

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes**

July 8, 2014

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Onaje Benjamin, DC Jail
Bill Carlos, Citizen Appt.
Gary Christensen, Consultant
John Crodelle, Judge, T/O Northeast
Karen DeSimone, Probation, Juv. Justice Chair
Angela Flesland, DC Legislator
Todd Gdula, Citizen Appt.
John Gildard, Citizen Appt.
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
William Grady, District Attorney
Margaret Hirst, DMH
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Ronald Knapp, C/Pok. Police Chief
Noel Knille, Commissioner, DCDPW
Marcus Molinaro, County Executive
William O'Neil, County Executive Representative
Colleen Pillus, County Executive's Office
Ken Roman, DC Legislator
Denise Watson, Family Court Judge

Guests:

Whitney Bonura, Proj Coordinator, Universal Response to DV
Mary Haight, Project MORE
Jonathon Heller, Probation
Michael Howard, YNN
Pam Krinsky, ENJAN
Joe Lepore, LCS Facility Group
Martin Lynch, Project MORE
Robert Mallory, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE
Darrett Roberts, ENJAN
Frederick Romig, Judge, T/O East Fishkill Court
Bill Rubin, ENJAN
Mary Spriggs, ENJAN
Dolores Thompson, ENJAN
Ron Walters, Mid-Hudson News
Geraldine Willmott, Citizen

Mary Ellen Still called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 18, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Gary Christensen and Angela Flesland.

2. Jail/ATI Report - Greg Gale/Mary Ellen Still

Jail Report

The reports were emailed to members. There were no questions.

ATI Report

The reports were emailed to members. There were no questions.

3. Presentation by Whitney Bonura - Project Coordinator, Universal Response to Domestic Violence

Handouts were distributed to all Council members. Whitney began by explaining this project is aimed at addressing domestic violence (DV) in Dutchess. The steering committee, which consists of individuals from various agencies, meets monthly to discuss DV issues. Topics include how to prevent DV, and what are some system improvements that could be recommended or implemented. She explained that several years ago there were a series of homicides and we decided to look at our processes and response to DV. They found the biggest issue was determining potential lethality. They began working to identify an effective response to high-risk cases.

The high-risk program looks at cases that have increased risk of lethality. A search was conducted to find a research based assessment screening instrument. The assessment tool that is used has a list of 20 questions to determine level of risk to the victim.

The high-risk team consists of the Office of Probation, District Attorney's Office, various DV advocacy agencies, the Department of Health, Sheriff's Office and others. In 2013, about 90 cases were referred to the high-risk team, and one-third of those were accepted. The lethality assessment tool is primarily used in determining which cases are adopted, though there may be other factors. An individual presents a case to the team, and along with the scoring and reports from law enforcement, a third of the cases are accepted.

The project goals are to look at cases of DV deemed highest risk and respond in a way that keeps people accountable and keeps the community and victims safe. They also provide education within the community and work to keep all victims safe. One of their greatest successes within the high-risk program is the Home Visit Program. Detectives from the Sheriff's Office will do home visits to high-risk victims. This provides an opportunity for the victim to get comfortable with police and authorities. This has resulted in more arrests,

and victims do feel more comfortable and trusting of the system. The funding for this project is done through a grant to the Sheriff's Office.

From this same research, two types of assessment programs were developed. First, a short check list to determine risk of lethality. Depending on the results, a longer check list may than be conducted. Law enforcement will link victims with service providers. The victim will often remain engaged in the process if there is follow-up and support.

Five pilot police departments including Hyde Park, East Fishkill, Town of Poughkeepsie, the Sheriff's Office, and State Police are participating in a new project focused on assessments. The hope is to have this available throughout the county by 2015. Of the five units, 40 lethality screens have been done so far. They want to make sure that the departments feel they have sufficient training and are ready. The City of Poughkeepsie, while not part of the initial implementation, wanted to get onboard with this program and training. By the end of 2014, they want to have five to six months of live services, and evaluate how they came through with services. This will then provide information to the county on what worked, what needs adjusting, and how well the program operated overall.

Tom Angell asked how we compared with other communities. Whitney said that Dutchess is on par with other communities, and our program was modeled after a program in Newbury Port, New Hampshire. The average DV homicides in Dutchess may be higher than 4%. She speculated that more than 50% did have contact with law enforcement. Service providers in the area include Grace Smith House, Domestic Services of Family Services, and House of Hope. The counts are slightly higher at this time in Dutchess County. Bill Grady said that stats show over 4,000 incidents of DV, with 1,000 arrests. The other 3,000 were able to receive information and services on how to proceed and seek further assistance. There are DART Teams in the Town of Poughkeepsie, City of Poughkeepsie, City of Beacon and Hyde Park. These teams connect victims to services. There is hope to have DART available countywide in the future.

4. Research Update - Gary Christensen

Gary said that we stated at our last Council meeting that we were waiting on a data sample from OCIS. We did receive this data from OCIS, and we are working currently reviewing it. Preliminarily, this sample is just short of 8,000 of those that have gone through DCJ for any reason. We are looking at the risk to reoffend. What we are seeing so far is that there is a severe impact on length of stay because of the housing out. We now want a random sample of lower risk offenders so we can look at the system on a case level and better understand what is transpiring there. We know that for the last 10 to 15 years, our admissions have been relatively constant, but that the ALOS in 2013 in Dutchess has been 50 days. There is nothing formal to report at this

time, and the Criminal Justice Council Chair has put together a group to review individual cases.

5. Committee Reports

CIC

Shirley Adams said that they had a wonderful presentation from Tom Angell on **Indigent Individuals** at their last meeting. Some members were not able to attend that day, so a second presentation will be scheduled.

Juvenile Justice

Karen DeSimone said since her last meeting, she attended a summit in Albany for the Regional Teams. Karen also recently attended a meeting held by the Vera Institute for the Governor's Commission studying raising the criminal age. Recommendations are to be made to the state by December 31, 2014. Another initiative in Dutchess is the Juvenile Fire starters. This is still in its initial stages and they are bringing together various stakeholders. It is hoped that this program will be operational by January 2015. They will meet again later in July.

Ken Roman asked what Karen's position was on this age change. Karen said that as the CJC's Juvenile Justice Chair the main concern is that a plan is put in place to address the needs of the population in an effective way that does not entail additional costs to the county. Last year, she estimated that there were about 300 arrests of 16-17 year olds in Dutchess County. If the responsibility to deal with these cases shifts to Family Court, there needs to be programming and funding available to handle the change. If Probation processes all of these cases than we would need to plan for hundreds more coming through Probation Intake and requiring services. The County Attorney's Office would also be impacted. The governor's commission is still studying the issue with a recommendation expected in December 2014.

Women in CJ System

Susie Balutis was not able to attend this meeting, but they are planning to have a presenter speak about the Women's Risk Needs Assessment. They are also looking to have a joint meeting with the Victims Committee.

6. Old Business - SAMHSA's GAINS Center Technical Assistance Update

SAMSHA's GAINS Center needed to postpone the June workshop to a later date. The new date is scheduled for the end of July.

7. New Business

None

8. Update on the PODS - Bill O'Neil

Bill O'Neil said that the lease agreement with Proteus will be in effect as of July 13, 2014. One requirement of this agreement is COC approval. The plans have been submitted. Once these plans are approved we can move forward. The Legislature approved this in June. The lease is \$4.9 million for the three years that we expect to have the PODS. We also have an option for two additional years if needed. There is also a termination clause that will allow termination of the lease within 120 days. The PODS will allow us to bring back 200 inmates. We estimate that we will realize about \$1M in savings by bringing inmates back. Now that there is a plan in place for the PODS, we can move forward with other plans for project definition.

9. COUNTY EXECUTIVE addressed the CJC with an update on the status of the Justice and Transition project

County Executive Mark Molinaro began stating that the topic of the jail has been an important one that has gone on for almost 30 years. The current jail in Dutchess County does not represent the collective goals or ideals of Dutchess County or the DC Criminal Justice System. We are grateful for certain resolutions that were passed years ago, and today we are moving forward aggressively. We have developed a plan for temporary housing units to bring back individuals and provide them with the programming, legal representation and family contact that is needed. This interaction, particularly with family, allows inmates to transition better to the community.

Some believe that we should add onto the current facility. This will not solve our problems, because the existing building is inefficient. We need a comprehensive solution to the jail problem. So at this time, we have contracts in place for temporary housing units. We have also received some responses to our Request for Expressions of Interest.

The goals for the county are first to solve the county's long-term and costly housing out problem followed by the creation of a transitional center "campus" setting which incorporates various services to support a strong continuum of service. We believe that we can realize both short and long term savings for taxpayers. The short term savings will come about with the use of the PODS. In the long-term, savings will be achieved through improved efficiencies at the new facility, service availability to shorten the lengths of stay, and a better inmate to correction officer ratio.

Additionally, through short and long term savings we will be able to expand Dutchess county's nationally recognized alternatives to incarceration (ATI) programs. We hope to enhance transitioning and allow inmates to re-enter our community and become productive and self-sufficient, and thereby reduce recidivism. The bottom line is to enhance public safety and create a revolutionary continuum of incarceration in New York State. We have now established a positive working relationship with the NYS COC. The project

definition phase will be a comprehensive assessment of Dutchess County's Criminal Justice System Needs. This includes the number of beds for current and projected inmates, types of housing units for various special populations, recommendations for various evidence-based programs and services and a transition center to address behavioral needs and criminogenic factors. Our outcomes will be driven by data, evidence, and human needs, rather than a desire to simply build something. There is no such approach that currently exists in New York State.

The process that is being unveiled today is setting a precedent in various forms. Knowing that we are moving forward with the PODS, we released a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for developers, which we will have to negotiate. The goal of this RFEI was to bring to Dutchess County an overall plan that includes a scope of the project and design development. We have also released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant, separate from the master plan consultant, to analyze and make recommendations regarding special populations. These special populations include women, juveniles, and those with mental health issues including those with substance abuse issues. Individual needs will be the focus, and we hope to develop an innovative Dutchess County transition center plan. This will improve functionality and efficiencies in the criminal justice system, improve quality of life, and ultimately add to the economic and social well-being of Dutchess County as a whole.

Bob Mallory has been a smart and optimistic critic, as Dutchess County is looking to invest millions of dollars on North Hamilton Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. We are committed to ensuring that our investment is as much about a transition center as it is to the revitalization of a neighborhood. There are models from throughout the country that show community revitalization happening along with this kind of investment.

One team that did submit a proposal, and we are currently in negotiations with, is being led by Ricci Greene Associates. Their team brings both national and local expertise to the project. Their experience with corrections is deep, they understand our need for a public/private partnership.

Separate from this RFEI was the proposal to work with the special populations. This will be provided by Alternative Solutions Inc., led by Kevin Warwick. Kevin worked with Ricci Greene Assoc. on the Validation Study. Barbara Jeter-Jackson has worked with this group and has been a strong proponent of the Ricci Greene model. There will be an internal advisory group that will be led by DC DPW Commissioner Noel Knille, who will also serve as the overall Project Manager. We are also excited by the commitment of the CJC. There will be two committees--one to be external to the CJC, and one part of the CJC. The first group led by former Senator Steve Saland, brings together various sectors of the community to provide critical oversight and

accountability. Other members of this group include Mary Madden, Rev. Jesse Bottoms, Tim Massie, Bob Mallory, Joe Lepore, Andrew O'Grady, Audra Gerty, Hon. John Crodelle, Jim Hammond, David Freeman, Dr. John Doherty and Dr. Ken Oclatis. This group will meet publicly and will provide oversight throughout the project.

Additionally, there will be a special population working group, as a subcommittee of the DC CJC. Kevin Warwick, our consultant from ASAI will work to address the needs of the special inmate population in Dutchess County, both current and projected. This subcommittee will be chaired by Chief Ron Knapp. Others who will serve on this committee include Onaje Benjamin, Sam Busselle, Gary Christensen, Shirley Adams, Steve Miccio, Martin Lynch, Hon. Frank Mora, Jon Heller, Jenny Salimbene, Margaret Hirst, Bill Grady, Tom Angell, George Krom, Tracy Stevens, and Mary Ellen Still.

Our goals are to reach across the country and identify some of the most innovative practices to develop a long term solution. This solution is not about structure but developing the tools and resources necessary to evolve along with the county's criminal justice needs, protect public safety and reduce recidivism.

10. Adjourn

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

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

Catharine Street Community Center

Poughkeepsie, New York (Entrance at 152 Mansion Street)