

Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2023

- Present:
- Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
 - Rachel Kashimer, County Executive's Office
 - Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
 - Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
 - Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Co-Chair
 - Eric Knapp, Public Defender, Re-Entry Co-Chair
 - Pastor John Perez, Citizen Appointment, Faith Temple Church
 - Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment
 - Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, Commissioner of Behavioral & Comm. Health
 - Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Deputy Commissioner, DBCH
 - Robin Peritz, Director of Forensic Services, DBCH
 - Sandy Carroll, Probation, Juvenile Justice Co-Chair
 - Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia, Town of LaGrange Court; Centralized Arraignment Comm. Chair
 - Hon. Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt
 - Alisyn Gaffney, D.C Probation, Justice-Involved Women's Co-Chair
 - Cherrell Evans-Tillery, Women's Committee Co-Chair, Project M.O.R.E.
 - Shirley Adams, Catharine St. Center, CIC Chair
 - Anthony Pica, Deputy Superintendent D.C. Jail
 - Shawn Castano, Dept. of Emergency Response, Police Reform & Reinvention Chair
 - Nicole Willoughby, Project M.O.R.E.
 - Michele Romano, Coordinator
- Guests:
- Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
 - Paul Spagnoli, Dutchess County Probation
 - Megan Chetner, Dutchess County Probation
 - Sheena Walsh, D.C. Jail
 - Undersheriff Jason Mark, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
 - Molly Shanley

Introduction of new members: Nicole Willoughby, Director of Project M.O.R.E. and Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment.

1. **Approval of May 30, 2023 Minutes**-The minutes of May 30, 2023 were approved on a motion by Pastor John Perez, seconded by Tom Angell.
2. **Jail/ATI/Safe Act Report -Therese Lee, Mary Ellen Still, Jean-Marie Niebuhr –**
The June Jail/ATI/Safe Act reports were sent electronically. There were no questions.
3. **Presentation on Police Reform and Community Policing-Undersheriff Jason Mark**
Undersheriff Mark presented the Police Reform and Community Policing Model. He discussed law enforcement transparency, accountability, staffing, training, the use of technology, the importance and impact of community engagement, policing, outreach, and education. Mary Ellen thanked Undersheriff Mark for the informative presentation. There was further discussion on community engagement and fostering trust between law enforcement and the community.

4. **Planning and Research Update—Dr. Gary Christensen**

Gary is working to identify a study sample of Judicial Diversion cases with the Public Defender's Office. He is currently awaiting feedback on the information he supplied. Once Gary receives the feedback, he will set up the parameters for the study sample. He also discussed adding language to Judicial Diversion contracts, letting participants know that their information will be used as part of Quality Assurance efforts. The additional language is currently being reviewed by the courts. There were no questions.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Quality Assurance—Gary Christensen, Tom Angell, Bill Grady

Gary continues to monitor the jail's weekly population. He noted the trend of increasing admissions, length of stay and failures to register in the sex offender population. There was some discussion regarding the new JTC and staff training. There were no questions.

Raise The Age Update—Hon. Joseph Egitto

Judge Egitto was unable to attend.

Centralized Arraignment—Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia

Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia reported that several judges toured 26 Oakley Street in Poughkeepsie as a potential site for centralized arraignment. The committee plans to have the rest of the magistrates tour the space. There were no questions.

Diversion— Steve Miccio

Steve was unavailable to attend the meeting. Jean-Marie reported that the Stabilization Center is busy but they are seeing fewer children because of summer recess. She stated the licensing process is moving forward. There were no questions.

Victims—Kelly Bunt

Kelly was unable to attend the meeting. Mary Ellen reported that the Victims Committee's focus group will be sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative. The focus group participation letters were sent out to victims' service providers and private therapists on the 17th of July. The two focus groups will be held virtually on August 24th, one will be at noon and the other at 6:00 pm. If members wish to make a referral, they can email Kelly. The deadline for participating is August 18th.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell

Tom reported that the committee met on the 15th of June. They had a presentation by the District Superintendent of BOCES who discussed vocational programs BOCES offers to individuals returning to our community from prison. It was a very successful, informative, and well attended meeting. The Exodus Transitional Community housing program on Cannon Street continues to do well. Their next meeting will be held on the 17th of August. They will have a presentation by ACCES-VR (Vocational Rehabilitation). There were no questions.

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the Community Involvement Committee is in the planning process for another public virtual forum. They are currently brainstorming topics for the forum. Shirley asked if any members have a topic of interest or wish to participate in the forum to please email her. There were no questions.

Justice-Involved Women — Alisyn Gaffney and Cherrell Evans-Tillery

Alisyn reported that they have invited Noreen Haddad and Tammy Bender from Judicial Diversion to join the committee. Some of the committee members attended the Re-Entry committee meeting last month. They had a representative from BOCES share information on their programs which may be beneficial for justice-involved women. The committee, along with Probation, will be working with Hope on a Mission tonight, July 25th, to pass out resource guides and serve meals to those in need. Their next meeting will be held in-person on the 8th of August. There were no questions.

Special Populations—Jon Heller

Jon reported that the committee met on June 12th. RESTART Quality Assurance is focused on preparing for training and staffing at the JTC. The 3-hour RESTART training for the jail staff and the 8-hour training for corrections officers assigned to the RESTART unit has concluded. RESTART staff indicated it was successful and there was positive feedback from corrections officers as well. They had MRT, DV-MRT, Interactive Journaling and Fidelity meetings on June 15th. RESTART had 30 men, nine of whom were on MAT and eight women, six of whom were on MAT. Kelly reported that Sex Offender Treatment is status quo. She will start reporting quarterly stats at their next meeting. The Incarcerated People with Special Needs Committee continues to meet monthly and has been successful in making the appropriate connections for individuals. Jean-Marie discussed a state initiative to create a hospital step-down that is being piloted in different parts of the state. Medication Assisted Treatment subcommittee met on June 1st. They reported 51 individuals on MAT at the jail. Jean-Marie reported that the study on incarcerated persons who later overdosed has been completed and she will be presenting her findings soon. There was further discussion on the state residential pilot program initiative for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness.

Juvenile Justice—Sandy Carroll

Sandy reported that they are continuing to provide an evidence-based trauma screening and intervention curriculum. Mary Ellen added that they are also continuing with technical assistance training. Some of the interventions here in Dutchess County will be used to assist other counties. The committee is working on a tentative meeting date for September. There were no questions.

Police Reform & Reinvention— Shawn Castano

Mary Ellen thanked Shawn for coordinating with Undersheriff Mark to present the Police Reform and Community Policing model.. Shawn announced that the Deputy Sheriff/Police Officer exam will be held on September 9th and yesterday was the deadline to apply. He will report to the Council in September on the number of applicants. He will also discuss the academic and physical test preparation for the candidates to be successful. There were no questions.

6. **Old Business**— None

7. **New Business**— None.

8. **Announcements**— None.

9. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Angell, seconded by Jon Heller.

Next Meeting- September 26, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at 230 North Rd. (in-person)