

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

Meeting Minutes—May 7, 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  
Mark Sasvary, HVMH  
Kevin Hazucha, HVMH  
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC  
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney  
Bill Eckert, DBCH  
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator

**Guest:** Linda Woodbine, CORE (Lexington Center for Recovery)

1. **Approval of April Minutes** – The minutes of April 16, 2018 were approved on a motion by Mary Ellen Still and seconded by Sam Busselle.
2. **RESTART Update** – Charlie reported that RESTART is fully staffed. Charlie ordered more work books for the New Directions program. *Stages of Change* is also offered. Charlie said they continue to offer DBT on both the male and female units.
3. Kevin thanked Jon Heller for all his work as chair of this committee and the other subcommittees as well.
4. **Quality Assurance for RESTART** – Jon reported that at their meeting earlier today they reviewed the model we are using for Violations of Probation. A dedicated probation officer has been assigned to the RESTART caseload. Once a person has been accepted into RESTART as a result of a violation, they will be assigned to that officer immediately. The officer will meet participants on the unit and will continue to supervise them once they are released back into the community on probation. This process will foster consistency and added support. Outcome measures will be tracked. Jon said they are re-screening people who initially refused RESTART and found that sometimes they reconsider. Kevin said cases are processing more efficiently. Kevin added that we also have more community-based linkages for people when they get out.

5. **Linda Woodbine, PhD – Program Director for CORE** – (Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Expansion Program) – Linda joined our meeting to talk about the new CORE program funded by a grant through Lexington Center for Recovery. The purpose of the program is to connect people to services and support. They will do intakes in the field.

This grant is only for Dutchess County and only for opioid users. Linda said that identifying people can be challenging. Linda said they have been working with the methadone clinic. A growing population is women. There is a lot of CPS involvement and domestic violence. These are incredibly complex cases. Linda said they are working with public health nurses as well as Hudson River Health Care and DCFS. There is also a criminal justice population that is in need. CORE tries, as much as possible, to connect the opioid users with Medically Assisted Treatment. Having people come every day for their methadone gives staff the opportunity to talk to them and develop a relationship.

They are expanding their service and have hired four new counselors to handle the increase in cases. CORE is also working with Hudson River Health Care's suboxone doctor. Linda said that about 70% of the methadone clients are also severely and persistently mentally ill. Lexington has hired a new psychiatrist to work with them. CORE has hired someone who will be available until midnight. Tom Angell said that it is his experience that clients on methadone are more likely to show up for court, more likely to be employed and less likely to get re-arrested.

Linda spoke about getting involved in RESTART aftercare. Data shows that 70% of people coming out of an institution don't show up for their first appointment. What has worked for the CORE team is to meet people at the time of, or just before, they are released. Bill Grady said that our biggest challenge is coordination. Linda said that a big advantage of their program is that they are salaried and not governed by insurance rules. They can do case work, go to court, meet clients where they are, etc. Normally, insurance wouldn't cover these activities. Linda added that any policy we come up with should take into consideration that the opioid user is like no other. They normally need to work with a person for a year before the person is ready to fully engage in their recovery.

There was discussion on pre-arrest and post arrest and how cases with opioid involvement are handled. Tom Angell said this is a whole different way of approaching substance abuse and there needs to be a whole shift in thinking about how we deal with substance abuse by those of us in the system. We have a lot of resources, but the key is coordination. Bill Grady agreed that we need a collective approach. Tom Angell thinks that in some cases a pre-arrest diversion program might be appropriate.

Jon Heller thanked Linda for coming to the meeting.

Sam asked if we could look at the number of people that have gone through the Stabilization Center and see how many have also been through the criminal justice system. Bill Eckert said he thinks that would be an interesting study and will see if that information is available.

**June meeting** – June 25 at 10:30 a.m. at PSB, 505 Main St., Poughkeepsie.

**July meeting** – July 30.

**6. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Angell, seconded by Bill Grady.

