

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council**
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023

- Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Kevin Warwick, 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
Matthew Weishaupt, District Attorney's Office
Pastor John Perez, Citizen Appointment, Faith Temple Church
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment
Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Deputy Commissioner, DBCH
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims Committee Chair
Sandy Carroll, Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Hon. Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt
Hon. Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
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
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
John Gildard, Citizen Appt
Michele Romano, Coordinator
- Guests: Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Paul Spagnoli, Dutchess County Probation
Sheena Walsh, D.C. Jail
Molly Shanley

1. **Approval of July 25, 2023 Minutes**-The minutes of May 25, 2023 were approved on a motion by Judge Frank Mora, seconded by Pastor John Perez.
2. **Jail/ATI/Safe Act Report -Therese Lee, Mary Ellen Still, Jean-Marie Niebuhr –**
The August Jail/ATI/Safe Act reports were sent electronically. There were no questions.
3. **Presentation on Special Populations and the RESTART Program in the Justice and Transitions Center by Consultant Kevin Warwick**
Kevin presented a PowerPoint presentation on the RESTART program in the Justice and Transitions Center. He discussed the mission, the transition from jail to the community, the goal of RESTART, and the new Justice and Transitions Center design benefits. There was further discussion on the new facility and its programs.
4. **Planning and Research Update—Gary Christensen**
Gary is working closely with the Public Defender's office. They have identified a study sample of 503 Judicial Diversion cases. There was significant discussion regarding the research project and its long-term continuing benefit.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Quality Assurance—Gary Christensen, Tom Angell, Bill Grady

Gary continues to monitor the jail's weekly population. He noted that the jail population is at 238, with a trend of increasing admissions. There was significant discussion on the new facility's benefits compared to the old facility.

Raise The Age Update—Hon. Joseph Egitto

Judge Egitto was unable to attend.

Centralized Arraignment—Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia

Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia was unable to attend.

Diversion— Steve Miccio

Steve was unavailable to attend the meeting. Jean-Marie reported that the Stabilization Center is busy due to children returning to school. The numbers have increased. She discussed the licensing process and how it is progressing. There were no questions.

Victims—Kelly Bunt

Kelly reported the Victims Committee is working on hosting a focus group that will be held virtually. Kelly discussed the challenges they are having in getting victims to participate in the focus group. The tentative date of the focus group has been moved to the 5th of October. There were no questions.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell

Tom reported that he recently attended the graduation ceremony for the Judicial Diversion program. He discussed the overwhelming emotions of seeing someone that was struggling with addictions transform into a productive member of our community. Tom said that the committee met on the 17th of August. They continue to have well attended meetings. They had a very good presentation by ACCES-VR. They discussed vocational rehabilitation for people coming back to the community from prison. Their next meeting is on the 19th of October. They will have a presentation by Clearwater Counseling. They are a mental health group specializing in sexual offender support and services. 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 discussed the committee's past forums. She asked any members who 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 was unable to attend. Cherrell reported that the committee had a presentation on September 17th by Hudson River Housing on financial literacy. They discussed how they meet with each individual and go over their finances line by line. The committee has invited Hudson River Housing to give their presentation to Probation and Project M.O.R.E. The committee, along with Probation, worked with Hope on a Mission September 26th to pass out resource guides and serve meals to those in need. Their next meeting will be held in-person on the 14th of November. There were no questions.

Special Populations—Jon Heller

Jon reported that the committee met on the 25th of September. They had a tour of the Justice & Transitions Center's RESTART areas. They had updates from RESTART, Sex Offender Treatment, Incarcerated Individuals with Special Needs, Mental Health Community Challenges and Medication Assisted Treatment subcommittees. RESTART is currently on pause because of COVID. They currently have 36 men, 14 of whom were on MAT and 13 women, seven of whom were on MAT. Kelly gave her update on sex offender treatment. They have recently hired a bilingual part-time therapist. They are also hiring a psychiatrist in October to do eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy to treat individuals who have experienced trauma. The Special Needs subcommittee continues to meet monthly. Their next meeting will be in October. Mental Health Community Challenges continues to struggle with housing needs. MAT continues to go well. The next meeting will be on the 30th of October. There were no questions.

Juvenile Justice—Sandy Carroll

Sandy reported that they started their child trauma screening on the 15th of June. A group led by a mental health professional will be starting. Sandy announced that they have a new DBCH mental health professional on-site who started on August 29th. There are 2 YPIs starting at local high schools--one at John Jay in October and the other at Ketcham in November. Sandy explained the committee has decided to restructure and she will give updates at future meetings. There were no questions.

Police Reform & Reinvention— Shawn Castano

Shawn reported that the committee's next meeting will be on 24th of October and they are going to discuss the recent Deputy Sheriff/Police Officer exam that was administered on the 9th of September. They have done a comparison of the number of applicants that took the exam in 2021 and compared it to the current exam. In 2021, there were 1400 applicants and for the current exam there were 505 applicants, with 437 that were approved to take the exam and 371 that sat for the exam. They will further discuss how to improve the recruitment efforts and increase the diversity among the applicants for the next exam. There was further discussion on NYS Trooper recruitment. There were no questions.

6. **Old Business**— None

7. **New Business**— Shawn said he received praise from the National Fire Academy over our county's collaboration on the Juvenile Firesetters (J-FIRE) training program that was held on the 30th and 31st of August. They had just under 50 participants.

8. **Announcements**— None

9. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn was made by Jon Heller, seconded by John Gildard.

Next Meeting- November 28, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in-person at 230 North Rd. in Poughkeepsie.