

Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2016

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Gary Christensen, Consultant
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Bill Carlos, Citizen Appt.
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Mary Haight, Project MORE, Women's Committee Chair
Margaret Hirst, DBCH
William O'Neil, D.C. Executive's Office
Julia Pagones, D.C. Executive's Office
Hon. Frederick Romig, T/O East Fishkill
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Karen DeSimone, Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Micki Strawinski, Dutchess County Legislator
Gregg Pulver, Dutchess County Legislator
Kelly Bunt, Family Services, Victims Committee Chair
Lance Hardy, Citizen Appointment
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, Dutchess County Legislator
Hon. Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Hon. Denise Watson, Dutchess County Family Court
Ronald Knapp, City of Pok. Acting City Administrator, Special Populations Chair
John Alessi, Dutchess County Jail
Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment
Dawn Hawley, Administrative Assistant (Acting Coordinator)

Guests:

Tom Morris, Deputy Director of Probation
Marty Lynch, Project MORE
Bill Rubin, ENJAN
Peter Van Schaick
Shannon Wong, NYCLV
Sam Busselle

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

Mary Ellen reminded attendees of the meeting operating guidelines: only CJC members may ask questions or make comments during the meeting. After the meeting is adjourned, guests will have the opportunity to speak.

1. Approval of July 12, 2016 Minutes – Bill Carlos made a motion to approve, seconded by Bill O’Neil.

2. Jail//ATI Report—John Alessi and Mary Ellen Still

Mary Ellen stated that the statistics were sent out electronically and asked for any questions or comments on either report. Mary Ellen added that the ATI numbers have been stable over the past few months. There were no questions.

3. Presentation by Dr. Gary Christensen – Use of Jail Bed Days

Members received a copy of the report. Additional copies of the report and power point were available for members and guests. Gary asked if there were any questions before he began. Gary added that this power point presentation contains excerpts from the report. This information reflects the ongoing efforts of the Criminal Justice Council and key criminal justice agencies to evaluate the use of our jail facility and the way we use jail beds. It will help us as we plan our Justice and Transition Center. As reported in May, we have done an analysis of the 100+-day population to determine our conviction rates and improve processing times. We are also engaged in an analysis of the forensic assessment process and outcomes. We are implementing quality assurance measures to evaluate our case processing. Gary reported we are also engaged in the development of research protocols for RESTART. The report and power point will be posted on the county web site.

4. Committee Reports:

Re-Entry – Tom Angell

Tom reported that he continues to see a great deal of interest in the work of the Re-entry task force. The contract that we have with Exodus Transitional Community, the primary agency that provides re-entry services, is ending and the state announced they are issuing new RFPs. We will work with Exodus to get that grant renewed. At the August 18th task force meeting, Justine Porter presented on community wealth building. A follow up meeting with Ron Hicks, Deputy County Executive for Strategic Planning, would be a next step.

Tom announced that parole revocation hearings will now be handled by the Public Defender’s office. One of the biggest issues noted with the 15 to 20 cases they have handled so far is housing. Tom added that people who have been incarcerated for a long period have challenges functioning in today’s world and may be at high risk for recidivism. Bill O’Neil commented there is no easy fix to the housing situation. Discussion ensued on the various housing issues that need to be addressed. Many groups are working on this issue.

The next meeting is at St. Paul’s Church at 2:00 p.m. on October 20th. There will be a presentation by Nubian Directions about youth programs.

CIC – Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the Community Involvement Committee (CIC) would attend the Poughkeepsie Journal public forum on heroin at the Family Partnership Center at 29 N. Hamilton St. in the City of Poughkeepsie at 7:00 p.m.

Women in Criminal Justice System – Mary Haight

Mary reported they had a presentation from Probation Officer Karmen Smallwood at their July meeting. Karmen discussed how she uses empathy in her work with probationers. On October 27th Karmen will facilitate a non-DWI victim impact panel. Mary reported that the committee looked at a recent study by the Vera Institute about the increasing number of women being incarcerated. The committee looked at what Dutchess County is doing at four points in the system. Mary stated that there was just a report by the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women featuring Dutchess County and the implementation of the Inventory of Needs (ION) for females in the justice system. Mary added that we are way ahead of the curve. Mary Ellen commented that there is a link to this report on the county website. Mary Ellen added that this report was the result of a technical assistance grant from the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women and the Center for Effective Public Policy. The technical assistance focused on the pretrial function. Their ultimate goal is to encourage other jurisdictions to develop similar responses and protocol. Mary Ellen thanked the Women's Center for their willingness to work on the project and for adopting the ION. The next meeting is September 20th at the Women's Center.

Diversion- Steve Miccio

Steve was not present but Mary Ellen reported that Steve and his committee have been very busy working on CIT and the Stabilization Center. Margaret added there is a CIT training this week in Putnam County. Margaret also noted that the mobile team is working more frequently with the courts. Margaret added that the pretrial diversion pilot with the City of Poughkeepsie has been expanded to all the courts so that a treatment plan for appropriate individuals may be developed. The renovations are moving forward at the Stabilization Center. It will probably be completed by the November or December time frame. We have created the Policies and Procedures for the program and we are working with the state around licensing issues.

Victims – Kelly Bunt

The last meeting was held on September 9th. The committee has decided to try to track sexual assault cases as they move through the system. Kelly added that they would need collaboration from many different disciplines. They are considering modeling a form similar to the DIR (Domestic Incident Report). The next meeting is Oct 14th at 9:30 a.m. at 50 North Hamilton St.

Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone

Karen reported that the committee met in July and the meeting was well attended. There are now two representatives from the City of Poughkeepsie schools coming to the meetings. Much of the meeting was spent talking about DMR (Disproportionate Minority Representation) as it relates to the juvenile justice system. At September's meeting, the committee will spend the entire agenda discussing mentally ill youth. Judge Watson has estimated at least 80% of youth coming into the

courts are struggling with some level of mental illness. As a committee, we will continue to discuss this and brainstorm how to meet the needs of these youth and their families. Karen believes this will be the first of continued discussions on this topic. Discussion will be held on how to integrate the Stabilization Center into the needs of the juvenile justice system. The next regional juvenile justice meeting, which includes eight counties, will be tomorrow. The Building Bridges conference will be held on October 20th at Locust Grove. This conference is in its eighth year and has now evolved into a full day of training. The next meeting of the Juvenile Justice Committee will be on Sept 22nd at 12:30 p.m. at the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, 50 Market Street in Poughkeepsie.

Special Populations – Ron Knapp

Ron commented the zombie house issue is complicated by the fact that about 99% of the zombie houses are not owned by the city. Banks or different entities own most of these properties so we do not have control over them. All of these properties have some type of issue. It would often be cheaper to remove the house and build a new one from the ground up. If you did renovate a home, you would want it to have proper oversight, which adds to the cost.

The Special Populations committee will meet Monday, October 3rd. Much of the work is done at the sub-committee level. They are fine tuning RESTART and getting good feedback. All parties are working well together. When the new facility is completed, additional space will be available. The group is looking at medication assisted therapy (MAT). The committee is also looking at the computerization and sharing of data among agencies.

5. **Old Business** - none

6. **New Business** –none

7. **Announcements** - Micki Strawinski reported that Dr. George Verrilli purchased the Northern Dutchess Christian Academy in Red Hook with hopes of making a community center. The community center is going to continue to bring in programming and services. They are working with CAPE and hope to meet the needs of Northern Dutchess.

8. **Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bill Carlos, seconded by Bill Grady.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 22 at 8:00 a.m.**

Catherine Street Community Center
(Entrance on 152 Mansion Street)
Poughkeepsie, NY