

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes**

September 15, 2015

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Bill Carlos, Citizen Appt.
Kevin Carey, DCJ
Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
John Crodelle, Judge, T/O Northeast
Karen DeSimone, Probation, Juv. Justice Chair
John Gildard, Leg. Appointment
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Mary Haight, Project MORE, Women's Committee Chair
Margaret Hirst, DMH
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Ron Knapp, C/O Poughkeepsie Police, Special Pop. Comm. Chair
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Comm. Chair
William O'Neil, DC Exec. Office
Julia Pagones, DC Executive's Office
Rich Perkins, DC Legislator
Gregg Pulver, DC Legislator
Denise Watson, Judge, DC Family Court

Guests:
Sam Busselle, Citizen
Jonathan Heller, DC Probation
Marty Lynch, Project MORE
Darrett Roberts, ENJAN
Molly Shanley, Citizen
Kevin Warwick, Consultant

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

Mary Ellen introduced the newest Council member Legislator Gregg Pulver.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 21, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Bill Carlos and Bill O'Neil.

2. Jail/ATI Report—Kevin Carey and Mary Ellen Still

The reports were emailed out to all members. Mary Ellen reported that the ATI ADP was 656, with 133 admissions in August. Bridget Goddard noted that

there was a significant waiting list for August. Mary Ellen stated that there are several causes: holds from courts other than the remanding court, assessments to complete and more people to process now that almost everyone has been returned back to the jail.

Margaret Hirst said that inmates have always been screened even if they were housed out. She noted that there was a significant staff turnover in DMH in March 2015 which may have slowed the process, but these positions were filled by August 2015. There were also some delays in getting individuals into the house because it was full some of the time. Now that the inmates are back in our jail, we will be able to do the assessments faster. Margaret confirmed that if there are legal issues involved, it may not be a matter of space.

Judge Denise Watson asked if we can begin to report on youth in the detention centers. Mary Ellen said that our current chart only includes the jail and those 16 and over. The data would need to come from a source other than the jail and Probation, but it is possible to obtain the data. We can ask Karen, as chair of Juvenile Justice, to look into obtaining the statistics. We would need to separate this report from the Jail/ATI report so that there is no confusion with those in the jail. Judge Watson noted that it is important for everyone to see the number of kids in facilities and psychiatric centers and the costs involved.

3. Presentation by Kevin Warwick

Bill O'Neil started off the presentation by stating that we have been involved with the Justice and Transitions Center project since roughly 2012. In the next few months, we will be bringing to conclusion a number of efforts that are going to present options, recommendations, and need for legislative approvals.

We started by conducting an assessment of the Criminal Justice System. A Needs Assessment was completed and validated by Ricci Greene. In that report, it was noted there was a need for greater capacity at the jail as well as a continuation of support for current and potential future ATIs. We have many successful ATIs already. The new Diversion Committee was formed to prevent individuals from entering the system by addressing behavioral health issues. One of the special populations identified were those with mental health issues and it was recommended to divert them from entering the system, when possible. Training for all our law enforcement officials was developed and is ongoing. We are also going to open a facility on North Road in Poughkeepsie which will be a crisis stabilization center. Law enforcement will be able to bring individuals to this center and avoid possible incarceration. This is an intervention designed to divert from the system whenever possible.

Programming has also been designed to address criminogenic needs once an individual is in the system. The Special Populations Committee has focused its efforts on designing a curriculum for the higher risk population both while they

are incarcerated and upon their release into the community. This is an evidence-based approach, and we will track outcomes.

Kevin Warwick began his presentation by stating that during the past year, the Special Populations Committee has accomplished a great deal. The key accomplishments to date are:

- Development of an evidence-based, intensive jail program that extends to the community known as RESTART
- Review and selection of evidence-based curricula
- All jail based and community based staff either have been or will be trained
- Community agencies will provide a seamless transition for those coming out of the jail's RESTART program
- Project MORE and Hudson Valley Mental Health, along with corrections and probation staff, will provide the in-jail program following the curriculum developed by the Special Populations Committee
- A case management software program to track individuals throughout their programming and post-release has been selected
- Space in the jail has been designated for RESTART and audio/visual equipment has been purchased
- Development of criteria for entrance into RESTART. Weekly meetings will be held to review cases and placement in the program as well as to develop transition plans
- Training for key correctional management staff on the RESTART program
- There will be both a men's and women's program
- There will be gender-specific programming for women
- Development of an ongoing Quality Assurance committee
- One assessment tool will be used throughout the system, the COMPAS
- The Work Flow Committee has been meeting regularly since the end of June and will continue meeting for the long-term
- All staff in RESTART and key provider agencies will be trained in evidence-based practices
- RESTART will help to determine what type of space will be needed in the future Justice and Transitions Center

RESTART Staffing:

- Two Case Managers [Project MORE]
- One gender specific Case Manager who will also provide screening and assessment as well as linkages to corrections staff [Project MORE]
- Two Clinicians [Hudson Valley Mental Health]
- Jail Program Lieutenant
- Jail Classification Staff
- Probation staff working on screening and flow and to fill in as needed

The admission criteria for the RESTART Program include:

- Those with a high risk to reoffend as determined by Proxy/COMPAS
- Multiple DC Jail bookings
- An anticipated period of incarceration of at least six to eight weeks
- All participants must also meet any required security and classification standards as determined by the corrections staff

Next Steps for the Special Populations Committee:

- Provide support for county on new jail, focused on program areas, transitional housing etc.
- Continue to move the RESTART program forward
- Continue improving systems coordination efforts
- Continue to work on data collection and case management

Q&A:

Ron asked about how to encourage inmates to participate in the program. Kevin said that there are some incentives that we can offer now, and with a new facility, we will be able to incentive further through the use of programming space.

Judge Crodelle asked if there is a means to get this information out to the public. Bill O'Neil responded that the EAG meetings are an opportunity to present this type of information. There is also a Legislative committee that relays this information to the public. Ron added that there is also the county website that contains the minutes and presentations.

4. Planning and Research – Gary Christensen

Gary reported that when we first started looking at the jail population in 2012, we knew admissions were consistent. The jail population is now twice the size and ALOS is the largest contributing factor with an average high of 67 days. We have started to look at processing issues. There are processing issues that

arose due to housing out. There are lags in the judicial system that we are trying to work through. We tracked the ALOS of releases last month, and the average is now 51 days. This in turn lowers the jail population. Lt. Kevin Carey added that the current population is 412.

Gary stated that we have now been tracking data since December 2011. We now have a sample size of over 11,000 people. This gives us the ability to track people in the jail and then after release. We can look at what strategies used within the system has the most benefit on long term public safety. We also want to ensure that lower risk persons can move back to the community more quickly.

The ALOS Fact Sheet shows releases by categories and outliers in the system, such as those with 300 plus days. At the same time, we are also looking at samples of those currently in the jail for than more 60 days. We are working with OCIS to provide meaningful samples with identifiers. We are now in a good position, due to the data we have since 2011; to evaluate everything we do in Dutchess County and ensure we use our resources in the best way possible way. Gary also added that he and Mary Ellen will be presenting this data at the Magistrates Association meeting on October 26th.

5. Committee Reports:

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the CIC met and they are seeking a presentation on the Mobile Crisis Team similar to the one done at the CJC meeting. They plan to invite members of other committees.

Diversion - Steve Miccio

Steve reported that the next CIT training will be held in Putnam County. There will be 25 Dutchess County officers attending. The CIT Committee has come up with a "Brief Training", which will be an 8-hour version of the CIT training. This training is being developed and they are looking for accreditation from DCJS. We hope to have all officers trained in the 8-hour training.

The Crisis Stabilization Center is moving forward with an Asset Based Community process to create a strategic plan for better flow and integration. This will help to ensure that there are no gaps and people are directly linked to community resources. They are also developing IT that will allow a person to access service information through a web portal.

Judge Denise Watson asked if there could also be CIT training, particularly the 8-hour training, made available for the court officers. Steve said that he would follow up on that.

Juvenile Justice—Karen DeSimone

Karen reported they met in July and are reviewing various challenges within the system. They are also reviewing the impact of the detention tool (DRAI) as some changes may be forthcoming.

They have also been looking at the needs of youth with behavioral issues in the juvenile justice system. We want to be sure we are using all our resources in the best way possible way and identify any unmet needs.

Funding from the Mid-Hudson Regional Youth Justice Team made it possible for several juvenile officers to attend the state Juvenile Officers Conference. There will also be training at the end of September on youth gangs. The committee will meet again in September.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell

Tom reported that the committee has been focused on persons who are coming back to the community from state prison. Homeless persons who return from state prison often end up at overnight shelters such as Hillcrest. The shelters are not always a beneficial environment for the newly released person. Those who stay at the single room facility at Hillcrest have a greater success rate. They have case management and are drug tested. New York State has a contract with Hudson River Housing for five beds, but at any given time there are 15 parolees and only five can stay in the single rooms.

Sex offenders who are released from state prison and return to Dutchess County often go to a facility on Rose Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. There are case managers and supervision available there. An issue for parolees receiving public assistance is the requirement to look for work that may conflict with Parole restrictions against certain types of employment. This may lead to sanctions by DCFS for failure to comply. The committee is planning to work with DCFS on this issue

Their next meeting will be October 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Church.

Women in CJ System—Mary Haight

Mary reported that they are focused on improving employment rates for females. They have met with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Their next meeting will be September 28th.

Victims—Sharon Doane

Mary Ellen reported that Sharon could not attend this meeting. The committee has been working on community education to help the public better understand victims' issues.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

None

8. Announcements

None

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Catharine Street Community Center

Poughkeepsie, New York (Entrance at 152 Mansion Street)