

EXTERNAL ADVISORY GROUP (EAG)
DUTCHESS COUNTY JUSTICE & TRANSITION CENTER PROJECT
PUBLIC MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 in the DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS

EAG Members present: Steve Saland, Tim Massie, Tyler Jones, Bob Mallory, Andrew O’Grady, John Crodelle, Jim Hammond, David Freeman, and John Doherty

EAG Members not present: Jesse Bottoms, Joe Lepore, and Audra Gerty

The meeting began at 6:39 p.m.

- Welcome and Opening Remarks - Steve Saland, Chairman
 - Introduced new EAG member, Rev. Tyler Jones, Pastor, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie
 - Summarized meeting process and Q & A procedure; public not allowed to comment or ask questions at this meeting but can submit questions/comments on cards provided at the meeting which will be answered at the next meeting of the EAG, via email and posted on the website
 - Email address for EAG emails reiterated: externaladvisorygroup@dutchessny.gov
 - Website for the DCJTCP reiterated: www.dutchessny.gov/dcjtc
 - ‘Like’ DCJTC on Facebook for project updates:
https://www.facebook.com/Dutchess-County-Justice-Transition-Center-1508439256081529/timeline/?ref=br_tf
 - The public does have the opportunity to speak with officials after the meeting if they have pressing questions.
 - The purpose of the EAG is not to make policy but provide a means to address questions raised by the community, encourage outreach in the community and to ensure transparency throughout the process.
 - Encourage public to avail themselves of opportunities to voice their opinion.
 - County Executive Molinaro has insisted from the beginning that the process remain open and transparent.
- DCJTC Update Introduction – Bill O’Neil, Deputy County Executive
 - This project has been in motion for quite some time
 - When County Executive Molinaro came into office four years ago, he requested a status update and assessment from the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) on the criminal justice system in the county, specifically regarding the jail
 - County Executive Molinaro asked the CJC for their recommendations to address the overcrowding at the jail
 - CJC issued a [Needs Assessment](#) report that was validated by consultant, RicciGreeneAssociates (RGA) in their [Validation Study of the Dutchess County Criminal Justice System Needs Assessment report](#)
 - The report issued by RGA supported the two main recommendations of the Needs Assessment: A higher capacity jail is needed and Alternatives to Incarceration programs and services should be expanded and enhanced, through a full continuum of care system and a re-focus on evidence-based programming and classes

- RGA's report validated the county's successful creation and continued use of Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)
- Over 650 individuals in Alternatives to Incarceration including rehab programs, transition residences, Women's Center, electronic monitoring, and various supervision programs through Probation, all of which have helped divert individuals from the jail
- We have implemented a temporary solution to overcrowding—temporary housing (PODS) are in use
- Concept of Restorative Justice---focus for special populations:
[http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/Restorative Justice 2015.pdf](http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/Restorative%20Justice%202015.pdf)
- Also pursuing improving process to keep individuals from entering the jail and divert them to ATIs and treatment
- Focus on those with mental health issues to deescalate and stabilize situations so as to avoid contact with criminal justice system
- Mobile Crisis Intervention Team was created in 2012 and has since expanded to 24/7/365 service and has diverted individuals from jail as well as the emergency room
- Planning for Crisis & Stabilization Center on North Road in Poughkeepsie has begun
- Crisis Intervention Team Training continues with local law enforcement
- Goal to train field officers with CIT Training (40 hr) and to train all officers with Mental Health First Aid (8 hr)
- High-risk inmates in jail to take part in RESTART program which will help to address their behavioral issues while in jail and post-release provide continued help through community service providers, with the end goal of reducing recidivism and "Breaking the Cycle" that exists for reoffending
- Programming in current jail is difficult because of the current jail design and not enough space
- New jail will allow us to provide the proper programming and space for more effective execution of programs
- In addition to our current efforts, we continue with data analysis to understand the outcomes of the individuals going through the system? What is working? What are the issues? How are we addressing them? How can we do better?
- As new programs are put in place, it will allow us to track results in the community and better understand what works to reduce recidivism

- Special Populations Workgroup (SPW) Update – Kevin Warwick from Alternative Solutions Associates, Inc. and SPW Consultant
 - SPW Update Presentation:
[http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/SPW Update 09152015.pdf](http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/SPW%20Update%2009152015.pdf)
 - Dutchess County has comprehensive ATI system complemented by jail-based programs that will be available in the community after release
 - RESTART program built off of national model, *Transition from Jail to Community*, and Dutchess County's current ATI programming
 - Current jail not designed to develop level of programming desired
 - Government agencies and community-based providers collaboration is more effective

- Program is anticipated to be fully operational by October 1, 2015
 - Focus on quality of life issues in data analysis
 - RESTART program designed for high-risk and repeat offenders
 - Pilot project with intent to expand; a learning process
 - Multiple agencies working together to develop evidence-based curriculum
 - Regular quality assurance process
 - Most of the funding for this program is a result of shifting/restructuring costs
 - Program will offer more data sets to analyze over time
 - SPW is focused and energized; this community has been committed to this process
- DCJTCP Progress Update - Noel Knille, DPW Commissioner and Ken Ricci from RicciGreeneAssociates
 - Noel Knille with assistance from Ken Ricci from RGA presented an overview of the site plans for the Crisis & Stabilization Center at 230 North Road, proposed jail site, and adaptive reuse of the Taylor building on Parker Avenue: http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/Pages/From_EAG_09152015.pdf
 - Meeting with Acting Commissioner Margaret Hirst and CJC Diversion Committee Chair Steve Miccio to develop successful diversion programs and services in Crisis & Stabilization Center
 - Crisis & Stabilization Center planning is anticipated to be completed by third quarter of 2016
 - County Executive Molinaro emphasized the design of the new jail should improve the criminal justice system and add value to the surrounding neighborhood/community
 - We intend to “green” the area around the jail with landscaping and park-like amenities
 - Looking to CSX property near jail to create green space and connect to Walkway
 - Construction of jail with community in mind to enhance entire neighborhood
 - Pursuing the suggestion of a footbridge over Fallkill Creek to enhance walking in the area
 - Potentially install pavilions in the area for recreation
 - Reusing existing Taylor building on Parker Avenue for Sheriff’s Office
 - Our approach will make improvements along Parker Avenue and we will keep the existing fabric of Taylor building
 - Relocate existing 9/11 memorial in front of Sheriff’s Office and place prominently in front of Taylor building
 - Diversion Committee Update- Steve Miccio, CEO of PEOPLE, Inc. and Chairman of the CJC Diversion Committee
 - Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training
 - Second CIT training for law enforcement officers: September 28-October 2 in Putnam County, paid for by Putnam County-regional collaboration
 - 15 law enforcement officers from Putnam County expected to participate
 - 25 law enforcement officers from Dutchess County expected to participate
 - Working with CIT trainees from Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, jail, Town and City of Poughkeepsie Police Departments to develop brief CIT

- Training (8-hour) to provide better law enforcement training for officers in the 8-hour training than Mental Health First Aid
 - Plan to complete 8-hour training program by October, begin offering trainings this year and continue into next year
 - Offer CIT training 4-6 times per year
 - Offer 8-hour training once a month, with potential for twice a month
 - Crisis Stabilization and Wellness Center
 - Planning continues
 - Working with Office of Mental Health, Office of Addiction and Substance Abuse Services, Dept. of Health is
 - Challenging to get waivers in services that will be provided because three different agencies must come together but committee is addressing these challenges
- County Executive Marc Molinaro
 - Thanks to the EAG, members of the public, consultants, and volunteers for your participation in the planning process
 - Over the last four years, we've developed a better understanding of how to divert individuals from entering the criminal justice system as effectively as possible
 - Pushed back on Albany regarding their desire to build a new jail immediately
 - Housing out inmates is inhumane and ending practice was necessary
 - State agreeing to the use of temporary housing units has been beneficial to the county and to the individuals by providing better services—Helping to break the cycle
 - Engaged aggressively in ATIs
 - The goal is to divert individuals from entering the criminal justice system, e.g. Mobile Crisis Intervention Team and Crisis & Stabilization Center
 - Focusing on training for law enforcement officers—CIT Training
 - Looking to decrease length of stay for inmates
 - Will need to address final proposal for capacity at jail
 - Proven to state that by providing assistance and intervention, has begun to reduce number of inmates in jail
 - Moving aggressively to construct crisis intervention center early next year
 - Expand CIT Training—goal is to train 100% of law enforcements on the street (25%) and all with some form of CIT Training—only county in America to make that commitment
 - Work on finalizing proposal for new jail facility with focus on restorative justice
 - Hold firm against Albany to ensure we have time necessary to provide the service, assistance, diversion tools to drive down our inmate numbers and help individuals
 - Made commitment to the City of Poughkeepsie to ensure it is the right setting and will benefit the city, maximize benefits in the area
 - Provide the right service to the individual in the jail and post-jail
 - Committed to maintain open and transparent process as information becomes available
 - Encourage the public to bring questions and concerns to the County Executive's Office
- Questions & Answers—Steve Saland, Chairman

- Question: Approximately 650 in ATIs, has that number remained constant? *Over 600 for the past 12 months.*
- Question: In your dealings with the COC, do they have a hard number they are using for the new jail capacity? Are they flexible with the jail capacity? *No number given that we are required to have. Working number of 578 based on Needs Assessment report, looking at double-bunking if we needed to expand to mid-600. However, at a meeting of the regional representatives of COC, Bill O'Neil noted that we saw the numbers coming down, projection that was scaled back to 528, maybe 478. COC accepted that we would look at that number. Build a facility where we can decommission beds; that section could then be used for other purposes. We are proceeding aggressively with the diversion center to challenge the COC's direction for the number of beds at the new jail.*
- Question: Is it safe to conclude that the COC has not rejected your suggestions and willing to entertain your proposal for ATIs? *COC does have open mind to suggestions.*
- Question: With regards to the relocation of the Sheriff's Office to the Taylor building, are you maintaining communication with the Sheriff on how the building will be configured? *Yes, the building will be an adaptive reuse of the building. The Sheriff's Office is pleased with the proposed plans for adaptive reuse.*
- Question: With regards to the daily/weekly schedule for the RESTART program, will the men's program include education/ESL? *Yes*
- Question: Will staffing be provided for study and leisure time on the weekend if they need assistance? *Support staff will mainly be there during the week.*
- Question: How are you shifting costs to provide staff support for this program? *The county budgeted for these programs in 2015 and in 2016; take jail costs and shifted to cover the costs for these programs.*
- Question: Who staffs the programs? *Shift in staffing for programs-clinicians, case managers, staff from Dept. Mental Hygiene, Probation Office, and personnel from Project MORE and Hudson Valley Mental Health.*
- Comment: A small percentage of jail population, but many inmates need ongoing support. Build treatment for others that don't fall under this category. *Inmates are being linked to services out in the community post-release. Expected that 400-500 served per year through the RESTART program.*
- Question: Is the target range for program completion 6-8 weeks? *Target range is anywhere between 4-8 weeks. Not necessarily serious offenses but repeat offenders for individuals dealing with substance abuse, mental health, decision making, education, employment issues. Services in RESTART vary to address these issues. Program allows for stabilization post-release. Program designed to be transitional from jail to community.*
- Question: If you have an individual that fits the criteria for admittance to this program but chooses not to participate, what do you do? *Motivational interviewing-- Incentives to engage you in the program model and talk about their future and how this program will help. Case managers from Project MORE already interviewing candidates.*
- Question: As a condition for whatever sentence is imposed, can the court for an appropriate candidate after assuming screening by Probation Office direct that as a condition of sentencing? *Yes, the court can make that a condition of probation as community supervision.*

- Comment: A police presence on N Hamilton is positive and cleaning up that area will add to the enhancement to lead to further development of the Walkway-Gateway district.
- Question: Will the partial hospital at the 230 North Road facility have mental health or medical beds? *Not beds, partial hospitalization is a day program for cognitive and behavior therapy.*
- Question: Do you need approvals from the NYS Dept. of Health? *Not for partial hospital but for the center itself. We are in the process now of getting approval.*
- Question: Have you had conversations with any other stakeholders regarding the development of green space around the jail facility area? *We have been speaking with Oasis and Office of Mental Hygiene to obtain federal funding for a residential space on the southern end of the jail property for those dealing with mental illnesses. We will seek out community involvement for open space plans. We did hold a community meeting at the Catharine Street Community Center which fielded concerns about parking issues which are being addressed in the new design.*
- Question: Now that we would have double the number of inmates there will be double the number of visitors at the jail, wouldn't we need more parking? *Additional parking is included in the design of the new jail.*
- Question: Will there be outdoor recreation at the new jail? *Yes, but it will not be visible from the street.*
- Question: There are several deadlines approaching on the Project Definition Report including the preliminary cost estimates. Are there any preliminary cost estimates? *No cost estimates at this time but need to see full operational impact before a cost estimate is presented. COC has given us window to respond to deadlines.*
- Questions received via email and from previous meetings and email– Mary Ellen Still, Bill O'Neil, George Krom, Ken Ricci, and Gary Christensen
- Questions & Answers can be viewed online here:
http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/EAG_questions_September_2015.pdf
- Chairman Saland stated the next meeting of the EAG is anticipated to be held on Tuesday, November 17th in the Legislative Chambers. A meeting notice will be sent out indicating the date and location.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.