

Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes

May 13, 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
Sharon Doane, DC Family Services, Victims Chair
Mary Kaye Dolan, Health and Human Services Cabinet
Angela Flesland, DC Legislator
Greg Gale, DC Jail
Todd Gdula, Citizen Appt.
John Gildard, Citizen Appt.
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Margaret Hirst, DMH
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
William O'Neil, County Executive Representative
Ken Roman, DC Legislator
Eoin Wrafter, Acting Commissioner of Planning

Guests:

Sam Busselle, Citizen
Darrett Roberts, CVH
Bill Rubin, ENJAN
Mary Spriggs, ENJAN
Dolores Thompson, ENJAN

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

1. Approval of Minutes

There was a correction made to the March 18, 2014 minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected on a motion by Gary Christensen and Bill O'Neil.

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

Jail Report

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

ATI Report

The reports were emailed to members. The Women's Center statistics are now included in the report. The open house held at the Women's Center recently was very successful. There were no further questions.

3. Summary and Update on Victims' Services

Sharon Doane, who is Chair for the Victims' Committee, provided the Council with updates about victims' services. Sharon is also the Director of Forensic Services at Family Services in Poughkeepsie. Sharon distributed handouts of the ***Services for Victims in Dutchess County***. She explained that there are also offender programs at Family Services. The offender services are seen as part of victim and community safety.

Sharon explained that most victims feel isolated and alone. There is also anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, and an inability to function that is experienced by many victims. Most victims also find the criminal justice system difficult to navigate and needs of victims can get lost. The publication ***Vision 21***, from the Office of Justice Programs and Office of Victims of Crime, recently reported that victims who have a negative experience with the criminal justice system are more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder. Victims often feel they do not have a place in the system.

Services available in Dutchess County include the Crime Victims Assistance Program (CVAP), which is located at the Family Services campus on North Hamilton Street in Poughkeepsie. Domestic Violence Services is also located in the same building as CVAP, as well as nonresidential crisis intervention. These two programs complement rather than compete with one another. CVAP provides services for non-intimate partner violence, and domestic violence services works with intimate partner violence. Crime Victims also provides free trauma therapy for any victim who needs it.

There are two other agencies outside of Family Services that provides victims' services. Grace Smith House operates two shelters for victims of domestic violence. There is a 20-bed facility in Poughkeepsie, and a 10-bed facility in the northeastern part of the county. Services include trauma informed counseling for their clients, domestic violence education, support groups, referrals, and advocacy. Hudson Valley House of Hope operates a 10-bed facility in southern Dutchess. A Crime Victim Specialist (CVS) at New York State Police Troop K provides services for all victims. The CVS serves Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, and Columbia counties. A representative from the Crime Victims program works at the Office of Probation and Community Corrections two days a week. She provides victims support, advocacy, information, referrals, and assistance with providing statements for court.

The Child Advocacy Center provides investigative services for children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse. Family Services also operates the Supervised Visitation Program at Dutchess County Family Court. The program provides supervised visitation and children can see the offending/non-custodial parent in a safe setting. The victim does not have to interact with the offender because of procedures that are in place.

The SAFE program is operated by the Dutchess County Department of Health. It provides services to sexual assault and domestic violence victims using the county's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner/Forensic Nurse Examiner program. Victims do not have to report to the police to access the SAFE program. Referrals for these exams come through the CVAP 24-hour hotline.

Other things that CVAP is working with include training on trafficking responses. They are also looking to develop a Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART). This has shown to increase the communication within the system and provide help for victims.

In reinforcing the county's work towards the use of evidence-based practices within CVAP, Sharon distributed a handout detailing the **Crime Victim Assistance Program Evidence-Based Practices**. Those services include the 24-hour hotline, advocacy, trauma therapy, and counseling services. The largest gap is in bilingual services. There is a growing Hispanic population and there is a lack in our ability to respond due to the language barriers. Angela Flesland asked if they had looked into collaborating with DCC to teach Spanish to counselors. Sharon said that they did look into that but bilingual counselors need to be able to provide trauma therapy which requires a comprehensive command of the language. This is an area that needs further exploration. Onaje Benjamin asked what their experience is with other crime victims. Sharon said that CVAP works with all types of victims. Crime Act Funds have not been updated since 1984 and prohibits them from working with people who are themselves criminal offenders. This prevents them from working with offenders who are also victims. For example, the Office of Victims Services will not allow CVAP to go into the jail with their funding. CVAP does go to the jails through other funding sources, however. There needs to be more work done with offenders to reduce the problem. More resources are needed to address this problem. Trauma is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Tom Angell complimented Sharon for reinvigorating the Victims' Committee. We should hear more about this area. Judge Crodelle emphasized the importance of having victims' statements in the pre-sentence reports prepared by Probation. All the judges read this report, and it is an important tool for courts. Tom suggested having someone from domestic violence services present at our next meeting.

4. Research Update - Gary Christensen

Gary said that he is waiting for a large data sample from OCIS. This will include all offenders from December 2011 to the present. This sample will be broken down by risk to reoffend, crime, and other factors as determined by CJC. The ultimate goal is to enhance criminal justice practices so that ALOS is decreased, and provide information that will be useful as we move forward. We want to ensure better long-term public safety outcomes. We are also looking at program evaluations of the various programs that are used to mitigate criminogenic needs as identified by our COMPAS tool. There is a lot of progress being done in collecting data.

5. SAMHSA's GAINS Center Application Update

Mary Ellen was contacted by the GAINS Center as they needed to reschedule the original date for the workshop. Therefore, the June workshop had to be postponed to a future date. Mary Ellen is waiting to hear back with another date for this full-day workshop.

6. Committee Reports

CIC

Shirley Adams said that they will have another joint session with the Re-Entry Committee in the near future.

Re-Entry

Tom Angell said the joint session with CIC was very successful. The focus was re-entry and the faith-based community. Many good ideas were presented on how faith-based communities can be of help to integrate people back into society.

The contract with Exodus was renewed for another year. Exodus is in the process of hiring a new re-entry coordinator. Exodus continues to meet all their milestones, and the program is going smoothly. The next Re-Entry meeting will be on June 19th at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Church

Juvenile Justice

Mary Ellen said that Karen DeSimone was in Albany attending the Juvenile Justice Summit. They have been busy working on the issues that Karen had reported on previously. Karen will also attend a meeting in Westchester in June on regarding the age of criminal responsibility for 16 and 17 year olds. The governor has created a commission to work with various groups to address that issue and to make a recommendation.

Women in CJ System

Mary Ellen said that Susie Balutis was not available because she was in court. For their last meeting in March they met at the Women's Center and had a tour of the center. Participants in the program have been getting

assistance through case management with mental health, employment and other needs. A book group has been started with future plans for a writing group. Lexington Center has offered to assist in any way possible, since many of the participants have mental health or substance abuse issues.

Victims

Sharon said that she met with Susie Balutis and they are working toward a joint committee meeting with the Women in CJ System Committee. Sharon has been recruiting committee members. She is looking to invite more attorneys. They are looking to offer programs for both men and women at the Family Partnership Center. This also will include services for veterans once they obtain funding.

Bridget Goddard said that the county received about \$400K from DCJS for victims' services since 2012. To date this money has mostly been spent on legal services for victims of domestic violence. It includes legal services for a divorce project and a family court project to ensure victims can get divorced or child support orders. These are not mandated services, but are necessary, and they are hoping to continue these services. \$250K of funding was used on training for law enforcement, EMTs, mental health workers, and other agencies. The county has been working to develop a high-risk program for domestic violence victims (high-risk is high risk for fatality). This grant ended on March 31, so there is no longer funding for this program. Tom asked if there could be a presentation done on the high-risk program. He also asked if there is a risk instrument and if a presentation could also be done on that topic. Mary Ellen said that they recently had a cross-training with the domestic violence providers so there was a presentation prepared that could probably be readily adapted and brought to the CJC. Ken Roman said the risk instrument is being used. Mary Ellen will invite a representative from domestic violence services to present at the next meeting. Sharon also said they are working toward enhancing responses to elder victims.

7. Old Business

Bill O'Neil began by stating thanks to Council members for supporting the pods. Mary Ellen said that the Legislature did approve the pods and we are moving forward. Ken Roman, Director of the Public Safety Committee, provided an article to the *Poughkeepsie Journal* recently. Shirley Adams also wrote an article on behalf of the CJC and its involvement in the community. We are looking at a tentative date of January 2015 for the pods to be installed and ready to receive inmates. This will enable us to get our inmates back in the beginning of the year and start programming that will help individuals from reoffending, while saving the county money. This will kick off the next phase of the jail project. The new jail will cover 13-acres and will be more of a campus. The special population residences will be part of the campus. This will be an urban renewal project. They will soon be taking proposals for developers. We will seek a consultant to look at our special populations and

help us determine what the campus will look like and how we will link to community services and ATIs. They will also look at transition and what we need to develop to assist individuals through incarceration back to the community. Finally, we will tie this in with the developer on the type of structures needed for everyone. Tom asked if there are plans for more visiting rooms once everyone has returned. Greg said that they have been meeting and planning about this, and are aware that the influx of inmates will affect visiting and other operations.

8. New Business

None

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Question and Answers

Mary Ellen opened up the floor to comments and observations from guests. She indicated that comments would be taken, but questions may need to be answered at either the next meeting or through another means as Council members had expressed concern that they may not be able to answer questions they were unprepared for and that some members had to leave for court or other reasons. Mary Ellen encouraged people to attend the Community Involvement Committee meetings as this committee was created for community input. In this way, questions could be brought forward in an organized way that would allow them to be formally addressed.

Mary Spriggs commented that she and others are still against the expansion of the county jail. We need to have regional ways of dealing with this problem. She also commented on the Open House at the Women's Center, asking the location of the Center and number of women currently involved there. Greg answered that the Center is in LaGrange. There are 22 women currently in it. Tom Angell responded on the regional jail, saying that a report was completed by SUNY New Paltz. This report does not recommend a regional jail, as Ulster, Orange, and Columbia have recently built new jails. Mary commented on the cultural sensitivities that need to be addressed. There are many cultures that exist in this area, and if there is a drop in funding there may not be enough programs available

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

Catharine Street Community Center

Poughkeepsie, New York (Entrance at 152 Mansion Street)