

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

Meeting Minutes—June 25, 2018

- Present:** Jonathan Heller, Chairman, 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
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator
- Guests:** Karmen Smallwood, D. C. Probation & Community Corrections
Denise Rivera – Project M.O.R.E.

1. **Approval of May Minutes** – The minutes of May 7, 2018 were approved on a motion by Sam Busselle and seconded by Winnie Milkovich.

2. **Quality Assurance Update** –Jon Heller
Jon reported on RESTART quality assurance. May statistics are encouraging. Referrals to community programs are up and there is an uptick in community supervision numbers as well. Project MORE has applied for a grant through DCJS that could bolster staffing in RESTART. Awards will be announced on or about July 20. The grant will start in January 2019.

3. **RESTART Update – Charlie Robitaille**

✓ Charlie reported that there were 18 successful completions in May. There have been a few instances where people who were taken off the unit later returned. Non-supervision cases can come to CTC for aftercare between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and our RESTART staff is available to them.

✓ Kevin added that they are scheduling a quality assurance meeting in September with all agencies facilitating MRT. Bringing all the agencies together and learning from each other has been very beneficial and helps maintain fidelity to the model.

Sam asked about recent recidivism numbers. Kevin said that Gary provided two updates about six months ago. The numbers have been positive so far. Marty added that one measurement looks at those who went through the program and were not readmitted to the jail within a year.

4. **Denise Rivera and Karmen Smallwood--Update on the Women's Center**

Denise Rivera and Karmen Smallwood joined our meeting to report on the Women's Center. Denise reported that the center's hours have been expanded. They now offer evening hours until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays which helps accommodate working women. The program is funded by New York State.

The center serves women who are referred by the Office of Probation. There are two case managers on staff who serve a combined total of over 50 clients. Programs offered are Ready, Set, Work, MRT, anger management, case management as well as a nutritional program run by Hudson Valley Food Bank which teaches women how to cook nutritional meals on a low budget. The center also offers transportation and child care while moms are in group.

There is a probation officer on site Tuesday through Thursday. Case managers help navigate services in the community such as housing, medical, and employment. Along with the COMPAS, the center uses the WRNA needs assessment tool. The WRNA includes both gender-neutral and gender-responsive factors and supplements existing risk/needs assessments. The WRNA highlights such areas as PTSD, physical/sexual abuse, relationship difficulties, housing safety, and self-efficacy. The center also has a resource room with computers for participants to use. Case managers help with resumes. The center also offers Interactive Journaling.

Kevin commented that women always talk about having a place where they feel safe at the focus groups. In addition to the programming that happens at the Women's Center, it is a place that women said they feel safe. Doing evidence-based programming that is also trauma informed is very important.

Karmen gave an overview of Interactive Journaling. It is an evidence-based program. The COMPAS assessment is utilized as its framework. The journals are tailored to the identified needs in the COMPAS. Journals are designed to help participants improve coping and social skills as well as planning and thought processing skills. Interactive Journaling may be done during one-on-one sessions or in groups. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Karmen said she would love to see Interactive Journaling in many different settings. Karmen passed around the journals for the committee to view. Kevin asked if this can be used as a stand-alone program. Karmen said it could be done independent of another program.

Sam asked about growth potential. Karmen said her plan is to roll it out to 10 women and as we get more people trained as facilitators we can increase the numbers. There are plans to have more people trained in the very near future. Tom Angell asked if this was for both men and women. Karmen said it may be used for males and females and there is also a journal for juveniles. Kevin added it would make a great addition to RESTART.

Tom asked what kind of research we have on the Women's Center. Marty said the state does a bi-annual review of all of the programs they fund. Kevin said he would like to see this program grow. Marty said they are actively looking for resources to expand this program; grants and other possibilities. They need more staff due to the rapid growth of the program. Marty said that they were lucky to encounter an architect that had a building and was willing to design the space to our needs. It's an excellent location for the program.

Women must be under some form of supervision by Probation. Female residents of Transitional Housing may also go to the Women's Center for specific services. Marty added that the setting for service delivery has a big impact.

5. Other Business -

Tom asked about the status of changing Transitional Housing to a male facility and having a separate residence for women. Marty said that they keep looking at properties and have not found the right one. The need is there. Jon said that we continue to look for opportunities.

Tom Angell said that Project MORE has continued to focus on evidence-based programing and should be commended for this work. The other primary programing we have is ITAP. Tom asked about programming and outcomes for ITAP as well. Kevin responded that ITAP has moved toward a more evidence-based approach. They now have MRT facilitators. In addition, the introduction of the TCU screening tool has provided an evidence-based component. Kevin said that there are a lot of advantages to public/private partnerships. Regarding gender responsiveness, Kevin said we learned a lot for RESTART from the Women's Center. In the new building, we want to be gender-responsive.

Marty said that he has observed that attempting to treat substance abuse or alcoholism without addressing criminogenic factors is not going to be very effective. Conversely, if you fail to address addiction along with criminogenic factors, outcomes will not be as favorable. You have to treat both simultaneously. Kevin said the same is true for co-occurring disorders and trauma. Kevin said we need to look at the data and evaluate the results.

6. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Winnie Milkovich, seconded by Charlie Robitaille.

Next Meetings:

July 30 at 10:30 a.m.

August 27 at 10:30 a.m.