

**DUTCHESS COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL**

May 10, 2016
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of DC Probation & Community Corrections
Shirley Adams, Catharine St. Center, Community Involvement Committee Chair
John Alessi, DC Jail
Thomas Angell, DC Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Kelly Bunt, Family Services, Victims Committee Chair
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appt.
Karen DeSimone, DC Probation, Juvenile Justice Committee Chair
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
William Grady, DC District Attorney
Mary Haight, Women's Center, Women's Committee Chair
Lance Hardy, Citizen Appt.
Margaret Hirst, DBCH
Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, Citizen Appt.
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Ronald Knapp, City/Poughkeepsie Acting City Administrator, Special Pop. Committee Chair
Ali Muhammad, Beacon Councilman, Citizen Appt.
Julia Pagones, DC Executive's Office
A. Gregg Pulver, DC Legislator
Hon. Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Micki Strawinski, DC Legislator
Hon. Denise Watson, Family Court Judge
Mike Young, Poughkeepsie City Council, Citizen Appt.
Kendra Harris, Administrative Coordinator

GUESTS: Frederick Bunnell, Citizen
Roberto Burgos, Project M.O.R.E.
Dennis Daniels, Project M.O.R.E.
Brian Doyle, Family Services
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Thomas Morris, Deputy Director of Probation
Darrell Roberts, Citizen
Bill Rubin, ENJAN
Nicole Willoughby, Project M.O.R.E.
Shannon Wong, NYCLV

1. Approval of March 8, 2016 Minutes

The Minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by William Carlos and seconded by Steve Miccio.

2. Introduction of new members

Mary Ellen Still opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming new council members John Alessi, replacing Kevin Carey as the representative for the Dutchess County Jail; Honorable Frank Mora, a member of the Special Populations Workgroup; Honorable Peter Forman, a returning council member replacing retired Judge Stephen Greller; Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, a local business person; Lance Hardy, active in the City of Poughkeepsie community; Mike Young, member of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council; and Ali Muhammad, member of the Beacon City Council. Mary Ellen also welcomed the attending guests including Dennis Daniels, President/CEO of Project M.O.R.E. and Roberto Burgos also of Project M.O.R.E., our contract agency for Transitional Housing, our day reporting program, the Community Transition Center and the state funded Women's Center.

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

Both the jail and ATI statistics were electronically sent to the council. There were no questions.

Mary Ellen noted that some of the data in the reports will be reviewed during Dr. Gary Christensen's presentation and update.

4. Presentation and Update - Dr. Gary Christensen

Mary Ellen stated that Dr. Christensen will present an update and brief summary on evidence-based practices, a review of our foundational research and the work currently underway. Gary began by welcoming questions from the council throughout the presentation and relaying that additional information can be found in the presentation given at the March 2015 council meeting which is posted on the council's web page.

The following discussion ensued during and following the presentation:

Austin "Brud" Hodgkins asked if low risk individuals and high risk individuals are housed together or segregated in the jail. Gary replied that due to the limitations of our jail and NY state classification categories, inmates are mixed. Brud asked if the new jail system is designed to change that process. Gary responded that the jail administration's request for a minimum of 10% classification standard, which the new jail facility will be able to provide, allows for the flexibility to segregate low from high risk inmates. Some current interventions, such as the RESTART program, use a triage method for specific unit admission. RESTART has high-risk inmates as determined by an objective assessment instrument. Lance Hardy inquired about programs to assist individuals reintegrating from jail to the community. Gary stated that continuity throughout an individual's criminal justice interactions is key as long as they are evidence-based, such as RESTART. RESTART was designed with a strong community component. Using Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and other evidence-based practices is essential to reducing recidivism.

Ali Muhammad asked if these programs were available in county school districts to which Gary replied that the programs are designed for a high-risk criminal justice population. Margaret Hirst added that primary prevention is being promoted in schools through the Second Step program, which is designed to help students learn how to make good choices. Lance expressed concern over issues facing Poughkeepsie youth and people with mental illness. Bridget Goddard mentioned there has been progress made—a comparison of the year 2010 with 580 total youth admissions to the jail to 2015 with 99 youth admissions along with a reduction in the number of youth going to both secure and non-secure detention points out we are heading in the right direction. She attributed this in part to the many quality evidence-based juvenile justice interventions being employed throughout the county to redirect and aid youths with behavioral and/or criminal issues. Karen DeSimone added that for youth in the juvenile justice system the same evidence-based approach is taken as with adults: the use of objective assessment tools, identifying risk and providing

services according to identified need. She expressed the importance of providing programming to match risk levels. Karen also noted there are several excellent prevention programs available in the schools.

Gary explained that the Special Populations Workgroup is evaluating individuals in the lower risk population with a heroin addiction to develop ways to assist these individuals. Thomas Angell suggested that due to reports of high heroin deaths in Dutchess County, a group be created to research ways to deal more effectively with heroin/opioid use. Margaret Hirst added that funding a treatment program and services often presents a challenge. She suggested we evaluate what obstacles we currently face and what programs are currently available that might be modified. Mary Ellen noted that the Special Populations Workgroup will explore this issue in greater depth and research potential interventions.

Gary concluded by offering to answer any questions or to review the data with anyone who would like to contact him. The power point presentation will be posted on the Criminal Justice Council's website.

Mary Ellen asked a representative from Project M.O.R.E. to explain Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) to the council. Mary Haight described it as a 12-step curriculum that addresses thinking. Facilitators must be trained in the curriculum. Mary Ellen added that MRT is offered at the Office of Probation, the Women's Center, Community Transition Center, Transitional Housing, ITAP, and RESTART. It is a nationally recognized evidence-based curriculum that has been shown to have positive outcomes.

Tom stated that he attended Project M.O.R.E.'s 3rd Annual Awards Banquet in Celebration of "Law Day" on Friday, April 29 in New Haven, CT at which Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro received the Meritorious Award. He expressed that "it was a very moving event" and awards ceremony. Tom commended their "sophisticated methodology"; evidence based programming; and the "level of work and thought put into their work." Tom continued "I think we are very fortunate to have them partnering with us in Dutchess County. I continue to be impressed with their operation." He thanked Project M.O.R.E. for coming to Dutchess County. Mary Ellen stated that Project M.O.R.E. has had a tremendous impact and positive effect on the community with the programs and services they offer and thanked the organization as well. She mentioned that they have highly developed interventions, but have maintained a grass roots passion for their work. Lance thanked and commended the organization for their work as well and mentioned that Marty Lynch has been responsible for saving the lives of several young people.

5. Committee Reports

Special Populations - Ronald Knapp and Mary Ellen Still

Ron stated that the workgroup has been meeting for two years in August. In addition to the workgroup, our consultant meets with other groups, such as Quality Assurance, as well. The workgroup's current focus is monitoring the RESTART programming, reviewing data and refining the data collected through the software. Mary Ellen added that quality assurance is a major focus; how the transition into community-based services is working will be evaluated as it is a critical component of the program.

Women in Criminal Justice System - Mary Haight

Mary reported that the committee met several times since the last council meeting. The committee reviewed trends over time. Committee members toured Austin "Brud" Hodgkins Indoor Organic Gardens as a potential workforce site. At a recent meeting, a presentation was made on Vivitrol and its use in the jail. The committee reviewed the 2015 State Report from the Governor and NY Legislature which reported concerns about heroin and opioid overdoses. A discussion was held regarding ways the committee could help. One suggestion was to encourage drop boxes for prescription medication in places other than law enforcement agencies. A link to the American Bar Association (ABA) depicts the effect of getting a conviction has on various careers. The next meeting will be May 31st at 1:30 p.m.

Diversion - Steve Miccio

Steve reported that 12% of the county police force has been trained in CIT so far. The next training is June 13th-17th by the State Office of Mental Health. The Sequential Intercept Map is being updated this week. Several committee members attended the CIT International Conference in Chicago. While there was a lot of useful information at the conference, it also revealed how advanced Dutchess County's approach has been.

The Stabilization Steering Committee meets every Tuesday with their current focus on developing policies and procedures. The building is being abated of asbestos at this time and construction is on schedule. Meetings are now being scheduled with individual community providers to determine what services each can provide. Their involvement is essential to the integration of community care.

Juvenile Justice - Karen DeSimone

Karen reported that the last Juvenile Justice committee meeting was held on March 24th.

The committee focused on mentally ill youth in the juvenile justice system and youth violence in the City of Poughkeepsie. The committee plans to focus on mentally ill youth - to examine how youth coming through the system are handled, what improvements can be made, how to make the best use of resources and gaps. The committee wants to make effective use of the Stabilization Center when it opens. The committee meets again on May 12th. The J-Fire program has been active in the county since January 1st. At this time, there are 25 interventionists trained. Karen thanked Bill Grady for helping to fund these trainings.

Re-Entry - Thomas Angell

Tom reported that the Re-Entry Task Force's primary mission is to assist people coming back from state prison into the community. They work in partnership with Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. They have been discussing how recidivism is related to staying at Hillcrest House. Upon reviewing statistical reports, the task force noted that there seems to be a correlation between parole violations and having stayed at the shelter. The task force is also evaluating employment concerns; however, stable housing is essential in order for an individual to maintain employment. The next meeting is June 16th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 2:00 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.

The county legislature approved a position in the Public Defenders Office which will allow them to represent parolees on violations as well as new charges. It is anticipated that this will have an impact on reducing average length of stay at the jail.

CIC - Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that their task has been to help more individuals in the community become aware of public forums and other opportunities to participate. Committee members were able to support the Re-Entry committee. The committee also supported the Chemical Dependency Subcommittee's Public Forum on April 21st at Mental Health of America with a good turnout. The main topics of concern discussed at the forum were the need for more prevention, support for families, managed care/insurance, along with housing and transportation. Anyone holding a forum is asked to contact Shirley so that she can advise the committee members.

Victims - Kelly Bunt

Kelly reported that since taking over as chair two months ago, communication has occurred with the former committee members. The goal is to have representation by people/agencies victims will interface with in the criminal justice system. It is anticipated that a meeting will be held prior to the next council meeting.

6. Old Business

None.

7. New Business

None.

8. Announcements

Mary Ellen stated that following the formal adjournment of the meeting, guests are welcome to ask questions.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.**
Catherine Street Community Center
(Entrance on 152 Mansion Street)
Poughkeepsie, NY