

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

Meeting Minutes—March 5, 2018

Present: Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Charles Robitaille, DBCH
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator

1. Minutes - The minutes of February 26 were not yet available.

2. RESTART update –Charlie said they added the New Directions program for co-occurring disorders. In an effort to coordinate screenings, RESTART staff will make contact with the probation officer who does the screening at the jail for pretrial services. Tom Angell said that Gary had specific suggestions on who to target for RESTART. Tom asked if all eligible people were considered for RESTART. Jon responded that we have reviewed the data supplied by Gary. Due to jail coding issues, some people who appeared not to be in RESTART actually were. This will be corrected. For various classification reasons, some were not eligible and others refused. Kevin said that we are looking at incentives and specific strategies to encourage those who are eligible, but refuse, to participate. Motivational Interviewing and Stages of Change will be used. Additional incentives will also be explored. Facilitating quick placement into RESTART after admission will be helpful as well.

3. RESTART Quality Assurance Update - Jon said the Probation Department will dedicate an officer to RESTART both during the program and post-release. We will start with violations of probation and branch out to other cases. Tom Angell and Bill Grady are supportive of this. Kevin said this also helps with bridging and post-release planning.

Quality Assurance has worked on consistency in the use of MRT across agencies. Kevin feels we should see the positive impact of using the same programming across the system. All programs are evidence-based and trauma focused.

Kevin sent information on a curriculum for women called Helping Women Recover by Stephanie Covington. It is a substance abuse curriculum that doesn't replace Seeking Safety, but could replace New Directions for women. Incarcerated Women and staff working in programs tend to like this program which focuses on trauma. Kevin feels that it should be considered as it is used by most gender responsive programs for women

4. Overview of Focus Groups for RESTART – Men and Women--Information on the recent focus groups held at the jail was distributed. The women interviewed felt that the program is having an impact. Women said this is the first time they were in a program that helped them with trauma. We know that research shows if you don't affect the trauma you are having limited impact. They liked Seeking Safety and MRT and suggested more classes including a classes that address issues of domestic violence. The women felt that the staff was supportive. They would like to see more domestic violence groups and a class that focuses on victimization and domestic violence issues. They would like help with getting into a safe environment and safe housing. Jon said that there were three participants in the focus group that were very clearly repeat victims of domestic violence. In at least two of the cases, it was directly related to the offense that got them into the jail. One of the things they talked about was aftercare, specifically at the Women's Center. They felt that aftercare at the Women's Center would be helpful. Some women are eligible for services at the Women's Center because they are on probation. This is a consideration we should think about. The Women's Center is 100 % DCJS funded and therefore has eligibility criteria set by the state. We had hoped to be awarded the Second Chance Act grant which had a position for the Women's Center. Mary Ellen said that we are looking for another opportunity. Mark said that Family Services has a crime victims/domestic violence services unit that might be able to do some intervention. Mark said he will be happy to work on that. Kevin said the final issue the women discussed is the lack of a designated unit for them at the jail. We do not have a solution for that in the present jail, but the new facility will address this. Feedback from the focus groups has helped with the design of program areas of the new facility.

The men's group had similar observations. The men really like the DBT groups. Tom asked for a presentation on DBT which will occur in April. The men like MRT and feel that they will be able to use those skills when released. The men also said that they wanted additional classes. They talked about post-release and aftercare. They also mentioned housing as a need as they return to the community. A number of people are using the Salvation Army. Charlie said if they are eligible, a SPOA is done. Tom said he thinks it is important for all Corrections Officers to be trained to support the RESTART program model. Winnie agreed that having designated officers in the new facility for RESTART would be helpful. Charlie would be happy to put a curriculum together for COs about RESTART. Kevin said that evidence based program like RESTART takes about 4 to 5 years to fully develop.

5. Other Business – The Anderson school will facilitate training this Thursday for the Public Defender's Office, the Jail nursing staff and Probation on how to effectively deal with people involved in the criminal justice system that are also on the autism spectrum. A similar training will be offered for Corrections Officers.

Mark is putting together training on Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD. It is a 12-session protocol. It is evidence-based and has shown to be effective in multiple environments. The participants don't have to talk about their trauma directly, but it discusses problems and symptoms associated with traumatic experiences. Mark thought this program could be considered for RESTART.

Next meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Miccio, seconded by Jon Heller.