

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

Meeting Minutes—December 3, 2018

Present: Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Charles Robitaille, DBCH
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Bill Eckert, DBCH
Jean Marie Niebuhr, DBCH
Michael Miano, HVMH/FSI
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator
Kevin Warwick Consultant ASAI

1. Approval of October Minutes – The minutes of October 29, 2018 were approved on a motion by Marty Lynch, seconded by Tom Angell.

2. RESTART update – Charlie reported that on Tuesdays and Fridays all inmates in classification are screened to determine eligibility for RESTART. There were 36 admissions in October and 14 successful completions. Many of the unsuccessful discharges are for disciplinary reasons or as a result of a request to be removed from the RESTART unit.

A representative of the CORE program came to the last flow meeting to discuss how we will streamline and utilize the CORE program and MATs. Charlie added that occasionally we have someone who has been sentenced to state prison and when they are discharged we have connected them to community services. Kevin added that with the new funding we will have more ability for work in the community.

3. Quality Assurance Update – Jon reported that RESTART Quality Assurance Committee met this morning. The bulk of the meeting was used to prepare for another joint staff meeting with the Public Defender's office and the District Attorney's office which will take place later today. At this meeting the new RESTART enhancement, RESTART Interim Option (RIO) will be discussed. This will target a group of recidivists who have exhausted most or all of our community based ATIs. This group typically spends from 7 to 9 months in the jail on a repeated basis. After screening, courts will be notified through the attorneys that RIO might be an appropriate option. Participants will have eight weeks of intensive RESTART intervention at the jail with an agreement releasing them to Interim Supervision under Probation to finish up their RESTART program in the community. Once they achieve completion and have their certificates to provide to the court, the courts and the attorneys involved will be able to construct an appropriate disposition based on their success in the program. Kevin added that the pathway for people will be clearer through this process. Jon said that the courts will have access to RESTART discharge plans. Tom added that the benefit for the client is completion of treatment and being released sooner. Mary Ellen said this will use existing resources in a unique way to reach those

people who may reject treatment and would otherwise choose to do their time in jail. We provide an incentive for treatment and realign services with no additional costs. After the presentation for the attorneys today, Jon and other members will go to each of the courts to explain RIO.

4. Report from MAT work group –Tom reported for the Special Populations Workgroup on MAT utilization in the criminal justice system. The workgroup’s mission is “to re-envision the criminal justice system’s response to the opioid crisis and substance use disorders and to improve access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) modalities at all levels of the criminal justice system.” MAT Information from Franklin County was sent out before the meeting to use as a reference tool. Tom Angell said that in speaking to an Assistant District Attorney, he learned that fentanyl is so dangerous that contact with it without protection can kill you. People who were arrested said that there is a market in Dutchess County for this product. Dutchess County is ranked as the number one county in New York State for this opioid problem. Jean Marie said research indicated that communities that made a difference introduced MATs into their correctional facilities and also connected people with MATs in their emergency rooms. Tom said he would like to have a recommendation come out of this committee to the Executive Committee of CJC requesting Dutchess County take some steps in that direction. Tom added that we want to see a new approach. We have been focusing on the jail, but there are other broader issues that we need addressed. Kevin said if you don’t attach resources, MAT programs will not be effective. Tom said currently when someone comes to the jail and they are addicted to opiates or are on methadone or suboxone they are detoxed except for pregnant women. If you look at the research, taking people off of MAT when they are incarcerated is not recommended.

The committee has developed a plan which is in three phases. In the first phase, they are recommending that people who come to jail on MAT be maintained on it while they are incarcerated. In addition, they are recommending that anyone that is incarcerated and has an opiate addiction be made aware of the community resources that are available for MAT. In Phase 2, people who come to the jail who are detoxing from opiates would be offered some form of MAT. The third phase recommendation is that anyone being released from the jail with a history of opiate addiction be offered MAT prior to being released from the jail.

There are currently about 10 people a month coming in on MAT and being maintained. Tom said that the Lexington Center for Recovery covers the cost. There is an arrangement with the jail medical staff to maintain people in need of medication. In order to expand, it is estimated the cost would be \$20,000 a year. That would pay for the methadone and counseling. Suboxone cannot be given under the current contract so this would need to be negotiated with the medical provider.

Kevin said there appears to be federal money available and we should find out how we can benefit from that. Kevin said he has never heard a jail start with induction providing MAT to all inmates with a history of Opiate use ; they always start with maintenance. There is a security component and cost to that as well. Kevin recommended that if we go to visit different sites, we should have a multidisciplinary team.

Discussion continued and it was agreed that the committee would make a recommendation to the CJC Executive Committee to explore phase 1.

5. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Martin Lynch, seconded by Shirley Adams.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 7, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.