

Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council

Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2016

- Present:
- Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
 - John Alessi, D.C. Jail
 - Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
 - Kelly Bunt, Family Services, Victims Committee Chair
 - William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appointment
 - Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
 - Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Committee Chair
 - Honorable Peter Forman, Dutchess County Court
 - Bridget Goddard, DCFS
 - William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
 - Mary Haight, Women's Center, Women's Committee Chair
 - Lance Hardy, Citizen Appointment
 - Austin "Brad" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment
 - Barbara Jeter-Jackson, D.C. Legislator
 - Ronald Knapp, City of Pok. Acting City Administrator, Special Populations Chair
 - Jerry Landisi, Legislator
 - Steve Miccio, PEOPLe Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
 - Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
 - William O'Neil, D.C. Executive's Office
 - Julia Pagones, D.C. Executive's Office
 - Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
 - Marjorie Smith, Citizen Appointment
 - Micki Strawinski, Legislator
 - Nicole Willoughby, Project M.O.R.E.
 - Geneva Claire Hamilton, Coordinator
 - Dawn Hawley, Acting Coordinator
- Guests:
- Jessica Baade, Project M.O.R.E.
 - William Eckert, D.C. DBCH
 - Jonathan Heller, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
 - Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
 - Kari Rieser, D.C. Legislator
 - Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
 - Dwajuana Stokes, Project M.O.R.E.
 - Thomas Morris, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
 - Shannon Wong, NYCLV
 - Molly Shanley
 - Bridget Steller, District Attorney's Office

1. **Approval of Sept. 13, 2016 minutes** – There were no questions regarding the minutes. Bill Carlos made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Steve Miccio.

2. **Jail/AIT Report** - John Alessi and Mary Ellen Still

Mary Ellen stated that the statistics were sent out electronically and asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions.

3. **Report by Dr. Gary Christensen** –Members received a copy of the report that was the subject of this presentation. Additional copies were available to guests. This report was a follow-up that looked at the average length of stay for parolees and women. The first chart shows the total number of jail bed days used from January 2012 through October 2016. Gary said that since the 2016 numbers are only through October, the total number for the entire year will be a little higher than the number for 2015. The next chart tracks the total number of parolees by average length of stay from 2012-2016. The next chart shows the statistics on the number of women in jail and the number of jail bed days used. It was thought that the number of women in the Dutchess County jail population was rising; while the average daily population is up, the actual number of jail bed days is down. It is projected that when the complete numbers for 2016 are available, they will be somewhat similar to the 2015 numbers. The next chart gives statistics for women in jail. These numbers show that their length of stay is lower than their male counterparts. The last chart illustrates the Quality Assurance work that will begin in 2017 with county agencies examining the length of stay for 100+ day inmates. The chart shows that even though the people who spend 100+ days in jail only represent 17.7% of the population, they consume almost 70% of the jail bed days. The females who spend 100+ days in jail comprise only 11.5% of the population but consume nearly 60% of all bed days used by females. This is further verification that focusing on the 100+ day population, both male and female, will be the most effective approach to reducing jail length of stay and increasing public safety outcomes. It is known that the longer someone is in jail, without intervention, the less likely it is that he or she will succeed in the community. Data from other county agencies shows that of the 100+ day people, 99% are convicted of a crime. By reducing case processing time, we can more effectively provide programming to reduce recidivism.

Mary Ellen said the charts will be on the website.

4. **Introduction of new coordinator/member** –Mary Ellen introduced the new CJC Coordinator, Geneva Claire Hamilton and acknowledged Dawn Hawley who is assisting Geneva while she gets familiar with the CJC. Mary Ellen also welcomed a new member, Legislator Jerry Landisi.

5. **Presentation on Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) by Bill Eckert, DBCH Jail-Based Services**

Mary Ellen welcomed and introduced Bill Eckert who gave a Power Point presentation on the opioid problem in Dutchess County. This power point will be attached to the minutes. Bill spoke about the history and scope of the problem in Dutchess County and treatment options. Bill clarified that opioid is a laboratory-created synthetic drug while opiate is derived from the poppy plant. The two classifications are now considered as opioids. Bill discussed the history of opium which has been used for medical purposes in every culture

since 4000 B.C. The use of opiate drugs increased significantly after the Civil War. When it became more commercially available and widely used, addictions became prevalent. As the dangers of these drugs became more widely known, regulations began in the early 1900's with the introduction of the Pure Food and Drug Act. By the early 1920's detox was the treatment of choice. The number of accidental drug overdose deaths in Dutchess County increased by 31% from 2014 to 2015. The number of emergency department visits for non-fatal heroin overdoses in Dutchess County tripled between 2010-2014. Most Dutchess County overdose deaths involved a mixture of heroin or other opioids, with prescription or street drugs. Rates of opioid abuse and dependency, including heroin, are highest amongst 20-29 year-olds. Individuals released to the community after abstinence-based treatment or incarceration are at high risk. Ex-inmates are at much greater risk of overdose in the first two weeks after release. Decreased tolerance is the highest risk factor for fatal overdose. Fentanyl is 50-100 times more potent than morphine and was present in 44% of county overdose deaths in 2016, compared to 20% in 2015. Bill presented a graph on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and a chart showing three different categories.

Bill then gave information on a variety of treatments that are available including methadone, suboxone, Naltrexone (Narcan) and Vivitrol with details of advantages and disadvantages. Some of these treatments are used as harm reduction models. The addict will stay on the treatment indefinitely and there will be a reduction in the harm to user and community as opposed to the risks of continued heroin use. We have the most research on methadone. Over a 50 year period, the best track record has been with methadone maintenance for heroin addiction. Dutchess County's methadone program is run by the Lexington Center for Recovery.

There is currently a pilot project for Vivitrol at the jail and it is used at ITAP. Narcan is the best thing available at this time for reversing drug overdoses. Many community members and law enforcement members have been trained to administer Narcan. Suboxone will be available at Lexington Center for Recovery.

Community providers are moving towards more evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Bill reported that MATs are promising and work best when combined with treatment. He stressed that medication should not be used alone.

Mary Ellen thanked Bill for his presentation and added that we will continue to discuss MAT in the future.

6. Committee Reports:

Victims – Kelly Bunt shared that the Victims Committee has decided to focus on tracking sexual assault cases in Dutchess County. This is a large undertaking. They are working to create a form for law enforcement officers who initially respond to sexual assault crimes that is easy to use. The next meeting is December 9, 2016.

Special Populations – Ron stated that the committee meets once a month. The committee includes two consultants: Dr. Gary Christensen, who reports on data, and Kevin Warwick, who guides programming. The county recently renewed the consultants' contracts. They are fine tuning different aspects of RESTART such as staffing, software, and data tracking.

Mary Ellen mentioned that she and Gary Christensen went to the Magistrates Association meeting last evening and spoke about the RESTART program. Gary also spoke about the jail population and some of the statistics involving length of stay. It was a very productive meeting and was well received. This was the second meeting Gary and Mary Ellen attended.

Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone said attendees discussed the mentally ill youth in the justice system at their September meeting. They are planning to map the youth system, similar to the Strategic Intercept Mapping (SIM) that has been conducted in the adult system. The Building Bridges conference was held on October 20th. It was well attended and CE credit was offered to social workers.

Diversion – Steve Miccio reported that the CIT training was going to be held next week, but they did not have enough officers so they will reschedule for next year. In addition, they are breaking up some of the weeks next year so that the part-time departments in the county can also attend. There is an eight hour training next Monday and they will be training 26 officers. Steve added that we will continue the eight hour training with our team throughout the year. The Stabilization Center's opening is set for February 6th and staff are being hired. Training will occur during January. They are drafting Memorandums of Understanding for all the providers in the community. Micki Strawinski asked if legislators will be able to have a tour. Steve replied that tours will be given to legislators and other groups.

Re-Entry – Tom Angell reported that Steve Miccio will attend their next meeting on December 22nd at St. Paul's Church at 2:00 p.m. Tom added that the grant from DCJS for re-entry services has been renewed and increased to \$123,000 a year. This funding will go directly to Exodus. The committee continues to try to find solutions to housing for homeless people who are returning to the community from prison or jail. At the last meeting, they had a presentation by Nubian Directions on providing training for younger people involved in the criminal justice system.

Women in Criminal Justice System – Mary Haight reported that the group continues to discuss the Vera Institute's report by looking at factors that contribute to incarceration at the points of arrest, charge, bail, pretrial and sentencing. At the September meeting, the District Attorney representative spoke about the sentencing process. Committee member Molly Shanley is working on a jail newsletter. It is a forum for the writing group to share their voices. It is also used as a way to educate about resources in the community. Some committee members and staff from the Women's Center attended the non-DWI Victim Impact Panel that Probation sponsors. Mary mentioned her appreciation for the victims who are willing to come forward and share their stories and that it was really a very powerful evening. The next meeting will be held on November 29th at 3:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.

CIC – Shirley Adams was out of town and will present her report at the next meeting.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business – none

9. Announcements --Mary Ellen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

10. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. on a motion by Bill Carlos; seconded by Gary Christensen.