

Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Meeting

December 1, 2014

KEY AGENDA ITEMS AND INFORMATION:

The following was the agenda for the meetings:

Agenda:

1. Overview of resource for the in-jail treatment program when PODS return
2. Review of flow into the program
3. Action steps for the next few meetings

Other Items:

Present:

Ronald Knapp, Chair, City of POK Police Chief
Shirley Adams, Catherine Street Community Ctr, CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Onaje Benjamin, DC Jail
Sam Busselle, Citizen
Hon. Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
William Grady, District Attorney
Jon Heller, Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections
Margaret Hirst, DMH
Noel Knille, Commissioner, DCDPW
Martin Lynch, Project MORE
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE, Inc.
Michael North, DMH
Dr. Kari Reiber, Commissioner, Dept. of Health
Mary Ellen Still, Director of Probation
Kevin Warwick, Consultant, ASA

The meeting started at 9:15 a.m. Future meeting dates were set for January 12, February 9 and March 9. The minutes of the October 2014 meeting were approved by Tom Angell and Marty Lynch. The November minutes were not yet completed, and will be sent out once completed.

1. Discussion of next steps based on the San Antonio model

Kevin moved to this topic on the agenda and asked Steve Miccio to give an overview of the services in San Antonio and how that will fit into the committee's work. Steve said that they are very good at assessing individuals and providing services. The magistrates there work with the system and keeping people out of the jail. The system is also highly responsive to everyone's

needs. This is something we would like to see happen here and perhaps include incentives for selected treatment that would involve less jail time.

Noel Knille said that she just visited the Denver Downtown Corrections Center which is a pre-sentencing center, and the Denver County Jail. The Denver Downtown Corrections Center has two court rooms which were completed in 2010. It was noted that there were some inmates at the Downtown Corrections Center up to three years, but that in theory it does help having courtrooms in the Corrections Center. Noel was to send an email to find out more information on this process and as to why the length of time for sentencing was so long. Kevin said that Denver also has an 80-bed housing unit for offenders with mental health issues and an attached day reporting center for offenders with mental health issues. They do have some good community-based diversion options. Kevin suggested to Steve we that we may want to form a subcommittee to look at this for Dutchess County.

Bexar County, where the San Antonio facility is located, does have a higher incarceration rate than Dutchess County despite all their diversion programs, but it is still lower than the rest of Texas which has an extremely high incarceration rate overall. The campus layout there may be something for further review. Steve noted that there was transition housing near the campus, so this example again reflects the idea that everything does not have to be in one location. We need to look at that and plan out what works. Ron said that he, Bill O'Neil and Margaret Hirst discussed that they would like to see some type of crisis center, or drop-off area for police. Ron also said that he and Sam Busselle looked at the Memphis CIT program and he also wants to get together with all the police agencies to see how we can expand on that. The issue is the 40 hours of training. In Memphis this is volunteered. Here in Orange County, at the conclusion of the police academy in March, they are proposing to add this optional 40 additional hours of training. Ron also spoke with Sean Constano of the Dutchess County Academy, and to someone from Ulster County to offer the same type of training. There may be funding available from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for CIT training. Ron is also speaking with Don Camden, from the regional center, about a one day training here. CIT instructors are largely from the community.

We do have interventions and services and need to work these into the new initiatives and do this in a planned manner. Mary Ellen said that it is critical to look at criminogenic needs and use our assessment instruments. Kevin added that core programming and services are most important. Kevin also pointed out that due to the higher incarceration rates in San Antonio, and the lack of other alternatives and programming there, our reduction rates may not be as great as compared to there. Getting to the same reduction in recidivism as San Antonio is not possible as we already have many initiatives in place here that work towards recidivism reduction and the San Antonio program began with very limited services already in place. Margaret said there are some secondary gains that need to be considered. In San Antonio the focus was diversion. Here we can also leverage healthcare resources.

Marty said we need to add to the model those that are in crisis mode, and not just on criminal justice. There seems to be a gap. Judge Mora said they also have this same situation in City of Poughkeepsie Court. Mike North said there is often no place to put those with substance abuse issues, and often this becomes an insurance issue. Mary Ellen said the entire system is faced

with a dilemma when trying to prevent overdoses or new offenses. Onaje said often individuals, once they feel better after being in jail, will opt for less time and not choose rehab. Kevin said that there is an emerging low to medium risk group of heroin users in this community and this issue needs to be addressed. In the new campus, the transition house could be designed to include lower risk persons with serious heroin or prescription drug addiction in mind. Mary Ellen said the DC CJC Executive Committee has already seen the need for a sub-committee to address these issues and sent a memo to the County Executive to that effect.

Kevin said that the November report is in draft form at this time. The first report involves planning for the PODS when the inmates come back. The next report will involve planning for the new jail. There seems to be a real need for the transitions house to be part of the campus design.

2. Review of flow into the programs

Kevin reiterated that the discussed recommendation is for a full day program (4-5 hours a day) for men and women. There would be some differences between men and women's programming. This would include the Ready, Set, Work employment readiness programming, educational programs, MRT etc. as well as substance abuse and mental health programs. The proposed program involves coordination of multiple agencies working together. The movement into the program is based on risk/need with a target population of high and medium risk to reoffend.

Tom Angell said he met with our counterparts in Sullivan County and was told that everyone in their transitions program (known as Trails) were sentenced inmates. When Tom also visited Montgomery County, Maryland to visit the program there, those in transitions were also sentenced. We can't do the same thing here in New York due to a lack of flexibility. If there is a buy-in from the court system then there will be stability. There is also need for greater communication within the system. There is a need to incentivize participation. Kevin said that in Sullivan County, after some time, inmates did start to plea into these programs because inmates realized the value of it. Therefore, there were fewer people sitting pre-trial and more who pled to a sentence. In our case, there are complexities that present some difficulties in setting this up. There will be incentives to go to programming and it will be completely voluntary.

Kevin spoke with Mary Ellen, Margaret, Bill and Marty about what programming is offered now. In the new model, Correctional Officers will not be active participants and will only support these services and reinforce programming. The CO's may be trained in MRT (cognitive behavioral change program commonly used with offenders) or other areas, but will not be leading these programs. The programs would be facilitated by community-based providers primarily with the support of Probation, the Transition Counselor and the jail-based mental health team. There are many people within the involved agencies who are already trained and can be utilized for the various programs. There is also discussion about using the New Directions curriculum for substance abuse. Margaret pointed out that while we may be able to redirect staff for these services, we may then later find gaps that require additional staffing and resources.

Kevin said that he is recommending in the report that a community based-provider provide staffing and services for these programs. This program will provide stabilization and offer some intensive treatment. Onaje said they might need two other clinical staff. Marty said he was thinking of four to five additional staff in order to provide the total curriculum. Noel suggested front-end and back-end services for medical or food service and that may provide more funding opportunities. Kevin recommended a minimum of four staff, two clinical, two FTE to provide full day treatment for men and women, and two case managers. This would be in addition to the existing jail staff. It is recommended that we move forward on this as soon as possible. We also need to line up community-based providers which are more linked to the community, are less expensive, and can adapt to changes in environment.

The quality assurance needed to provide support and training regarding programming could be comprised from a sub-group of this committee. This sub-group can also drive the direction for programming. There is some funding already available based on the reallocation of current jail staffing. It would be essential to have this community-based provider on board as well. We need to start the model with all the staffing and this provider in place. OCIS may be able to help with any data tracking needed. This recommendation will be communicated to the County Executive in order to have an RFP issued for services. Further discussion will be needed for the development of the specifics of the program before an RFP can be issued.

The existing group space will probably need to be rededicated for programming. Kevin concluded that the group and staff space be established before preparing the RFP. The understanding is that there is \$150,000 budgeted for programming. Transitions units are a better place for programming than the PODS. Noel added that for each of the four 50 person space there will be 250 square feet of common area. Additionally, the current site plans for the PODS do not include any additional spacing for a trailer on the site.

Mary Ellen and Margaret, along with George, will be the liaisons working on the RFP. Kevin will meet with that group and provide any support he can. A quality assurance group will be needed and this will be discussed further. It could be made part of the program flow sub-committee that is already meeting. March is most realistic for selecting a vendor through the RFP process. As previously discussed, New Directions will probably be the substance abuse program. Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Next steps for the committee:

1. Finalize the RFP for programming in the jail
2. Development of a Quality Assurance Committee
3. Meet with Ricci Greene to discuss recommendations for design of special populations units in the new facility
4. Discussions of community-based diversion options

5. Discussion of a potential Crisis Center and how it fits into the Dutchess County Model going forward

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.