

**DUTCHESS COUNTY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL  
SPECIAL POPULATONS COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes—April 16, 2018

**Present:** Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections  
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections  
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant  
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative  
Charles Robitaille, DBCH  
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.  
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair  
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court  
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail  
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant  
Mark Sasvary, HVMH  
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC  
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator

**1. Approval of February 26, 2018 and March 5, 2018 meeting minutes** – The minutes of February 26, 2018 and March 5, 2018 were approved on a motion by Tom Angell and seconded by Mary Ellen Still.

**2. RESTART Update** – Charlie reported that they are focusing on screening people within 24 hours of admission. Lexington Center for Recovery is helping to make sure that people with a significant heroin history who have begun vivitrol in the jail are getting to their appointments in the community for vivitrol shots. Exodus is working with parolees and the general population of local incarcerated inmates. The Department of Behavioral Health also has someone committed to doing case management in the community. RESTART staff also take people to appointments. Hudson Valley Mental Health now has a licensed Behavioral Health Practitioner. There is a new social worker starting this month. Jon added that Probation has assigned a dedicated probation officer to RESTART.

Sam asked Marty if there were results for the work training program. Marty said that they are taking referrals from RESTART and ITAP and anyone connected to Probation. They go through MRT as part of the curriculum as well as the evidence-based program, Ready, Set, Work. They are ahead of their projections for the program this year. People are completing the program and finding employment. There is a very low dropout rate.

**3. Quality Assurance** - Jon reported they have been reviewing data from Gary on people who were sentenced and served 60 days or more with a proxy score of 4-6. We are updating our tracking system. Kevin added that most importantly we are speaking to people early about the benefits of RESTART. Jon said we have taken steps to engage the population earlier in the process and to incentivize RESTART. Kevin added that the TCU process will also help us identify potential candidates earlier. Jon said that generally the longer people stay in jail without treatment; the less likely they are to engage in a program. Tom Angell said that one area where things are not going as fast as it could is judicial

diversion. Marty said that research shows that people in the system should be exposed to the same fundamental message. Marty said he is delighted that every individual touching the system in Dutchess County is getting the same core message: MRT, DBT etc.

Kevin added that the TCU meeting went well and people are thinking and working as a team. Jon said that the computer center, OCIS, is hosting the data for Probation and DBCH. Gary said that the integration of TCU results in this county over the last few months is a major step forward because it gives us screening information and helps to put people on the appropriate track early in the process. Gary said we can now measure results and track outcomes.

#### **4. Dialectical Behavior Therapy – Mark Sasvary, LCSW HVMH**

Mark gave a presentation on this intervention that is used in the jail RESTART program. It is a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program. It is a flexible type of therapy that is evidence-based. DBT was originally developed to treat suicidal individuals diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder and is now recognized as the gold standard psychological treatment for this population. Research has also shown that it is effective in treating a wide range of other disorders such as substance dependence, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and eating disorders. The complete power point will be e-mailed to all committee members. Tom Angell said this is a very encouraging report and thanked Mark and Charlie for the work they are doing on this.

Jon said that the feedback from the focus groups regarding DBT has all been positive. Sam asked if there is opportunity in the community for others to use DBT. Mark said there are opportunities, but you must have the proper training and support and maintain fidelity to the model. Agencies really need to be invested in the process and you have to practice the skills. Training is 35 hours for 2 weeks and that is just the beginning of the training process for DBT. There is also a cost. Marty added that this is also a fairly long-term therapy.

#### **5. Other Business-**

Marty announced that they have scheduled two cognitive behavioral trainings. The Correctional Counseling Organization will provide domestic violence training. It is the same company that produces MRT; it follows the same model. The training is in the middle of May, followed by MRT in June. Tom said the fact that Marty is talking about an evidence-based program for people who have been convicted of domestic violence is an important step forward. Tom said that domestic violence cases are sometimes not seen as a special population; we need to fold this group in as well. Tom is hoping that the committee can look into that further. The primary program that we use right now, DAAC, is not an evidence-based program. Tom asked if Family Services has been brought into the conversation. Mary Ellen said Family Services has been invited to participate in this training.

Jon said that the Anderson school training was very good with positive feedback

**May meeting – May 7 at 10:30 a.m.**

**June meeting – June 25 at 10:30 a.m.**

**6. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Ellen Still, seconded by Marty Lynch.**