

# Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Meeting

August 11, 2014

## **KEY AGENDA ITEMS AND INFORMATION:**

The meeting began with introductions and a brief discussion of the committee work. Consultant Kevin Warwick of Alternative Solutions Associates Inc. provided a brief overview of best practice work and the critical need to provide evidenced based assessment programming throughout the system. The key agenda item for the first meeting was going over the scope of work for the project. The scope of work includes:

- 3.2.1 Maintain constant interaction with jail design team throughout the course of the design process.
- 3.2.2 Identify special populations by crime and type (youth, mental, health, etc.).
- 3.2.3 Design transition programming beginning in the correctional facility through release to the community.
- 3.2.4 Provide for potential re-admissions and eventual linkages to community programs (ATIs, etc.).
- 3.2.5 Evaluate current programs and transitions and make recommendations for improvement.
- 3.2.6 Review existing curricula and recommend modifications or enhancements.
- 3.2.7 Discuss coordination of efforts with stakeholders, including the courts.
- 3.2.8 Identification and assignment of targeted high risk populations to intensive programs.
- 3.2.9 The consultant must facilitate workshops on the final development of a model program for special populations.

The scope of work provides for a review of potential Alternative to Incarceration programs (ATI's), looking at enhancements to existing models to improve effectiveness, as well as making recommendations to address gaps in programs that could prove effective in Dutchess County. This scope of work also examines jail program enhancements, providing recommendations for new programming that can assist offenders in successfully transitioning to the community. For both in jail programs and community based programs, the Committee will look at special populations - including offenders with mental health and substance abuse disorders, programming for women and youthful offenders.

Critical questions that will be discussed by the Committee include the following:

- What interventions are currently being used?
- Are these interventions evidence based?
- By what process or using what criteria are offenders assigned to various programs or interventions?
- Are there gaps in the present system?
- Are these individual programs part of a seamless continuum?

- How can we recommend a facility design to ensure that this process can be enhanced?
- What are the key interventions needed in each part of the continuum?

The following are the reports that will be provided to the Criminal Justice Council:

**A planning/transition document due approximately by November 15, 2014**

- Designed to assist jail officials guide inmate movement and placement within the Dutchess County Jail (inclusive of temporary housing) consistent with known best practice. The critical goal here is to recommend programming that can be delivered and enhanced as the temporary housing pods come on line. This programming should help an offender reduce their chances of future incarceration. This programming may look different for men or women as they enter the facility.

**A progress report due approximately March 15, 2015**

- To accompany a project definition study (refer to Exhibit A Resolution No. 2013182 authorizing project definition for the development of functional designs for a comprehensive approach to the criminal justice facility in the County of Dutchess). Key items here would be to provide the design committee information as to the need for group space and units specially designed for intensive programs in the new facility. This report would also provide for a review of existing evidenced based programming that are used as Alternative to Incarceration programs and potential enhancement of those models.

**A report due approximately October 1, 2015**

- To assist with the jail design document
- This would be a more detailed report that would allow for final revisions based on the work of the committee as well as the review of the programming implemented when the temporary pods came on line in early 2015

**An update report by October 1, 2015**

- Provides recommendations for jail programming space options based on the study recommendation and the facilitated workshop planning activities. This would be the final detailed recommendations for program space including the need for jail programming space and any alternative programming to be housed at the site.

**A final report due approximately December 31, 2015**

- To confirm special population needs for inclusion with site design bid documents
- This report will include all recommendations for enhancement of both in jail programming and alternative to incarceration programs.

## NEXT STEPS

### **1. Review existing curricula and recommend modifications or enhancements to jail programming**

The goal here and the committee's first task is to review existing programming to determine if there could be enhancements and expansions of the existing model to better address inmates needs in an effort to reduce the potential of future incarceration. The consultant will meet with jail staff and key providers to review present programming.

### **2. Develop a plan for programs as the inmates move back with temporary Pods**

Review recommendations from the above step and develop an implementation plan for inmates returning to the community.

### **3. Review data on special populations, mental health, and substance abuse treatment**

Reviewing this information will help the committee better understand the programming needs for offenders with co-occurring disorders, specialized programming for women, and programs for other special populations.

### **4. Coordinate training with stakeholders and providers around the factors of criminogenic risks and needs.**

There has been a discussion of being able to provide some training for community based providers regarding criminogenic risks/needs. Criminogenic factors are those elements shown to impact recidivism.

### **5. Review Alternative options in Dutchess County and make recommendations for potential enhancements.**

The Consultant will begin a review of alternative to incarceration programs, including any curricula utilized, and report back to the group. The focus early on will be in jail programs as there is a need to recommend potential enhancements and changes as the temporary pods come on line in January 2015. The focus of the jail programming would be to target offenders who are high risk offenders who will be in jail long enough to complete programming.

The focus of the September meeting will be to discuss jail programming with an overview of several best practice programs from around the country. This would include an initial summary from the Consultant, followed by a full discussion amongst the Committee regarding next steps.