

External Advisory Group Meeting—May 5, 2015

1. **When do you anticipate you will have the PODS fully populated?**

Early May

2. **Is there an impact on the county budget since the original plan was to have inmates in the PODS at the end of March? If so, please quantify the impact.**

It is difficult to quantify, however, it is anticipated there will not be a significant impact to the county budget.

3. **The minutes of the last EAG meeting stated that the NYSCOC guidelines identified a required amount of natural light. The PODS do not appear to have a lot of natural light. Why is that acceptable?**

In the existing jail facility, there is not a lot of natural light because there are no windows in the cells. Many cells get some light from day room windows a significant distance from the cell. The natural light in the PODS meets the NYSCOC standard. Every pod has 3 large windows, high up on the wall that let a good deal of light into the common area.

4. **Please provide the dimensions of the multi-purpose room and explain how one multi-purpose room in each 50-person “dormitory” is adequate for all the uses described in the minutes from the March EAG meeting (1-1 counseling, sick calls, programs, and the electronic law library.)**

The community room is approximately 12' x 21' (250 SF). Occupancy of the room will be scheduled effectively to accommodate needs. Adjustments will be made as necessary.

5. **Was the need for part-time corrections officers as identified in the March EAG meeting factored into the budget? Yes**

6. **Please specifically identify the programming that is available in the PODS and the programming available in the jail proper. Is it the same programming? If it is different, please describe how it is different?**

Current and new programming is listed for both males and females in the Special Populations Workgroup report which is available online (http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/ASAI_N)

[ov 2014 report.pdf](#)). New programming is designed to supplement existing programs. It should be noted, risk-level is taken into account when deciding the programming to be provided. Programming provided in the jail is designed for high-risk inmates with multiple offenses who will have longer stays at the jail which allow for evidence-based cognitive training to change their behavior. Low-risk inmates do not require a severe thought process change to discourage them from re-entering the jail.

- 7. Are there any specific items identified in the Women's Writing Group requirements that you are planning to include in your plans for the new DCJTC? If so, which items?**

At this time, there are no plans to incorporate the suggestions received from the writing group in the current jail. However, as we move closer to the creation of a new jail, we will assess their recommendations.

- 8. What will be the capacity of the North Road Diversion center? It was stated in the March meeting that it would be 15 people at a time. Is that still the plan? Do you have a projection for the capacity? If so, what is the projection for the needs for Dutchess County, and what data was used to do the projections? If you intend to keep the capacity at 15, is that sufficient based on data for county interventions? How will the staffing for the diversion center be handled?**

The size of the recovery center has not yet been determined. At the suggestion of officials from the Bexar County, TX recovery center, the goal is to start small and expand, as needed. The center will be a 23-hour stabilization unit; not meant to be long-term.

- 9. It was stated that the plan is to train the next 700 officers in Crisis Intervention in the next years. Is the class that will be held on June 22nd the 1 day class or the one week class? If it is just the one day class, when will the officers attend the 40 hour class? Will there be any additional training in 2015 other than the class on June 22nd? If there is additional training this year, how many officers will be trained by the end of the year? How is this training different than the training identified in the March EAG minutes for 2 City of Poughkeepsie officers attending a course in Orange County and the 5 slots for training in Ulster County?**

The class on June 22nd is the one week class. Training is still being planned, and there is a regional interest which also needs to be factored in with the planning and scheduling. The goal is to get 25% of law enforcement trained in the first year. The training that will be offered on June 22nd is similar to the training that was held in Orange and Ulster Counties.

- 10. In the EAG minutes for March, it was stated that the classification system for inmates has been changed. Can you clarify what the changes in classification are and why these changes were made?**

The NYSCOC reviewed our jail classification procedures/questionnaire and are supportive and complimentary. They did have some minor suggested changes to the form we use and some additions to the questionnaire and how the classification is weighted. The changes have been incorporated and will be used with the new form going forward. A reclassification is completed every 90 days.

- 11. For the programs in the PODS and with the resources identified in the RFP, how many inmates will you be able to serve in the RESTART program?**

Goal for 2015 is 350; goal is 400-500 annually.

- 12. It is stated in the EAG minutes for March that the criminal justice processing is being reviewed at this time. Who is doing this review? Who are the participants? Will a report on the review be provided?**

Reviewing the criminal justice process is the function of the Criminal Justice Council and the review is ongoing. An annual report is published and is currently on the CJC website (<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/CJ2014AnnualReport.pdf>).

- 13. The RicciGreene Project Definition Report recommends a capacity for the new facility of 578-680 beds/cells. What actions are underway to reduce this total based on the fact that our Average Length of Stay in the jail is two times the national average; that we are bringing back the housed-out inmates; and that there are many projects underway to reduce recidivism, streamline case processing; and, provide appropriate alternatives to low-risk individuals, misdemeanants, non-violent felons and individuals with a mental illness and/or a chemical dependency?**

We are constantly doing an analysis of the effect of housing out inmates and length-of-stay. Judges are the deciding factor on whether an individual is sent to jail and for how long. We will continue to do analysis by jurisdiction and offense and provide that information to the CJC and magistrates to make changes that will bring that number

down. The county has been working on this and will continue to analyze the systemic issues to alleviate the length-of-stay.

14. -Realizing that those most likely to return to jail are a frequency solution

-But is there evidence to indicate that will be reasonably successful?—Lower hanging fruit

-Seems that others less likely to return to jail could be assured of not returning with less effort

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