

**DUTCHESS COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2016

PRESENT: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of DC Probation & Community Corrections
Shirley Adams, Committee Involvement Committee
Kelly Bunt, Victims Committee
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appt.
Karen DeSimone, DC Probation, Juvenile Justice Committee
Honorable Peter Forman, County Court
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
William Grady, District Attorney
Mary Haight, Women's Center, Women's Committee
Margaret Hirst, DBCH
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, Legislator
Ronald Knapp, City/Poughkeepsie Acting City Administrator, Special Pop. Committee
Judy Lombardi (Representing Thomas Angell, DC Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee)
William O'Neil, DC Executive's Office
Julia Pagones, DC Executive's Office
A. Gregg Pulver, Legislator
Marjorie Smith, Citizen Appt.
Micki Strawinski, DC Legislator
Kevin Warwick, Consultant, ASAI
Dawn Hawley, Acting Coordinator
Kendra Harris, Administrative Coordinator

GUESTS: Frederick Bunnell, Citizen
Johnathan Heller, DC Probation
Noel Knille, DC Commissioner of Public Works
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Thomas Morris, DC Deputy Director of Probation
Kari Rieser, DC Legislator
Molly Shanley, Citizen
Dolores Thompson, ENJAN
Nicole Willoughby, Project M.O.R.E.
Shannon Wong, NYCLV

Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. She opened the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Tracy Hermann, former council member.

1. Introduction of Kendra Harris - Administrative Coordinator

Mary Ellen Still introduced and welcomed Kendra Harris to the council as the new Administrative Coordinator. Dawn Hawley, Acting Coordinator, was present to assist Kendra in transitioning into the

role. Council correspondence and notifications will be coordinated and sent out by Kendra in the future. All individuals present introduced themselves and their affiliation.

A housekeeping reminder--during the meeting itself only council members may ask questions or make comments. After the formal meeting is adjourned, guests will have an opportunity to ask questions. Mary Ellen also welcomed two new members to the CJC: Micki Strawinski, Dutchess County Legislator and Kelly Bunt, the new chair of the Victims Committee.

2. Approval of January 12, 2016 Minutes

The minutes of January 12, 2016 were approved on a motion by Bill Carlos; seconded by Marjorie Smith.

3. Jail/ATI Report – Mary Ellen Still

The jail statistics were emailed to the council. Bridget Goddard expressed difficulty in reviewing the "Youth in the Jail" report. No one from the jail was present yet to explain; however, Mary Ellen offered to assist Bridget with retrieving the correct report and getting data from the jail. Mary Ellen noted the statistics for the average daily population at the jail had decreased from January to February and the average daily population in the ATIs had a slight increase.

4. Presentation by Kevin Warwick (ASAI) on RESTART

Kevin Warwick, consultant to the Special Populations Committee, gave a power point presentation on the progress of RESTART.

Kevin began by commending Dutchess County for embracing the operational changes that made RESTART possible, and for developing and implementing full evidence-based programming utilizing the jail, criminal justice and community-based agencies such as Project M.O.R.E. and Hudson Valley Mental Health in a public--private partnership and for the comprehensive ATIs already available.

The county is completing a grant application for the Second Chance Act (Reentry for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders). This grant fits into our model which is to connect individuals re-entering the community from jail with programming, case management, and supports. Individuals in RESTART who participated in focus groups made requests for more of these resources. The grant is due March 30th and provides up to \$650, 000 for a three year period with no match needed from Dutchess County. One of the facets to be enhanced is vocational/employment areas. We are already providing a job readiness program, Ready, Set, Work that would be enhanced with a full workforce development model.

Our program model is based on U.S. Department of Justice national evidence-based models and the national *Transition from Jail to Community* model, which can be reviewed at www.jailtransition.com. It is a system approach designed to make improvements throughout the system: prevention, early intervention, intermediate sanctions, ATIs, and intensive jail programs - as opposed to focusing solely on a program approach. Gary Christensen, a national consultant in the field of corrections and local resident, has been analyzing data from the Proxy and COMPAS risk scores to evaluate our success in recidivism reduction. The evaluation is being done to create baseline recidivism rates. Over a period of approximately 18 months to two years, the RESTART program will be reviewed to determine outcomes in terms of recidivism.

Each person in RESTART is assessed for their risk level and criminogenic needs while at the jail prior to being accepted into the program. The program is targeted to higher risk (for recidivism) individuals. There are offenses that would preclude an individual from coming into RESTART. Referrals may be made from various sources. The curriculum is evidence-based. When inmates return to the community, they can make a seamless transition, with the same programming available to them.

Kevin concluded by applauding Dutchess County for having built a strong system model with sound community components. He noted that the county has been utilizing available evidence-based assessment tools, building a system-focused model and implementing interventions for recidivism reduction for over 15 years. Kevin said that Dutchess County has done tremendous work and is a gold standard model.

5. Committee Reports

Victims - Introduction of Kelly Bunt

Kelly will chair the Victims Committee. Anyone interested in serving on the committee may contact Kelly at Family Services.

Special Populations - Ronald Knapp

Ron noted that the Special Populations Committee was formed in 2014 by the County Executive to look at programming for special populations. Working with our consultant, we have been able to accomplish a great deal, most notably the creation and implementation of the RESTART program. Ron said that Kevin's knowledge and experience have been instrumental in the progress to date. Information about the committee's activities may be found on the county's website. Ron added that participation in RESTART is voluntary. Therefore, it is important that the program meets the needs of the inmates. Feedback from the participants has been very positive.

Women in Criminal Justice System - Mary Haight

Mary stated that today is International Women's Day with the theme Pledge for Parity. She expressed that Dutchess County, as well as DCJS (NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services); deserve credit for providing a gender-specific alternative to incarceration program. The committee meets monthly. The last meeting was devoted to vocational and employment opportunities and developing linkages. Bridget Goddard (DCFS) has been helpful. There has been success with getting people connected to higher education. Bill O'Neil has helped connect the committee with the Indoor Gardens project.

Diversion – Mary Ellen Still and Margaret Hirst (in Steve Miccio's absence)

Mary Ellen related that the two main projects, Crisis Intervention Training and the Stabilization Center are both progressing with a lot of work having been accomplished so far.

Margaret reported that members of the Diversion Committee were in Albany last week for the statewide Crisis Intervention Training conference. Margaret said it was evident that Dutchess County is much further along than the rest of the state in developing the curriculum and training staff. The state is considering a shorter version, similar to the one Dutchess County has developed, for officers who do not work in the field, such as those with administrative roles. Both the 40-hour and 8-hour version continue to be offered locally.

Weekly meetings are held regarding the Stabilization Center. A meeting was held with NYS OASAS; they have been helpful in giving guidance about regulations and waivers that may be needed. Steve Miccio met with OMH on the same topics and a follow-up meeting will be held to discuss the regulatory process. The preliminary renovations at the Center have started.

Juvenile Justice - Karen DeSimone

Karen reported that the Juvenile Justice Committee met February 11th. Most of the meeting was focused on the number of mentally ill youth entering the juvenile justice system. Judge Denise Watson expressed her concern and opinion that 75-85% of the youth in her courtroom are facing mental health issues. The committee plans to evaluate how the Stabilization Center can be utilized for the youth and how to combine resources.

Further discussed was the need for educational advocacy for parents. The next meeting is March 24th.

RE-ENTRY - Judy Lombardi (Representing Thomas Angell)

Judy reported that the Re-Entry committee meets every other month. At the last meeting in February, a presentation was made by William Hopson, Housing Facilitator at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. He presented on the housing services that Legal Services provides for clients. Barbara Mitali, from Hudson River Housing, talked about an employment program called Employment Assistance Training Station (EATS). Committee member Carlos Valencia presented information about the goals of the grant funded EXODUS program. Of considerable note was the fact that eight months into their grant year they have already met goals. There was a short presentation from the Coming Home program, the mentoring program for re-entry. The first class of the 19-week program just graduated with certificates awarded to four out of the 10 participants. Only one of the participants relapsed and returned to jail; the other individuals left for positive reasons such as obtaining a job that interfered with the meeting schedule. There is a new employment initiative under consideration—a short culinary restaurant training program. The next meeting is Thursday, April 21st at 2:00 p.m. The location has been moved back to St. Paul's Church since renovations there have been completed.

CIC - Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the first project of the year for the Community Involvement Committee was to increase participation in public forums. The goal is to let people in the community know what's being done locally and around the county. Information is being collected and distributed in a monthly flyer. CIC meetings will be scheduled bi-monthly alternating with the Re-Entry committee as several members participate on both.

6. Old Business

Criminal Justice Planning Update - William O'Neil

Bill O'Neil reported that plans for the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center continue to move forward. The External Advisory Group meeting held on February 16th lasted approximately 3 1/2 hours and was well attended by the public. The County Executive will hold several town hall forums throughout the county. The legislature will vote on the bond for the DCJTC on March 21st. All forum dates and legislative meeting dates will be posted on the county's website. There will be a strong re-entry focus and evidence-based programming in the new facility that is aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting public safety. Bill Carlos reviewed the many variances granted to the county over the years and urged his fellow council members to support building the DCJTC.

7. New Business

None.

8. Announcements

Bill O'Neil announced that Project M.O.R.E. will present an award to the County Executive and asked Martin Lynch to relay the details.

Marty explained that Project M.O.R.E. is a nonprofit organization based in New Haven, Connecticut that has been providing criminal justice programs for the past 40 years. The organization annually presents awards on "Law Day" to people who have done exemplary work in the field of criminal justice. This year the group has asked County Executive Marcus Molinaro to be the recipient of the Meritorious Award. He graciously accepted and they are looking forward to having him come to New Haven on April 29th to receive the award. Also receiving awards will be the Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut and the Mayor of the City of New Haven.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 8:00 a.m.**
Catherine Street Community Center
(Entrance on 152 Mansion Street)
Poughkeepsie, NY