

Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2023

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Co-Chair
Matthew Weishaupt, Dutchess County District Attorney's Office
Pastor John Perez, Citizen Appointment, Faith Temple Church
Martin Lynch, Citizen Appointment
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appointment
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims Committee
Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, Commissioner of Behavioral & Comm. Health
Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Deputy Commissioner, DBCH
Sandy Carroll, Probation, Juvenile Justice Co-Chair
Hon. Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Hon. Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Court
Hon. Denise Watson, Dutchess County Family Court
Hon. Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
John Penney, Community Engagement Director City of Poughkeepsie
Alisyn Gaffney, D.C Probation, Justice-Involved Women's Co-Chair
Shirley Adams, Catharine St. Center, CIC Chair
Anthony Pica, Deputy Superintendent D.C. Jail
Shawn Castano, Dept. of Emergency Response, Police Reform & Reinvention Chair
Michele Romano, Coordinator

Guests: Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Paul Spagnoli, Dutchess County Probation
Megan Chetner, Dutchess County Probation
Sheena Walsh, D.C. Jail
Jody Miller, Executive Director of Human Rights, DBCH
Gully Stanford, Elected Board Member OF Dutchess County BOCES

1. **Approval of March 14, 2023 Minutes**-The minutes of March 14, 2023 were approved on a motion by Shawn Castano, seconded by Hon. Frederick Romig.
2. **Jail/ATI/Safe Act Report -Therese Lee, Mary Ellen Still, Jean-Marie Niebuhr –**
The April Jail/ATI/Safe Act reports were sent electronically. There were no questions.
3. **Presentation on Police Reform and Community Policing—DC Sheriff's Office**
Shawn announced that the Police Reform and Community Policing Model presentation will be postponed until further notice.
4. **Planning and Research Update—Gary Christensen**
Gary reported that bail reform was amended again effective the 1st of June; the fourth such modification. Gary and Jon further discussed the changes to the Bail Reform Law. This

change will eliminate the “least restrictive” standard and replace it with what existed before bail reform. It will permit judges to base pretrial conditions on the kind and degree of control or restriction necessary to reasonably assure the principals’ return to court. Judges will be given more discretion to set bail and detain people on bail eligible offenses. Judges can set bail either on its own or in combination with non-monetary conditions and additional criteria. Other requirements mandate OCA to provide monthly reports on pretrial jail commitment broken down by county, age, gender, race ethnicity, top arrest, and arraignment charge. There was further discussion on bail reform and potential impacts.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Quality Assurance—Gary Christensen, Tom Angell, Bill Grady — Gary reported that he continues to monitor the jail’s weekly population. The jail is housing some of their population out to accommodate staff training for the new JTC. There were no questions.

Raise The Age Update—Hon. Joseph Egitto

Judge Egitto was unable to attend. Mary Ellen reported on Westchester County’s plans for an 80-bed new detention facility. It will take several years to build. Judge Watson discussed juvenile statistics and raising the lower age of juvenile delinquency. She further discussed the youth bed shortage and children falling through the cracks. There was further discussion on the bed shortage and mental health issues among the youth population.

Centralized Arraignment—Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia

Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia was unable to attend. Mary Ellen reported that the Centralized Arraignment Committee’s main focus is establishing a location for Centralized Arraignment and that progress is being made. There was further discussion on the importance of establishing Centralized Arraignment. There were no questions.

Diversion— Steve Miccio

Steve was unavailable to attend the meeting.

Victims—Kelly Bunt

Kelly reported that the Victims Committee continues to discuss creating focus groups. There were no questions.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell

Tom reported that the committee met on the 20th of April. They had a presentation on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion initiative (LEAD) program with a focus on how the program can potentially impact or interact with Parole. Their next meeting will be held on the 15th of June. They will have the District Superintendent of BOCES discuss vocational programs BOCES offers to individuals returning to our community from prison. There were no questions.

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the Community Involvement Committee hosted their public virtual forum: “The rising number of deaths: The opioid epidemic.” The forum took place on the 6th of April. Shirley and Jon will send out the link upon request. Shirley thanked the CJC for the resources that were used to make it successful. The committee is working on new topics to host another forum. There were no questions.

Justice-Involved Women — Alisyn Gaffney and Cherrell Evans-Tillery

Alisyn reported that the committee discussed tentative dates for hosting their community event at the Adriance Memorial Library. The committee, along with Probation, worked with Hope on a Mission to pass out resource guides and serve meals to those in need. They are anticipating Marist College will present their findings from the study they conducted last year. They are also looking for new members for their committee.

Special Populations—Jon Heller

Jon reported that the committee met on May 8th. They had their regular updates from RESTART, Sex Offender Treatment, Incarcerated Individuals with Special Needs, Mental Health Community Challenges and Medication Assisted Treatment subcommittees. RESTART Quality Assurance was focused on training at the JTC. The 3-hour MAT training for all Correction Officers was completed on the 25th of May and it was very successful. The 8-hour training for officers assigned to RESTART is scheduled for June 16th. The MRT/DV-MRT Fidelity group meeting is scheduled for the 15th of June. The RESTART program has 28 men; 10 are on MAT and five women; all on MAT. The total number on MAT at the Jail is 48. Mental Health Community Challenges will meet today. Sex Offender Treatment is status quo. Incarcerated People with Special Needs Committee continues to meet monthly. The remainder of the meeting was focused on services and the new facility. The next meeting will be virtual on June 12th.

Juvenile Justice—Sandy Carroll

As a result of the recent technical assistance, the Orders and Conditions of Probation for juveniles is being revised. The first Raise the Lower Age case went to DCFS on the 15th of February. They graduated the Youth Police Initiative (YPI) sixth session in April. Strengthening Families program continues. Camp Nootemung summer program continues. The Parents as Driving Partners, an initiative to provide safe driving information to parents/guardians with teen drivers also continues. The Juvenile Firesetter (J-FIRE) program will have a staff training the 30th and 31st of August. Their next meeting will be on the 29th of June. There were no questions.

Police Reform & Reinvention— Shawn Castano

Shawn reported that the Police Reform subcommittee met on April 25th. They had a virtual presentation by Sheriff Kirk Imperati and Under Sheriff Jason Mark regarding progress with their Police Reform & Reinvention plan. They also provided the committee with an update on a Community Policing model they plan to implement. There is a planned presentation to the CJC today that was postponed to a future date. There were no questions.

6. **Old Business**— None

7. **New Business**— There was discussion on the new JTC building configuration.

8. **Announcements**— Jean-Marie invited Jody Miller, Executive Director of Human Rights in DBCH to announce The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond--Undoing Racism Workshop, a virtual training on October 11, 18 and 25 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

9. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn was made by John Gildard, seconded by John Penney.

Next Meeting- July 25, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting is in-person at 230 North Rd.