on its work.

Marie Dynes reported that they received a grant from OMH two years ago for prevention services. They are trying to help prevent children from developing mental health or substance abuse issues. They have had the Helpline for years, but since the texting feature was added, they have found it to be used much more frequently by teens. In 2014, there were 3,652 texts. There is also a program called Second Step that helps teach communication, emotional, and problem-solving skills in the classroom. This program is being used at one Astor Headstart, as well as some schools in Hyde Park and Arlington. The goal is to have it used throughout schools in Dutchess County. They also partnered with CAPE to educate on the dangers of substance abuse. They have also partnered with the County Executive's office to present community forums on the heroin epidemic and the Department of Health to provide Narcan training.

There were 1,000 people trained in Mental Health First Aid and how to speak with those who are in need of help.

In September 2014, they started Suicide Prevention Education and Awareness. There are three high risk groups: teenagers, older individuals, and veterans. There is an application for texts and calls that provides support for individuals. This app provides risk assessments and provides resources for people. Tom asked if the Helpline numbers have gone up since this information has become publicly available. Beth said that the numbers did go up. The total for 2014 was 27,000 services, which is up about 2,000 from 2013. Marie added that this application is available on Apple and Android. Beth added that there is a countywide trauma team that is helpful with various types of personal and societal events.

Marie gave a demonstration of the app.

Mary Ellen thanked Beth and Marie for their informative presentation.

5. Committee Reports:

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the committee was interested in learning more about the mobile crisis team, but felt that this topic could also be addressed to a broader group at the CJC meeting. There are many members from the CIC here today. There is also an interest in youth services.

Diversion - Steve Miccio

Steve reported that the committee and its four workgroups have been meeting regularly. Officers trained in CIT are very helpful in planning for future trainings. The next training will be in Putnam County followed by a training in our county in December.

Plans for the Stabilization Center are moving forward. They have been keeping the state Office of Mental Health updated. They are now looking at budgets and final plans for the facility.

Juvenile Justice—Karen DeSimone

Karen reported that they are meeting this week. They have added new members to the committee. The principal from Poughkeepsie High School has joined the committee and has also volunteered for the Regional Juvenile Justice Committee. They have also added members from MHRC. When the committee meets they will review the use of the DRAI assessment tool. The May 28th training was well attended and very successful.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell

Tom reported that they had a representative from the Department of Mental Hygiene speak on the intersection between the mental health system and those

returning from jail. One of the goals of the committee is to address issues by bringing representatives from the community to meetings. In August, Sabrina Marzouka, the new Commissioner of DCFS, will address the Re-Entry Committee.

Lisa Velazquez, from the Fordham School of Social Work, is starting a community initiative called the Coming Home Program. This is a faith-based, empowerment program and will be held at the Unitarian Church. This is not a mandated program, and individuals must be already enrolled in some type of treatment program. This is an evening program held from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. They are currently seeking mentors as well as participants. Life skills taught by the program include: resume writing, empowerment, parenting, and some vocational skills. Individuals will meet every other week with their mentors who will provide life skills. Tom added that this is an evidence-based program. It fills a niche in re-entry for mentoring.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church is also interested in doing re-entry work.

The next meeting of the Re-Entry Committee is scheduled for August 20th at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Church in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Special Populations—Ron Knapp

Ron reported the committee last met on July 20th and continues to work with our consultant, Kevin Warwick. We are on target in meeting our objectives and goals. The in-jail program has been developed and inmates are being screened. Contracts are being signed with the community-based providers and software for the program, known as RESTART, is being selected. The Quality Assurance Committee has been formed as well. The PODS are now occupied and inmates need to be housed according to their classification. Inmates attending RESTART will be housed accordingly.

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) has been progressing well. Steve Miccio has spearheaded this effort. The first class in the county was held on June 22nd. More trainings will follow and we will soon be able to use our own trainers to facilitate this curriculum.

Women in CJ System—Mary Haight

Mary Ellen introduced Mary Haight as the new Chair for this committee. Mary reported that they met in June and looked at some of risk factors that are gender-specific. They will be focusing on employment issues. Their next meeting will be July 29th.

Victims—Sharon Doane

Mary Ellen reported that Sharon was not available to attend the meeting, but the committee has been working on community education regarding victims' issues.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

Mary Ellen reported that the technical assistance grant on gender-informed pretrial practices from the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) has concluded. The findings, some of which are still being analyzed, will be helpful to the pretrial field. At the invitation of CEPP, Mary Ellen, along with Becki Ney from CEPP and Dr. Patricia Van Voorhis from the University of Cincinnati, presented their findings at the American Probation and Parole Association's conference in LA on July 14th in a workshop entitled "*Implementing Gender-Informed Strategies at the Pretrial Stage: Research to Practice.*" Mary Ellen reported that, while at the conference, she had an opportunity to attend a presentation by Dr. Stephanie Covington, whose work has informed our own selection of the women's curriculum for the new RESTART program at the jail.

Mary Ellen also indicated that she was sorry that two meetings of the CJC had to be rescheduled, which was a very unusual event. The meetings were rescheduled due to a conflict in May for the Executive Committee with the Leadership Prayer Breakfast and in July due to the APPA conference (described above.)

Although every effort is made to adhere to the schedule, the meetings are set far in advance and this can occasionally result in conflicts. Mary Ellen thanked everyone for their patience and understanding.

8. Announcements

Mary Ellen announced that Legislator Angela Flesland resigned from the Council and is being replaced by Legislator Gregg Pulver. Mary Ellen added that she and the Council appreciated Legislator Flesland's service.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Catharine Street Community Center

Poughkeepsie, New York (Entrance at 152 Mansion Street)