

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2017

Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Committee Chair
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Kelly Bunt, Victims Committee Chair
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, D.C. Legislator
Jerry Landisi, Legislator
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
William O'Neil, D.C. Executive's Office
Julia Pagones, D.C. Executive's Office
Margaret Hirst, DBCH
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Hon. Denise Watson, DC Family Court
Alex Rosen, Public Defender's Office
John Alessi, DC Jail
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt.
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Nicole Willoughby, Project MORE
Mike Young, Poughkeepsie City Council
Dawn Hawley, Acting Coordinator

Guests: Dr. Anil K. Vaidian, Commissioner of Behavioral and Community Health
Martin Lynch, Project MORE
Craig Eckert, Project MORE
Thomas Morris, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Joanne Nellis, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Molly Shanley, Volunteer, DCJ
Mio Mercedes-Carbone, Director, Women's Center/Project M.O.R.E

1. Approval of March 14, 2017 Minutes – The minutes were approved on a motion by Steve Miccio, seconded by Bill O’Neil.

2. Introduction of New Members

Mary Ellen introduced and welcomed the Honorable Gerald Hayes who is rejoining CJC and welcomed two new agency heads. Margaret Hirst introduced the new Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health, Dr. Anil Vaidian. Marty Lynch introduced the new Director of the Women’s Center, Mio Mercedes-Carbone.

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

The Jail/ATI Reports were sent electronically along with the agenda and draft minutes for March 2017. There were no comments or questions.

4. New Employment Program –Craig Eckert, Project MORE.

Mary Ellen stated that Project MORE’s new employment program is up and running. Craig Eckert is the director and Mary Ellen thanked him for presenting the program to the CJC. The program’s mission is to provide individuals with the opportunity to establish themselves in the work force. The individuals are all on supervision with Dutchess County Probation. All participants must score medium-high risk on the COMPAS scale and have a Proxy score of 3-6 (medium to high). All participants will complete a five week Ready, Set, Work curriculum where they will learn job skills needed to be successful. Ready, Set, Work is an evidence-based program developed by the National Institute of Corrections. Participants will also be able to complete MRT and a High School Equivalency program if needed. After completing Ready, Set, Work, participants may be placed in subsidized employment ranging from 60 to 90 days without any financial risk to the employer. The wages are paid by Project MORE through a grant and job retention is the focus. The individuals are required to continue to go to Project MORE during their employment for job retention meetings and other support services. The employer always has access to Craig and his staff to address any issues. Craig said he has a wide range of employers willing to participate. Mary Ellen said this program will provide a bridge to potential careers.

Participants and employers will be matched. There are milestones and performance measures required by the state. Marty added that this is 5-year, \$1.5 million dollar state funded program. Project MORE expects approximately 75 participants annually; there is very low overhead. Marty added that one of the most attractive aspects for employers is the fact that they initially have no payroll, unemployment or liability insurance, etc. This program gives the employer time to evaluate the employee without incurring expenses. Mary Ellen noted that this program is designed to work in conjunction with our other ATIs as part of a comprehensive approach to criminal justice. Bill O’Neil thanked Craig for his presentation and asked about performance measures and goals. Craig answered that the first goal is to get individuals into the program. Next would be to complete Ready, Set Work and other programs deemed necessary such as MRT. Job placement and retention is the ultimate goal, but there are various milestones such as job retention for 90 days etc. Marty added that this is a performance based contract and Project MORE doesn’t get paid unless the clients meet the goals. Employment has been identified as a major need by the state. Marty added that they are able to offer cost free bonding for an individual that may be offered a position where bonding is required.

Mary Ellen thanked Craig for his very informative presentation and invited him to come back in the future with an update. Mary Ellen also thanked Marty and Project MORE for implementing this very important program.

Criminal Justice Report – Dr. Gary Christensen

A graph and chart had been e-mailed with the monthly statistics. Additional copies were available at the meeting. Gary said he has been evaluating the effective use of jail days. This study breaks down the jail pretrial population. Defendants still in jail after 10 days generally do not qualify for pretrial release. We have a very robust pretrial program that evaluates new admissions for pretrial release. This population breaks down to about 50/50; 50% of the people are there longer than 10 days and 50% are there less than 10 days. The rolling one year average for 2016 releases was 55.1 average length of stay. The one year average at the end of April 2017 was 51.7 which show we reduced our length of stay by almost four days. Our goal for 2017 is to reduce the average length of stay by five days so we are on track to achieve this objective. There is a seven day reduction for people going to other institutions. Gary continued that we also want to streamline court processing and the Public Defender and District Attorney's offices have been meeting regularly to accomplish this. Gary concluded that the overarching good news is the average length of stay is moving in the right direction.

CIC – Shirley Adams--reported that they will meet on May 24. The Collective Impact Group will attend the meeting to provide an update on their activities. The meeting is at 5:00 p.m. at Catherine Street Center. They are organizing in order to promote a holistic approach to services.

Re-Entry – Tom Angell and Jill Lenard-Horne– Alex Rosen, representing Tom Angell, reported that there was a setback with respect to housing for homeless parolees. The property they had identified was not properly zoned for this type of housing so they are working on finding an alternative. Alex also reported that the last Quarterly Report showed that Dutchess County participants in the re-entry program run by Exodus had zero recidivism. Robert Horn, Director of Immigration and Law Research Center from Westchester Legal Aid Society, will be the guest speaker at the June 15 meeting. He will speak about the intersection between immigration law enforcement efforts and the re-entry population.

Diversion – Steve Miccio - There was a CIT training scheduled for April, but due to the fact that law enforcement agencies can get \$1500 per officer from the state, there were not enough enrollments. Steve reported that the June CIT class is full. Steve said they are offering more 8-hour trainings. This year we will probably have at least 120 trained in the 40-hour CIT and another 200 in the 8-hour first aid training. Steve continued that over 70 officers have brought people to the Stabilization Center. Currently, they are meeting with individual police departments to obtain outcome data.

Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone – reported that a sequential intercept mapping (SIM) event was held on March 31 with support from the CIT grant and in partnership with the Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health. We asked them to map the paths of mentally ill youth as they move through the juvenile justice system. The event was very well attended. Mapping of the juvenile justice system was more complicated than had been envisioned. There are a lot of opportunities and resources in the juvenile system, but it can be very confusing to navigate. Karen said we are now waiting for a report with some recommendations and action steps. Karen said she hopes the Juvenile Justice Committee will develop some action steps based on the report. The committee meets again on May 25.

Karen recently attended a Regional Youth Justice Team meeting where a representative from the state spoke about the "Raise the Age" initiative. So far, there are more questions than answers. The law will go into effect on October 1, 2018 for 16 year olds.

Mary Ellen added that the state asked Dutchess County to participate on a work group to plan for the implementation of "Raise the Age."

Quality Assurance –Dr. Gary Christensen - reported that the formal Quality Assurance Committee began in January of this year. The committee meets regularly to evaluate case flow and processing. Gary receives a weekly report from OCIS that is called the Inmate Review file. Gary said he notes stays in the jail of 60 days and that the Public Defender and District Attorney's office then follow up on these identified cases. Gary added that there are two issues that are outside of their control that come up repeatedly: competency issues and the number of court days available in County Court. Gary said the efforts made so far are showing positive results in lower ALOS.

Victims – Kelly Bunt –reported that they met last Friday and they have completed their sexual assault tracking form and are now planning to pilot it with one law enforcement agency. They are also meeting with the District Attorney's office about this. The next meeting is June 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Special Populations – Jon Heller – reported that they met on April 10 and May 8. The April meeting focused on the severely mentally ill population at the jail. That population tends to have longer lengths of stay at the jail. Mark Sasvary from Hudson Valley Mental Health gave a presentation. At the May meeting, discussion was about the time it takes to complete competency examinations. Jon said they have revamped the RESTART monthly report to better look at aggregate data. RESTART will offer aftercare at CTC for participants who have returned to the community. Focus groups are being planned for RESTART participants to get their feedback on programming. A group will meet on May 18 to discuss issues faced by people with developmental disabilities. This group has also been identified as having longer lengths of stay at the jail. The committee will meet on June 19 and have a tour of the jail facility.

7. Old business - None

8. New business - None

9. Announcements – None

10. Adjourn -- Jon Heller made a motion to adjourn seconded by Steve Miccio at 9:35 a.m.