

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

Meeting Minutes—October 1, 2018

**Present:** Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections  
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections  
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant  
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.  
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair  
Bill Eckert, DBCH  
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court  
Michael Miano, HVMH/FSI  
Marti Kardol, FSI  
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator

**Approval of June Minutes** – The minutes of August 27, 2018 were approved on a motion by Tom Angell and seconded by Shirley Adams.

**RESTART Update** – Jon reported that the Quality Assurance Committee met with Gary. We have data from Northpointe (COMPAS) which is used by Project M.O.R.E. We match this data with the jail's database so Gary can do recidivism studies. There was discussion about the RESTART list that Tom gets not reflecting the same information as the main list. Tom said he only has discharge data on his chart. Kevin had just reviewed the community referrals and inmates being discharged have a case plan. It was suggested that Tom get the Northpointe data which provides more information on discharge plans. Charlie said he would be happy to prepare a monthly chart. Kevin said he was in a flow meeting a month ago and everyone was being referred to a program. Charlie is very involved in the process. Charlie said there were 17 discharges in July; all 17 people were referred to a community program. Tom emphasized the importance of early screening and since August we have established a more rigorous screening process. All referrals to RESTART are now made by Probation to ensure consistency and linkages to the community. Tom believes early structuring of a sentence and judicial involvement is important.

Jon stated we received the grant from the state. The grant will provide additional case managers at the jail and will add a new program—Interactive Journaling.

**Quality Assurance Updates** – Sam asked if we have made progress regarding quality assurance. Tom answered that we have been focusing on individuals charged with Petit Larceny and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7<sup>th</sup> (misdemeanors) who have been incarcerated more than 30 days. Tom said that he found many had been offered substance abuse treatment and refused it. They chose to do their jail time instead.

Mike Miano reported that Mark Sasvary, who was on this committee for Hudson Valley Mental Health, has resigned. A replacement has not been assigned yet. HVMH and Family Services are working together and effective January 1, 2019 the two agencies will merge.

Jon reported that we had another MRT facilitators group. There were 9 agencies with 27 attendees. People were very passionate about MRT and how it was done. He feels there is fidelity to the MRT model. Charlie added that MRT is going very well. They are adding a DBT group on the men's unit. Sam asked how large PRESTART will be. It is still being finalized, but we expect approximately 48-60 people. The number of people being served at the same time will be larger than it is now.

**Update on MAT Committee Planning and Discussion** – After Bill Eckert's presentation on MAT, a subcommittee was formed. Tom said that we have been told about some models that have been effective. In some jurisdictions, people who have opioid addictions are offered MAT as soon as they are booked into the jail. This avoids withdrawal and improves the chance they will continue with treatment when released. In order to make that happen there are several issues that will need to be resolved. The jail currently offers MAT on a very limited basis. We would need to look at what additional resources would be needed in the jail as well as the community. Tom said we have approximately 800 people a year released from the jail that are opioid addicts. We have some additional capacity locally with the methadone program but that would likely not be enough. Tom said that if we are able to implement a faster response with the jail misdemeanor population who are opiate addicts, we would have a tremendous incentive for the client to accept treatment. The QA group will meet again on Friday.

Kevin said he is working with Franklin County who is really advanced in this area. Franklin County and Rhode Island have evidence-based systems similar to Dutchess County. Kevin will get a summary from them. Bill said some things we are doing now to improve the current system is that opioid dependent, low PROXY score, misdemeanor cases are referred to the CORE team for possible MAT rather than waiting for a forensic assessment, speeding up the process. Bill said that Dr. Vaidian is convening a prescribers meeting to look at capacity. They are looking at ways to provide more help to the providers and practitioners. Arms Acres is partnering with a local provider who has 35 people on suboxone. Arms Acres is providing the counseling and case management. Kevin said that he will get information on Franklin County, but suggests having a conference call with them. Most places start with a pilot. Mary Ellen mentioned Dr. Gitlow from Rhode Island is coming to Probation next week to speak about MATS. Other agencies have been invited to attend. Training staff is important to the success of MATS. Jon spoke to Linda Woodbine and they will try to have this training again next year.

Tom said that the good news is that all the people at the policy level are on board with this. Tom said that he has heard that they are advising change in the emergency room. The possibility of getting a prescriber at the Stabilization Center is being looked at. Kevin said trying to figure out how to implement a successful model is being explored throughout the country. Not many have figured it out yet. We will be early in the process of developing a comprehensive model.

**Other Business** - report on subcommittee activities:

**Special Needs**--Tom said that we are not making progress with the mental health and developmentally disabled population in the jail. The committee met two months ago and again last Thursday. In that time, there are fewer beds available. The jail is put in situations that are beyond their capability to deal with. Winnie added that CMC has been fabulous trying to get this population beds in the past few

months. They have been working hard even though there are fewer beds. Bill said that in the last couple of weeks, getting people psychiatrically hospitalized from the jail with a 2 PC has been very difficult. The state is not responding. The orders are only good for ten days. Recently, they had three orders on one person in order to get them hospitalized.

Tom said there is still recurring issues with the length of time it takes to get competency exams. Charlie said requests get assigned immediately and it only takes a couple of days. The problem is they get stuck in the court system. Tom said we need to track length of stay for these cases from booking date to release date. Jon said that when probation staff encounters a 730 order, it is transmitted to DBCH immediately. Tom said that he would like to look at this process at the next meeting. Bill said the forensic team is now fully staffed. Bill said there is a possibility of getting a per diem to help with the back log. We should start to see better turnaround times.

Sam asked Mary Ellen about metrics and reports from agencies. Mary Ellen said the issue was referred to Gary because you have to first determine what you are measuring and how you will access the data. Each CJC committee chair has been asked to send Mary Ellen and Gary a list of initiatives which they believe has had an impact on the criminal justice system. Gary will review the responses and determine how we might proceed. We want to focus on measurements that are significant in determining progress. We already have a substantial body of data and metrics (measurements) on various programs and the jail population. Mary Ellen said we talked about some of this today in discussing RESTART. The Annual Reports for CJC also contains data and there are reports on the website. Sam thinks it would be informative to have a collection of data and Mary Ellen agreed. Gary will review the information submitted by the committee chairs as well as the recommendations from the 2012 CJS Assessment. Most of the recommendations in the 2012 CJS Assessment have been achieved. For example, we have created a Stabilization Center. DBCH keeps statistics related to the Stabilization Center and would be able to provide them.

**Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Angell, seconded by Charlie Robitaille.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, October 29 at 10:30 a.m.