

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

Meeting Minutes—January 22, 2018

Present: Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Dr. Gary Christensen, Consultant
Charles Robitaille, DBCH
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Jason Bailor, Lexington Center for Recovery
Kevin Hazucha, HVMH
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator

- 1. Approval of November Minutes** – The minutes were approved on a motion by Lt. Milkovich and seconded by Judge Mora.
- 2. RESTART Update** – Charlie reported that RESTART is going well and has 50 males and 20 females. The program is fully staffed currently but one opening is expected. HVMH has some potential candidates and doesn't expect the position to be open for long. There is coverage for all groups.
- 3. RESTART Quality Assurance**-- Jon reported they are reviewing personnel procedures and may make some minor changes. They reviewed the MRT meeting that was held on December 20 among 35 MRT facilitators from nine different agencies to promote fidelity to the curriculum. MRT forms the basis for all of our programming. Charlie and Kevin provided an overview of quality assurance. Tom Jones presented on portability. Marty Lynch presented the MRT fidelity check list. There was discussion on facilitating the MRT at various locations and establishing local guidelines. All agreed to co-facilitate groups outside of their own agencies. Jon feels very confident that we are doing MRT consistently across the board and the group will meet again in March. Exodus will have people at the March meeting. MRT trained people had left their agency so they are in the process of getting new people trained. Jason said that a possible issue with cross facilitation could be confidentiality. This issue will be addressed at the March meeting. Sam asked about the number of people going from jail RESTART to community RESTART. Charlie said that people on the probation track will generally go to CTC or the Women's Center. Those not under supervision are contacted within the first week of their release. Charlie continued that we verify they have kept their appointments. If not, we re-connect them and link them again. Jon said they are working vigorously to make those connections in the community. Gary is working on a data base that will include all the sentenced population. We

want the long term sentenced population to be a priority. Gary is working on a data base with identifiers for people who have scored between 4 and 6 on the Proxy and going to be sentenced to more than 45 days. Jon continued that assessments are getting done sooner and participants in RESTART know their aftercare plan. The TCU increased our ability to complete assessments sooner and provide information to the courts.

Kevin reported that they are meeting tomorrow on the jail plans which look very good, but are still in review. The architects and entire team have been great to work with. In working with architects all over the country, Kevin said our planning process and planners are superb. There is group space in all the units and the ability to provide programming everywhere in the facility. The RESTART units have tremendous space. The infirmary is also very well developed. Sam asked if we could see the design. Kevin wasn't sure exactly when the design would be ready for release, but it should be soon. Kevin noted that the committee had seen the draft and not much has changed.

4. Best practice for mental health clients in jail--review of current practice -Steve Miccio

Around the state, people with 730 evaluations and subsequent court orders for hospitalization are being told there are no beds. Steve said his plan is to create a survey and go to a local conference of mental hygiene directors. Steve will ask them what they are experiencing in their counties and to communicate with their local jails. Steve wants to get more data to see what is happening in the jails. It is inhumane treatment to keep someone in the jail when they need to be in a hospital. It is also not fair to the staff in the jail and other inmates. Steve wants a better idea of the scope of the problem so when he goes to the Trade Associations he can build a strong agenda for advocacy with the state. We are now dealing with basic human rights, we are dealing with safety. Gary added that besides all the human rights issues, the cost is astronomical. Steve wants a strong agenda because he is going to go through the mental health association of New York State, NAMI and the Association of Psychiatric Rehabs. He will have a meeting with everyone once he has all the data.

Steve has started with some questions that he wants to ask: What is the average number of people that are incarcerated in the jail that receive a 730 evaluation? Is there a baseline we can look at? What barriers exist? Has the delay of moving someone or the denial of moving someone caused injuries in the jail? What types of injuries? Who is being injured: the individual, staff, other inmates? What types of physical restraints or other options are being used in the jail to keep people safe? Is there an additional cost to using these methods? How much overtime is used? Steve would like to get the annualized cost. Steve will work with Winnie and Charlie to get these numbers. Gary will try to get data on how many people are released to a state hospital. Kevin added that this issue is occurring throughout the state and it is not specific to Dutchess. Winnie said that most officers out on workers comp have injuries related to situations where the inmates should not have been in the jail due to mental health issues. Tom said that another issue is the inability to place anybody on a 2PC (psychiatric evaluation) anymore. Charlie said that it is still a bed issue. Other concerns include people with OPWDD and severe mental health issues with nowhere to go.

Steve said there is another issue he is working on: transitional housing for the homeless that is supervised and focused on getting them permanent housing. This is a new model that Steve's agency is proposing to the state. Steve said that they need to evolve their housing system to meet today's needs. Steve is working on this with the trade associations to create a new type of housing as it seems the jail has become a housing source. Steve said that the Office of Mental Health gave

Dutchess County eight specialized beds for forensic services. They made the specifications so stringent that we were only able to house one person. They then took the money back from us and said we weren't meeting criteria. Steve said he is going back to them to say they need a different housing program or service that is going to work. Gary said the state is trying to leave no other option but for us to do it ourselves. The only other option may be a law suit. Tom wants to know what resources currently exist in the community and what can be realigned so we are not keeping mentally ill people in jail just because they are mentally ill. Tom suggested getting Maureen Murphy, who runs the SPOA program, to look at that with us.

Other Business - none

Next meeting – The next meeting will be February 26 at 10:30 a.m. Location will be confirmed.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Angell, seconded by Winnie Milkovich.