

**Dutchess County  
Criminal Justice Council  
Meeting Minutes**

November 17, 2015

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation  
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair  
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair  
Bill Carlos, Citizen Appt.  
Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant  
John Crodelle, Judge, T/O Northeast  
Bridget Goddard, DCFS  
Mary Haight, Project MORE, Women's Committee Chair  
Margaret Hirst, DMH  
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator  
Ron Knapp, City/Poughkeepsie Police, Special Pop. Comm. Chair  
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Comm. Chair  
Lt. Winnie Milkovich, DCJ  
William O'Neil, DC Executive's Office  
Julia Pagonis, DC's Executive's Office  
Hon. Frederick Roming, T/O East Fishkill  
Marjorie Smith, Citizen Appt.  
Hon. Denise Watson, DC Family Court

Guests:

Fred Bunnell, Citizen  
Sam Busselle, Citizen  
Marty Lynch, Project MORE  
Bill Rubin, ENJAN

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

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Judge John Crodelle and Bill O'Neil.

**2. Jail/ATI Report—Lt. Winnie Milkovich and Mary Ellen Still**

The reports were emailed out to all members. Lt. Milkovich reported that the overall count is 420 with 368 males and 52 females. The total housed-out is 39. They were able to condense some of the population and were able to shut down one of the PODS. Lt. Milkovich added that the majority of those housed-out are females, because they cannot be housed in the PODS due to privacy issues as per the state. The housing out is not a space issue, but a classification issue. The ADP for October was 433, with 247 admissions and 147 ATIs. Bill Carlos noted the decreased number of youth under 21 in the jail

over the past several years and commended the efforts of Probation and all those that have helped achieve this. He suggested drafting a document noting the many interventions for youth in the county.

### **3. Planning and Research – Gary Christensen**

Gary reported that they are continuing to move forward in identifying those areas that have contributed to the increased ALOS over the years. An ALOS Fact Sheet was emailed to members. Since the large number of inmates being housed out has decreased, the ALOS is decreasing. It took several months to see the full impact. Housing out, as noted before, is the largest contributor to higher ALOS. Due to housing out, the pre-sentence investigations took longer than prior to housing out. Mary Ellen and Gary recently met with the Magistrates Association and they agreed to work towards reducing the number of days for the pre-sentence investigation process for jail inmates from 60 to 30. Probation believes that they can complete the reports within that time frame.

Gary added that we are also studying forensic assessments and looking at system processes as a whole. We have also developed a database of those with 60+ jail days for review. We are also looking at the amount of time it takes for felony cases to move between local and County Court. Tom added that the greatest delays are in the cases that are pending as felonies.

Judge Romig suggested looking at felony cases in excess of 12 months. Tom noted we have looked at some of the lengthier cases and found many involve psychiatric hospitalizations, and that the jail keeps those cases on record even though they are not in jail nor going to court. It was suggested to look at the risk level of those with more than 60 days. It was also noted that the courts generally agree with the recommendation of Probation's pre-trial investigation and that these recommendations are submitted very quickly. The judges noted they relied on Probation and that the process was very efficient.

It was noted by Gary that the use of evidence-based practices here in Dutchess County is far more advanced than in most other areas. Gary is working with New York City and they have just started using a Risk/Needs tool.

Mary Ellen added that the October 26th meeting with the Magistrates Association was well attended and there was a productive discussion. Judge Crodelle said that it was a good presentation. He also added that Probation is always helpful to the criminal courts.

### **4. Committee Reports:**

#### Women in CJ System—Mary Haight

Mary reported the committee recently attended the Job Fair hosted by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. They were able to meet with employers to address the benefits of hiring ex-offenders. They are looking

to develop a relationship with employers and build a database of those businesses that will hire ex-offenders. Mary Ellen added that the Women's Center has been recognized by the state as being highly effective, and this designation is only given to 6% of all programs.

#### Diversion - Steve Miccio

Steve reported that they recently completed another CIT in Putnam County. They are still working on developing the 8-hour training and hope to have that completed and tested by December. They also anticipate having another week long CIT in January or February 2016.

The budget for the renovations for the Stabilization Center is expected to be presented to the Legislature in December. In addition, they are working on the agreements between the various agencies. The next meeting of the Diversion Committee will be December 2015.

Bill O'Neil asked how people will be brought to the Stabilization Center. They may access the center through various means. Margaret said that it is voluntary, but CIT teaches officers to deescalate a situation and the person may be given the option to go to the Center. Officers can now use this as an alternative.

#### Juvenile Justice—Karen DeSimone

Mary Ellen reported that Karen was not available for this meeting as she was attending and hosting a training in Fishkill for juvenile justice practitioners. The committee is expected to meet again in December. They will include detention and placements stats to the regular reporting. They anticipate J-Fire to be up and running in January.

#### Re-Entry—Tom Angell

Tom reported they met in October. There has been a high level of interest in this committee, and there has been great community participation. At their last meeting there was a presentation on employment. There was also a report presented on the work done at Fordham University. They are also addressing issues with housing. The next meeting will be December 17th.

#### Special Populations - Ron Knapp

Ron reported that the committee just met the previous day. They are continuing to work with Kevin Warwick, the consultant. All the staff for RESTART have now been hired and that program is up and running. The various subcommittees have been meeting and accomplished a great deal. We are waiting for final approval from the state to begin using our software. February 1<sup>st</sup> will be the benchmark start date to begin tracking cases.

### Victims—Sharon Doane

Mary Ellen reported that Sharon could not attend this meeting. The committee is continuing to work on outreach.

### CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that they plan to meet on the second Friday in December. They will plan their calendar for the new year and set agendas. They are looking for topics that will not duplicate other committee work.

### **5. Presentation - Nicole Willoughby, CTC**

Nicole reported that the Community Transition Center (CTC) now has 76 active clients, with 14 on a waiting list. They do try to leave a few slots open so RESTART participants can begin immediately following their release from jail. All MRT groups are open enrollment. There are currently six MRT groups that are English-speaking, and one that is Spanish. There is also one MRT group for women. There are three anger management groups and one for women. Nicole added that the MRT program is for a minimum of 12 weeks (12 steps), and participants attend once a week. Mary Ellen added that there are about 13 groups going on at all times including life skills and employment groups. The GED component is working well. Community service, an important part of the program, follows a restorative justice concept and helps provide valuable employment skills and contacts for potential jobs.

### **6. Old Business**

None

### **7. New Business**

The meeting schedule for 2016 has been sent out for review. Please notify Mary Ellen within the next week if you notice any conflicts. If there are no changes, it will be adopted and posted on the website.

### **8. Announcements**

None

### **9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.**

Catharine Street Community Center

Poughkeepsie, New York (Entrance at 152 Mansion Street)