



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2014

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Thomas Angell, Public Defender
Onaje Benjamin, DC Jail
Bill Carlos, DC Legislative Appt.
Gary Christensen, Consultant
John Crodelle, Judge
Sharon Doane, DC Family Services
Mary Kaye Dolan, Health and Human Services Cabinet
Angela Flesland, DC Legislator
Greg Gale, DC Jail
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
William Grady, DC District Attorney
Margaret Hirst, DMH
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Ron Knapp, C/Pok Police
Cathy Lane, DC Probation
William O'Neil, County Executive Representative
Richard Perkins, DC Legislator

Guests:

Sam Busselle, Citizen
Frederick D. Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Bill Rubin, Citizen/ENJAN

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

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Bill Carlos and Angela Flesland.

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

The reports were emailed to members. The jail count for March was 445. There were no further questions.



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ATI Report

The reports were emailed to members. Mary Ellen said the jail admissions and ATI were slightly down in February. There were no further questions.

3. Presentation on Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment—Cathy Lane, Deputy Director, Office of Probation and Community Corrections

Mary Ellen introduced the presentation on Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment. The detention plan submitted to the state requires a presentation be made to the CJC. Most of the concepts being presented mirror the adult system. Cathy Lane, Probation, and Deb Bonnerwith, DCFS, coordinated and prepared the plan.

Cathy Lane was the presenter. Handouts of the presentation were distributed to the meeting's attendees. The topic of this presentation was the DRAI (Detention Risk Assessment Instrument). DRAI is a detention-screening tool. Similar to the COMPAS pretrial screening tool for adult individuals in the criminal court system, the juvenile justice system uses a tool for these same purposes.

In 2011/2012, the state outlined two provisions for detention reform. These are:

- 1). Creation and supervision for treatment services for juveniles (STSJP)
- 2). Requirement that all counties use an empirically validated detention risk assessment instrument

Other highlights of the presentation were:

- ▶ STSJP funding was created for the counties to validate screening decisions and to create alternative treatment options
- ▶ One major difficulty in using this money is the cycle runs April 1 - March 31. Notification of funding is not received until August. A plan is developed and approval is received about October. Therefore, plans can only be implemented from November to March 31.
- ▶ Work groups began at the state level and then went to county level. Work groups include state and local agencies.
- ▶ NYS Family Court Act provides that this detention tool can only be used in response to two types of risk. One is a risk of failure to appear, and the second is a risk of re-arrest pending a court return date. This does not determine long-term recidivism, but does provide greater consistency, and better allocation of resources.
- ▶ Each county had to develop a DRAI implementation plan which was approved at state-level; this included from initial point of entry to presentencing and any additional court hearings.
- ▶ Our implementation team included Family Court, Probation, County Attorney's Office, DCFS and law guardians.
- ▶ For monitoring of implementation, we report to the existing Juvenile Justice committee, and the DRAI Team also meets as a subcommittee of Juvenile Justice



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- ▶ A child cannot go into detention without DRAI being administered. Family Court judges must indicate reasons for an override.
- ▶ Quality Assurance - Dispositional Review Committee reviews all the DRAIs that are completed.
- ▶ Alternatives to detention options are: Released under Supervision, curfew monitoring, electronic monitoring, and JRISC.
- ▶ According to our surveys, 80% reported at least one positive change resulting from the curfew monitoring group.

Q & A

Angela Flesland asked a question in regards to curfew monitoring, and if costs could be lessened if existing probation officers could divide up their shifts and have some report from 3 - 11pm. Mary Ellen said that most officers already work a flexible schedule. In addition, this is work in addition to their regular duties which could not be accomplished without working extra hours. Many youth related functions, such as Family Court and school meetings also occur during normal business hours. The overtime funding is provided by the state.

Bill Grady asked if there is data on those released from detention. Data indicates the Juvenile Delinquency cases released in 2013 had a 93% success rate.

Richard Perkins asked about age limits. Cathy explained a juvenile delinquency ticket can be written for youth ages seven and up. Those that we see at this young age generally have serious mental health issues, but that the overall number in the younger age groups is very small.

Sam Busselle asked about the number in secure versus non-secure. Cathy and Mary Ellen said the percentage in non-secure detention is higher than secure, and this decision by a Family Court judge is based on the seriousness of the charge and other risk factors. The county contracts with Berkshire Farm and Home Center for non-secure.

4. Jail Release Data Presentation - Gary Christensen

"Overall Average Length of Stay (ALOS), Jail Days, and Admittances by Crime Type for the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, City of Beacon, and Town of Hyde Park"

Gary explained that this presentation looks at average length of stay in the jail by jurisdiction and crime type. Focus was on four largest jurisdictions (based on population). This includes data from December 2011 to February 2014. The total sample size was 3,945.

For those not familiar with the proxy, it evaluates the "risk to reoffend" based on a three question format. It is a nationally validated tool used in the county. Proxy scores range from the lowest risk to reoffend to the highest. Zero is the least risk, and six is highest. Those on the lower end of the proxy table



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recidivate at approximately 20%, and those on the higher end at about 70%. All of this is further explained on the CJC website.

This data only includes inmates that were released from DC Jail to this area. It does not include those released to state prison. Similar to earlier graphs, the numbers show that the jail has a higher risk population as we have an aggressive pretrial program that actively seeks to achieve release of appropriate individuals. This is the first step for us to look at courts, processing and related issues. We already know that some misdemeanors are our highest risk offenders. While their crime may not be as serious, they offend more. We will look at misdemeanors first, because it is our highest population. This will also provide a benchmark to measure future data. Also, felonies are handled at the county court level. In terms of those with drug or mental issues within the jail and community, the first thing to look at is what programs are available now. This is currently being evaluated based on a survey that was sent out to agencies. This data should be available very soon.

A question was raised about when this presentation would be available on the website, and if not on the website can the information be FOILED. It was noted that this is preliminary data, but would be placed on the website when completed. It was uncertain whether the draft power point could be FOILED.

5. SAMHSA's GAINS Center Application

Mary Ellen said that the application for technical assistance was submitted. We were notified that Dutchess County would receive this assistance. This will consist of a full-day workshop with consultants that are brought in to work with us on mapping our system, identifying areas to improve and areas of strength. They want to help us review the intersection of our mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice systems. We are looking to set the workshop date for May/June. Mary Ellen thanked everyone who sent in letters of support for this application.

6. Committee Reports

CIC

Shirley Adams was not present at the meeting. Mary Ellen said that the second part of the presentation on Ready, Set, Work was held at the end of January. They are planning to schedule another meeting in April with the Re-Entry Committee.



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Juvenile Justice

Karen DeSimone is on medical leave. There is a meeting scheduled for the end of March. Cathy Lane said that when they met in January they had set up the juvenile detention teams and priorities for the year.

Re-Entry

Tom Angell said they met in February and discussed services that the community provides. Tom and some others went to Dutchess Community College to meet with Dean Stevens and some college staff to discuss the college's correspondence to formerly incarcerated felons applying for admission. They were very receptive to our ideas and it was a positive meeting. Next meeting will be with CIC on April 17, 2014 at Catharine Street Center to discuss "Relationships with Faith Communities and Re-entry".

Women in CJ System

Susie Balutis was at court and not present for the meeting. Mary Ellen said that they had a meeting focusing on the two grants; the technical assistance grant and the grant to establish the Women's Center. The Women's Center opened in February, there are 21 women in the program, and they are continuing to get referrals. The capacity for the center was planned for about 100 screenings and 50 admissions annually. Based upon actual numbers to date, they are likely to surpass those estimates.

Victims

Mary Ellen said that we have reestablished this committee. Mary Ellen introduced Sharon Doane who works for Family Services, and is the Director of the Victim Services Program. Sharon will chair this committee.

7. Old Business

Judge Crodelle from the Town of North East said that the *Attorneys at Arraignment Program* has very been effective in his jurisdiction. He commended Tom and this program. Tom said that the County Executive did advocate with the NYS Legislature for additional funding to hire more attorneys countywide. Judge Crodelle also commended Probation's pretrial program for providing judges with quick and accurate information to the courts regarding defendants' eligibility for pretrial release.

8. New Business

Ron Knapp said that the police exam would likely be given in December. They are recruiting candidates. The City of Poughkeepsie is dedicating their "Careers in Law Enforcement" program to minority groups, and hope to find 20 to 30 candidates. They will provide the training.



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Ron and Bill Grady are also currently working on the GIVE application. This funding replaces the Impact initiative. It is a \$13M program coordinated by the state. Designated counties can apply. Funding is disbursed to the Sheriff's Office and Probation as well as the District Attorney's Office and City of Poughkeepsie Police Department. There is a new community component to work with Nubian Directions for a Youth Gang Initiative.

9. Adjourn

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

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

Catharine Street Community Center
Poughkeepsie, New York
(Entrance at 152 Mansion Street)