

Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Meeting

January 12, 2015

KEY AGENDA ITEMS AND INFORMATION:

The following was the agenda for the meetings:

Agenda:

1. Update on the RFP and quality assurance.
2. Update on the new jail planning (review sub group discussion from Dec. 22nd mtg).
3. Community based options (gaps).
4. Discussion of new diversion committee to be chaired by Steve Miccio.

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
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
Dr. Kari Reiber, Commissioner, Dept. of Health
Mary Ellen Still, Director of Probation
Kevin Warwick, Consultant, ASAI

The meeting started at 9:15 a.m. Ron explained that the November minutes had several different versions which had to be consolidated. He passed out the final draft along with a draft of the December minutes. He suggested that any corrections be given to him within one week. Otherwise, both months' minutes would become adopted. This suggestion was unanimously approved on a motion by George/Onaje.

Ron indicated that the November report will be sent out shortly to the committee. An addendum will be added with additional specific action steps and some work that has been completed by the committee since the November 15th report. Sam asked why the committee doesn't get to see and

comment on the report first. It was explained that, by contract, it goes to the county first. Also, the External Advisory Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Bardavon on January 29th. All are invited.

Sam asked about future planning and evaluation of existing programs for adherence to evidence-based practices. Kevin said we are now moving into the community programs after examining jail programs and that he had already visited many of the current programs.

George said that he anticipates that inmates will be in the pods by the end of March, with an early April start for programming. We can expect some alteration or “tweaking” of programming as we progress.

1. Update on the RFP and quality assurance

It is anticipated that an RFP will be released within the next month. The RFP will identify staffing needs and programming. A community based provider will be selected to offer programming and case management services to enhance the existing staff currently working with the jail based program. Currently, there is a jail-based team from the Dept. of Mental Hygiene which includes therapists and workers who help inmates bridge to the community. Correction Officers will move back to a more traditional role, but will continue to provide support. Programs will be evidence-based and operate in 60 day cycles. There will be 50 males and 20 females in the program with classes being offered multiple times to accommodate everyone in smaller groups. Gary had pulled data that indicated this would be a suitable number based on length of stay. We have reviewed current space to be sure there is enough room for programming. We will next look at a schedule and determine where the various programs will be offered.

Most of the elements of the program already exist; we need to coordinate and tie them together. Staff from Probation, CTC and other programs will supplement the jail-based team. There will be overall coordination and Quality Assurance. In some ways, we are realigning our existing model as we are already doing very good work and have strong collaborations. Tom asked about qualifications for new staff and it was explained that, depending on the position, a Bachelors or Masters would be required. Kevin said that for the case managers we would be looking for a Bachelor's with some programming/criminal justice experience. For program facilitators, they would need a Masters. Onaje spoke about the importance of peer mentoring and support. Kevin noted that the case manager will know the plan and flow and will evaluate a plan's progress and adjust accordingly. This program will not replace the community based options, but enhance existing programs, and flow back into the community that's identified in the beginning.

George asked about case management software. Steve said that there is software available that is low cost. Kevin also noted that COMPAS and others have software that can plug into our system. We would need to have the County IT persons to provide some input. A subcommittee with Steve, Onaje, Margaret, Jon, Marty and IT personnel would be formed to assist with

selecting software. The inmate welfare fund is vague, though it can be used for training, but not necessarily for software purchases.

2. Update on the new jail planning (review sub group discussion from Dec. 22nd mtg).

George said that the men's schedule seems more complicated than women's. Margaret said it would be good to identify within each program slot where the program space would be allocated. Mary Ellen suggested a sample schedule with locations identified. Onaje pointed out that we also need to meet with Dutchess Community College and BOCES to discuss locations and civilian and security issues. Kevin added that DCJ was not built for programming. The new jail will have allotted space but for now we have to work with existing conditions.

Noel said a subgroup met with Ricci Greene Associates to help them better understand what we want in terms of transition. Bill O'Neil was also present at this meeting and confirmed how many beds we require. The minutes of that meeting were forwarded by Noel. Per the minutes, there will be 600 beds in the new jail. The number of re-entry beds would be 200+/- . It was noted that we want the jail to be designed for future re-use if needed. There was discussion of the transition house and also referred to Florence Manor as an example. Ricci Greene will be here on January 16th to meet with Bill O'Neil to discuss the draft program for the site. This group will need to review the Special Populations portion of this draft.

Tom asked if the 600 beds were traditional cells. Noel said that this number was based on discussions and statistics on a type of population. There will be a specific number of individual cells, dormitory style, and semi-dormitory style. The intent of the plus/minus numbers will be addressed in the dormitory areas. There will be seven group rooms that include male, female, prep and intensive. Kevin noted that we will be designing around this 600+/- number, and we can re-evaluate that over the next 1 1/2 years. It is anticipated that one-third of the population will be in dorm style units.

For the transition house, Noel said that as discussed at the same subgroup meeting, some of the attributes of this will be as follows. A two to three floor building, residential grade, various group rooms, support space, common living space, admin space, etc., They are planning for 50 persons, and men and women will be separated. This program will continue to provide community based options for offenders in lieu of jail. Also discussion of having separate areas for low-risk persons. The Sheriff will provide support services, while jail staff will maintain building. Kevin added that the Second Chance money comes out in the next few months and we could do a demonstration model and we could work on that with the Quality Assurance group. Steve asked if there would be a front-end or sober space to hold over people before they do go to jail, or as an alternative to incarceration.

4. Discussion of new diversion committee to be chaired by Steve Miccio.

Steve Miccio will chair a new committee of the Criminal Justice Council—the Diversion Committee. This committee will look at the San Antonio model to see what we can apply here. This is a diversion model meant to be used at the “front end” of the system. Goals of this committee include the Crisis Center, and working with the magistrates to clarify some legal questions. It was clarified that people with behavioral health needs may also be high risk and have criminogenic needs that should be addressed. Steve indicated he would provide regular updates for this committee and that some members of this committee might be asked to serve.

Additional Discussion

Kevin noted that many best practice programs are already in place and we need to coordinate existing and future plans. We will need to look at flow and how everything fits together. Onaje said in regards to incentivizing,, there is also the question of front end work and stabilization and how that will effect long-term intensive treatment versus intensive upfront doses and moving to rehabilitation programs. Many of the people he works with have serious heroin problems and will negotiate with the legal system to do their time if they are looking at too much treatment. So if they are offered intensive treatment upfront would that be an incentive to go into something more structured. Margaret said that level of care varies with persons. They hope to create more diversions for addictions such as opiates, etc., we need to include planning based on risk and need for those in need of case management. Kevin said that the Crisis Center will be different from Transition Housing in that the crises Center is an early intervention model for offenders in need of treatment services.

Sam said that the public has been informed that once those that are housed out are returned that there will be a significant savings and recidivism will be reduced. George said there will be savings immediately. We can also start to look at this group and select those for programming.in the next month or as we plan for the pods to go up and be ready to accept inmates. Mary Ellen said that bringing them back will also improve efficiencies in terms of processing. Kevin noted that the effects on recidivism generally take 18-24 months. We may see some early results however. In three to five years, there will be greater decreases in recidivism.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next steps for the committee:

1. Put out the RFP for community based providers for services at the jail
2. Quality Assurance planning and development
3. Jail design recommendation for programming
4. Discussion of enhancements for community based options
5. Form group to meet on software piece

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9 a.m.