

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes**

September 16, 2014

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Susie Balutis, Probation, Women Comm. Chair
Bill Carlos, Citizen Appt.
Gary Christensen, Consultant
Hon. John Crodelle, Judge, T/O Northeast
Karen DeSimone, Probation, Juv. Justice Chair
Mary Kaye Dolan, Health & Human Services Cabinet
Angela Flesland, DC Legislator
Greg Gale, DCJ
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
William Grady, District Attorney
Hon. Stephen Greller, Judge
Tracy Hermann, C/Pok Common Council
Margaret Hirst, DMH
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Ronald Knapp, C/Pok. Police Chief
Noel Knille, Commissioner, DCDPW
Jill Lenard-Horne, NYS DOCCS, Parole
William O'Neil, County Executive Representative
Ken Roman, DC Legislator

Guests:

Beth Bobela, Office of Probation
Sam Busselle, Citizen
Fred Bunnell, DCRP & DCCIC
Craig Eckert, Community Transition Center
Mary Haight, Project MORE
Martin Lynch, Project MORE
Darrett Roberts, ENJAN
Hon. Frederick Romig, Judge, T/O East Fishkill Court
Bill Rubin, ENJAN
Jeffrey Schneider, ENJAN
Molly Shanley, DCJ, Community Volunteer
Mary Spriggs, ENJAN
Rasonia Squirt, ENJAN
Dolores Thompson, ENJAN
Carlos Valencia, Exodus
Geraldine Wilmott, Citizen

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

Mary Ellen introduced and welcomed Tracy Hermann, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council, as a new member to the DC Criminal Justice Council.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Barbara Jeter-Jackson and Angela Flesland.

2. Introduction of Re-entry Coordinator—Tom Angell

Tom introduced Mr. Medina who is the founder of the Exodus Program. Exodus is contracted with Dutchess County to provide re-entry services. Mr. Medina then introduced Carlos Valencia as the new Re-entry Coordinator for the Exodus Program. Mr. Valencia was previously the re-entry task force coordinator in Ulster County.

3. Research Update—Gary Christensen

Gary's presentation covered two points: First, the average length of stay (ALOS) by crime type, jurisdiction, and various other factors and second, the processes and efficiencies within Dutchess County.

This data includes all those incarcerated at DCJ for any reason, for the period of December 15, 2011 to June 27, 2014, with a sample size of 7,866 people. Of those sentenced, 35% constitute misdemeanors or less. Those who are being transferred to the Department of Correctional Services (prison) constitute 22.9%, and the ALOS is 155 days.

For those at DCJ for over 100+ jail days, 15.7% are responsible for 65% of the jail days. Therefore, 16 out of 100 are responsible for 65% of our jail days. Next, this statistic was broken down by jurisdiction. The City and Town of Poughkeepsie (very busy courts) accounted for 45.8% of all jail days.

Three random samples were then pulled from these jurisdictions to evaluate some of the processes within those jurisdictions. The first sample consisted of 78 people who were unsentenced misdemeanors with a proxy score of 0/1 (lowest). The second sample included 100 people arrested for felonies or misdemeanors in the City of Poughkeepsie and in jail 100+ days. The third sample included 50 inmates from both the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, with misdemeanors only, who spent five days in jail.

For all of these samples, actual case files were pulled, and both the Public Defender's Office and Probation Department worked extensively on a case level to review various processes. One area of concern involved the length of time for cases to move between local to County courts. It was recommended there be an early detection quality assurance/trigger for the Public Defender's Office and District Attorney's Office to identify those exceeding 60 days. Immigration holds

and warrants were also significant factors. Housing out contributed to length of stay as well as other issues that might be beyond the control of these or other agencies, however. Returning inmates to the county was viewed as a major step toward gaining efficiency in the system.

It was also found that for the same type of crime, those that were represented by the Public Defender's Office moved through the system much faster than private representation. Other findings showed there were also some delays in the forensic processing, placement and treatment. Again, this may be due to a variety of factors including housing out.

Gary stated that we need to look at overall recidivism statistics. Those with low proxy scores recidivate at 19%. Those with the highest risk scores recidivate at about 73%. We want to avoid over programming for lower risk people as that will lead to higher recidivism and poor use of resources that could be directed to higher risk individuals. We should be able to conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

There is currently a Special Populations Committee, which is chaired by Ron Knapp, and is being led by a consultant, Kevin Warwick of Alternative Solutions Associates. This committee will be working on many of the issues that will impact the jail. Many of the things taking place in Dutchess County are very advanced, and we are poised to make even greater improvements here.

4. Presentation on Ready, Set, Work—Beth Bobela, Office of Probation; Mary Haight, Women's Center; Craig Eckert, Community Transition Ctr

Beth Bobela, from the Office of Probation began the presentation stating that the Ready, Set, Work program is currently being offered by staff from Probation and the Community Transitions Center and will soon be offered by the Women's Center. This employment readiness program was created by the National Institute of Corrections. In New York State, this is a partnership of the NYS Division of Correctional Services, NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Department of Labor, and County Probation Departments. The goal is to help inmates, probationers and parolees prepare to look for employment, and supply them with the tools to strengthen their chances of finding jobs. Ready, Set, Work facilitators engage in extensive training for certification.

Eight factors determine risk to reoffend. By targeting areas that contribute to this risk, recidivism can be reduced. Some of these factors are static and cannot be changed, but other dynamic factors can be changed. Employment is one of those factors that can help to promote and sustain a pro-social life style that helps reduce recidivism.

The Ready, Set, Work (RSW) program is a job readiness program. It is a 20-hour program which is broken into ten modules. Within these modules are

tools to help a person find and hold onto jobs in the current workplace. To date, 846 individuals completed the RSW, and 403 had obtained work within the first 90 days. Mary Ellen added that this is just one aspect of a comprehensive approach to reduce recidivism, which is based on an individual's risk and needs.

Craig Eckert, from the Community Transition Center (CTC) then spoke about the modules that include employer expectations, barriers and resources, job retention, and job search methods. He is currently working with about 25 individuals at CTC.

Mary Haight, from the Women's Center and Project MORE, next spoke about how the Women's Center will also provide workforce development for females. The Women's Center is funded by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and works in partnership with the Office of Probation. They also collaborate with "Dress for Success", in order to provide women with work appropriate attire. It has been found that there are additional barriers for females because they are often primary caretakers and have a need for childcare services. The RSW program helps women overcome the barriers that exist to securing and maintaining employment.

5. Criminal Justice Planning Update—Noel Knille

Noel stated that many elements of this project are coming together. First element is the temporary housing (PODS). The site design has been completed, which includes the electric for the new housing units. Morris Associates prepared the site utility work. Thomas Gleason will be the contractor for the utility work on the site. That work is expected to begin in September. The housing units are expected to arrive in mid-October. These units will be put together on the site. This phase of the project will be completed by the end of 2014. The Commission of Corrections will then review the installation, along with George Krom. Once it is signed off, the housing units will be occupied by early 2015.

An additional phase is the site planning and master plan for the new Justice and Transitions Center. Progress is being made with that as well, and a kick-off meeting with Ricci Greene and the Internal Advisory Committee will take place the week of September 22, 2014. The intent is to release the RFP for the jail architect at the end of 2015.

There are several different committees involved with this process: these include the Special Populations Committee, an External Advisory Committee chaired by former Senator Steve Saland, and an Internal Advisory, or Steering Committee, consisting primarily of Dutchess County staff who are involved with completing various tasks and ensuring we stay on schedule, and lastly the Legislative Advisory Committee, which is chaired by Ken Roman and is tasked with keeping the Legislature up-to-date on the project. All these committees

will meet on a regular basis. Methods of communication with the public are now being finalized. This will consist of a special website with meeting minutes, any pertinent PowerPoint presentations, and any site plans relating to the project. There will also be an email address set up, so the public can email any questions or comments along the way. There will be a Facebook page where the public can openly comment throughout any phase of the project.

There was a question from Tom Angell regarding the size of the consultation rooms for attorneys, as he thought that once inmates return there will be a need for more space. Noel stated that there would be four 50-person units, with available multifunctional rooms with the intent to do confidential meetings.

Susie Balutis asked how and when the community would become aware of the status of the jail. Noel responded that the website and Facebook page would be available for the public shortly.

6. Jail/ATI Report - Greg Gale and Mary Ellen Still

The Jail/ATI reports were sent out via email. Tom Angell questioned if someone could be on multiple listings. Mary Ellen said that it is possible to be included on the roster of two programs if an individual is a participant of both at the same time. With the exception of ITAP and Transitional Housing, very few people are in more than one program.

7. Committee Reports:

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley Adams said that they are continuing with awareness about ATI programs. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 29th. Their goal is to provide more clarity on ATI programs.

Juvenile Justice—Karen DeSimone

The Firestarters Program is in the development stage, and should be getting referrals by mid-2015. The Building Bridges Conference is scheduled for October 17th. The Regional Youth Justice Team will meet on September 17th in Orange County. A fourth Family Court judge has been approved for Dutchess County and will be effective January 2016. The next Juvenile Justice meeting is September 18th.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell

The next meeting will be October 5, 2014.

Special Populations—Ron Knapp

Ron said that they had met twice so far, and the mission of this committee is to make recommendations for strategies and programs to reduce recidivism. So far, they have looked at model programs provided by the consultant. The consultant, Kevin Warwick, is working with the group to develop ideas for

programs. We are also, with the guidance of the consultant, reviewing current programs. They are working on a holistic approach.

Women in CJ System—Susie Balutis

Susie said that they met on August 15th. As part of the pretrial women's project, an Inventory of Needs (ION) assessment has been introduced by Probation. There is an extensive questionnaire to evaluate their needs so they can be addressed. Marty Lynch provided an update on the Women's Center at their last meeting. They are also looking at the programming that is available to women in the jail and identified the need for the continuation of care after release. Substance abuse issues need to be addressed as well.

Victims—Sharon Doane

Their first meeting is scheduled for October 13th, and they hope to identify two or three issues to focus on within the committee.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

None

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

Catharine Street Community Center

Poughkeepsie, New York (Entrance at 152 Mansion Street)