

# Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Meeting

January 11, 2016

Key Agenda Items and Information:

The following was the agenda for the meeting:

## Agenda:

- Approval of December minutes
- Review of focus groups for RESTART men and women
- Updates on RESTART program
- Continued discussion on Opioid options
- Software update
- Update on jail planning

## Present:

Ronald Knapp, Chair, City of Poughkeepsie Police Chief

Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant

Bill Eckert, DBCH Jail-Based Services

Jon Heller, Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections

George Krom, DCJ

Tom Angell, Public Defender

Martin Lynch, Project MORE

Judge Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court

Mark Sasvary, HVMH

Mary Ellen Still, Director of Office of Probation and Community Corrections

Steve Miccio, PEOPLE, Inc.

Lt. Winnie Milkovich, DCJ

Sam Busselle, Citizen

Kevin Warwick, Consultant, ASA

Dawn Hawley, Acting Coordinator

1. **Minutes** – November 16<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved on a motion by Judge Mora, seconded by all. The minutes of December approved on a motion by George Krom, all in favor. Kevin will send power points to Ron Knapp.

2. **Review of focus groups**--Kevin reported a focus group with current inmates was held. Men and women talked about what they liked and what they thought needed improvement. Overall, the feedback was very positive. They liked the groups and spoke about them in very positive terms. They expressed a desire to have a connection post-release. Men and women liked a number of different things. The women liked having their own room for classes. They were very happy they had a room designated for them. They talked about a release plan. Our plan for a new facility was discussed. Jon said the women expressed a desire for an alumni group to meet with in the future. The group agreed they were happy with the people running the classes. Kevin said the plan is to keep doing focus groups as we go along and that it is helpful to hear from participants. They also reported having positive experiences with both RESTART and correctional staff. Some inmates who were not engaged in the very beginning now reported being involved.
3. **Updates on RESTART program**--Jon mentioned that a very challenging case was resolved due to the joint efforts of the RESTART team. It illustrates the strength of a coordinated multi-agency approach.

There is now a women's support group and a substance abuse group was added for males. Kevin added that the Sullivan County, NH program is longer, but with less intensive services in the community. Dutchess County has shorter term intensive programming in the jail with more intensive services in the community. Both models are viable and designed to fit their communities. Both counties are using evidence-based programs. Probation is less involved in Sullivan County, NH. Kevin commented that a real strength here is the strong community corrections and provider involvement. The jail part of the program is strong with essential evidence-based programming.

Gary asked if there are enough services being offered based on the assessment. Case plans are based on the needs identified in the assessment. The case plans will look very different from person to person. Marty feels that very specific needs are being addressed and met.

Tom asked could those plans be shared with defense lawyers. In general, they could although sometimes plans are not developed by certain stages in the process. We funnel information through the flow meeting and Probation communicates it.

We will not have recidivism information for a while. Gary is working with OCIS to address recidivism. We may be able to get information on number of admissions; this is being worked on. The MRT training is in mid-February

4. **Continued discussion on Opioid options-** Bill Eckert said there had been a meeting with a pharmaceutical representative regarding vivitrol. It will be used as an antagonist for heroin. The shot will be administered just prior to release from the jail. Follow-up treatment is essential. Modifications have been made at ITAP so they can accommodate this population. This is where participants would go for their injection after release. Cases are being identified now and will start with sentenced people. Tom added that if someone is on probation he feels good about them being on the program but he is not comfortable with it if they are not supervised. Many counties are piloting this program. It is at the startup phase right now. Kevin said he is familiar with the program from other counties and if people are engaged in the program it works really well. He added it looks very promising; you're targeting a specific population for this. Initial feedback from it is very positive. If we structured it so people were being supervised it would be advantageous. This is tailor made for lower risk/high need abusers. Overdose numbers are higher than ever before. Gary asked what happens if someone uses heroin while taking vivitrol. Vivitrol negates the effect of heroin and lasts 28 days.
  
5. **Software update**—Tom asked if there will be a unique identifier for each participant. It will be the NYSID number. The jail has a specific RESTART designation. Software issues have been addressed and we should be able to begin tracking information through the COMPAS by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  
6. **Update on jail planning** – The RFP for the architect is coming up. George Krom reported that they are working on submitting the dollar amount for the whole project to the Legislature by March. George received permission from COC to house females in the PODS. There are now 36 females in the PODS; nineteen are in RESTART. Two females are still housed out at the request of the DA. There are a total of 12 people housed out. Tablets are supposed to be installed this month in the PODS.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

**NEXT MEETING** - Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at Catharine Street Center