

The meeting began at 6:30 PM in Bowne Hall at Dutchess Community College.

- Steve Saland, introduced himself as Chairman of the External Advisory Group (EAG) explaining that the group did not hold a decision making position, but rather would function as a conduit to the greater community. He also explained that the meeting was not in the legislative chambers as planned because legislators were reviewing the 2015 County Budget, but he expected future meetings to be held in the legislative chambers. At certain meetings, the public will be able to offer comments and submit questions prior to or at the meeting which will be responded to appropriately. The EAG will publicize all meetings.
- This open and transparent approach coupled with the comprehensive process will result in not just an answer to the need for a jail, but the creation of a Justice and Transition Center (DCJTC)
- Chairman Saland then introduced Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro.
- County Executive Molinaro said a number of the group's members were not in attendance, but will be participating in the future. He then asked the following members who were present to introduce themselves.

**Jim Hammond**, former County Legislator and Chairman of the Charter and Local Law Committee, as well as a Walkway Over the Hudson Board member. The current jail is and the proposed DCJTC will be located in an adjacent neighborhood to the Walkway.

**John Crodelle**, Justice for Town of Northeast and representative from the Magistrates Association, as well as a Criminal Justice Council member.

**Stephen M. Saland**, former NYS Senator, having served in Albany for more than 30 years.

**Robert Mallory**, Chairman of the Poughkeepsie City Council, representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward.

**Andrew O'Grady**, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Dutchess County.

**Joe LePore**, local business owner operating LCS companies on Cottage Street, close to the current jail location.

**John Doherty**, retired Captain of the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department and Chair of Criminal Justice Program at Marist College.

- County Executive Molinaro went on to mention others in attendance:

**Noel Knille**, Commissioner of Public Works and the County's Project Manager for the DCJTC project.

**Bill O'Neil**, Deputy County Executive and Chief of Staff, and a member of the CJC for the past 10 years.

Dutchess County Undersheriff **Kirk Imperati**

Dutchess County Jail Administrator **George Krom**, also a member of the CJC and the special population workgroup.

**Mary Ellen Still**, Director of Probation and Community Correctional Services, Chair of the CJC and a member of the Special Populations Workgroup.

**Susan McGuire**, former staff member to Senator Saland and currently employed as a Staff Development Assistant for D.C. Department of Community and Family Services. Although not a member of the advisory group, serves as the Secretary to the External Advisory Group.

- County Executive Molinaro noted that Dutchess County has been wrestling with this issue for many decades. He added anecdotally, that on his way to Lake Ontario during the summer he saw three Dutchess County Sheriff vans on the road. The cost of transporting inmates is just one cost. Other costs relate to the human toll; the toll on the inmate; the toll on staff; the toll on the families of the inmates. Considerable effort is spent moving inmates, officers and resources. In addition, the policy of housing out limits or denies inmates access to services designed to assist them and their families. Half of the jail population, approximately 250 inmates on average, each day, cannot avail themselves of services.
- The current facility is old, inefficient, and costly. The Dutchess County Jail is the most inefficient in New York State with a ratio of 1 Corrections Officer (CO) to every 1.2 inmates. Ratios of newer designed jails are closer to 1 CO to every 4 inmates. Saving staffing dollars can allow for reinvestment to improve and upgrade programming to create a better system that helps reduce recidivism.
- The Molinaro administration is reaching out and reviewing many models from various parts of the country. A Special Populations Work Group has been established and seeking advice from some of the best criminal justice consultants in the country. Many of the issues the criminal justice system is dealing with relate to the mentally ill population. In the course of this outreach the Bexar County Texas Diversion Program has become a potential model for Dutchess County.
- Integrated into the review for the new facility is a social and service intervention component as a diversion from incarceration, keenly focused on services for veterans, women, substance addiction and mental illness.
- The Center for Effective Public Policy is working with the Dutchess County Probations Department to develop a new pretrial case management for women and the Health and Mental

Hygiene departments are being merged which will support this holistic approach to dealing with individuals with mental issues, in and out of the criminal justice system.

- The County Executive referred to the jail history and noted that some small upgrades have been made to the jail, only to see them outdated before completion, and also noted that sadly the State has reduced and removed their support for the mentally ill.
- The County Executive feels our process for the development of the DCJTC is unique. The County is looking at a very comprehensive assessment of need and costs. Dutchess County will do this right. The jail is the weakest link in the system and fixing it will help the entire criminal justice system.
- He asked Senator Saland to chair the EAG because Senator Saland had significant experience in federal, state and local law. During the Senator's many years of service, he has been involved in every major advancement in New York State Criminal Justice laws, particularly in areas of domestic violence law. The County Executive appreciates his willingness to serve and with his vast experience and talent, this EAG will help makes this project successful. The County Executive hopes for an honest and earnest conversation with the public and the criminal justice system to enhance the community.
- Colleen Pillus, Dutchess County Director of Communications spoke of the avenues of access for the public to receive information and keep abreast of the progress of the project, as well as the ability to provide their input into the process. Dutchessny.gov is the County website- and under "latest news" , or clicking under "public outreach" you can access the project information or by going directly to [www.Dutchessny.gov/dcjtc](http://www.Dutchessny.gov/dcjtc)
- The main page is an introduction with a history, how to get in contact and many other links available. The left-hand navigation panel makes it easy to use.
- [Externaladvisorygroup@dutchessny.gov](mailto:Externaladvisorygroup@dutchessny.gov) is the email address to contact the group where you can send your questions. Anyone sending questions to this email address will have their question directed to the appropriate person for response. If they don't want to check the website continually, they can sign up for Dutchess Delivery and any updates to the calendar or changes made will automatically be sent to them.
- Colleen went on to explain that the Special Populations Work Group's information is already up on the website and access to the County Legislature's Jail committee page as well as information on Proteus, the PODs vendor, are also available.

- A new Facebook page has been established - Dutchess County Justice & Transition Center . If people have suggestions, they can communicate and receive a response through that social media. Minutes from meetings and questions from the public and the responses will be made available online, as well.
- Ron Knapp, Police Chief for the City of Poughkeepsie and Chairman of the Special Populations Work Group and Mary Ellen Still provided an update on the group's progress. As previously stated, the DCJTC project is a two-pronged approach to reduce recidivism through programming and by expanding capacity. Programs to reduce recidivism are currently not available to those inmates housed in other county jails. Once someone is sent to another county, housing and meals are all that is available. However, programming will be provided once the PODs are in use. The Special Populations Work Group is identifying what will be available, how the programs will be administered and to whom. The need for continuation with community resources is also being addressed for when inmates return to the community.
- Another model being considered is how to divert those individuals with mental issues from being incarcerated in the first place. Group member and President of PEOPLE Inc., Steve Miccio is spearheading an effort to create a center similar to the one which Leon Evans from the San Antonio Texas Recovery Center has developed. More will be available about this effort in the weeks and months to come.
- Kevin Warwick of Alternative Solutions Associates, specializing in the assessment of best practices in criminal justice programs and alternatives to incarceration, has been engaged by the County to work with this group.
- Joe LePore asked about staffing levels for the Pods. Chief Knapp said that was part of the process of transition and the County had placed additional funding in the 2015 budget for resources for programming and the needed correction officer staff.
- Mary Ellen Still spoke of the work being done to determine risk levels of those incarcerated. The proxy process at time of entry establishes a risk level from one to six. (six being the highest risk). This is used to determine necessary staffing, appropriate programs and continued programming assessment.
- Saland mentioned that it seems that the real solution is going to be through the programming, not only in the jail, but in follow-up in the community on a continuing basis. Mary Ellen Still agreed, saying the County is looking at a very comprehensive approach to achieve this.
- Chief Knapp said it is very unique that we are looking at programming before building the jail rather than building a facility and trying to work around it.

- Noel Knille, Commissioner of Public Works was introduced. She is also a member of the Special Populations Work Group and said she was amazed at the level of expertise, experience and knowledge the group has demonstrated.
- The New York State Commission on Corrections (COC) approved the temporary inmate housing and has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the County. Morris Associates has the responsibility for site development and, Thomas Gleason contracting is doing the excavating work. They are about 1/3 complete for temporary water and sewer needs for the temporary housing. Final completion of the site prep is expected by mid-December. Secured temporary parking for existing staff and visitors has been created north of the existing Sheriff's Office.
- The modular housing units are being constructed by Proteus in Georgia, and will be shipped as completed sections are made. Completion of the housing units is expected by January 2015. Once completed, the Sheriff and the Jail Administrator will seek final occupancy approvals from the COC. The COC has been very involved in the process and we have an excellent working relationship.
- Chairman Saland asked the cost of housing out vs the cost of this temporary housing. Noel said the cost of housing out is about 8 million per year, the Pod leasing option will be about 6 million.
- The County's 2015 budget allows for a continued housing out of approximately 35 inmates once the PODs are in use. The expectation, however, is with increased programming availability and reduced processing time by eliminating travel that the number will be reduced or even eliminated.
- The Pods are not visible from the street, as they are behind the existing jail. As a result, there should be no disruption to the existing neighborhood. The Pods are leased for 3 years with an option for 2 additional years. The permanent jail structure has not yet been designed and the COC agreed to the timeframe as long as we continued toward a permanent solution.
- Commissioner Knille has asked that the architectural bid include a creative phasing component so that during the construction we will not see a need to increase housing out again as building of the permanent structure proceeds.
- Jim Hammond asked how inmates will be assessed to determine who will be in Pods and who will remain in current facility. George Krom said units are composed of individuals with like risk levels whenever possible. Additionally, programming needs will also be considered...and of course, gender. The PODS will be viewed as a positive and inmates housed there will be placed as a result of good behavior.

- Mr. Hammond asked if the Pod housing would be comparable to the current housing. George said in some ways, such as air flow and air conditioning, they may actually be better.
- Chairman Saland asked Commissioner Knille about the water and sewer line disruption during construction and how that would impact current residents in the neighborhood. Commissioner Knille responded they would be installed during the overnight hours, since it would mean turning off the water. Neighbors will be advised of the date and time with the intent to create as minor an inconvenience as possible.
- Commissioner Knille discussed master planning and explained that Ricci Greene Associates was hired as the primary consultant. They will include several teams, including site design specialists, urban design specialists, engineering, construction, and architectural partners to do the building and needs assessments, the adaptive reuse and urban planning considerations. December 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup> they will be meeting with staff to review needs assessment questionnaires.
- Chairman Saland received a question from a guest in attendance at the meeting. Chairman Saland said the EAG would not be answering questions from the public at this particular meeting, however, at subsequent meetings of the EAG, the public would have the opportunity to ask questions.
- In closing, Chairman Saland referred to the group's organizational meeting in August and the subsequent tour of the existing jail and sheriff office. He shared that the resulting comments from group members supported an assessment that upgrades were long over-do. Many had not been in the jail for many years, or ever. The need for an improved facility was quite apparent. Also apparent is the need for transparency. The External Advisory Group will be a conduit for the community and all interested parties. Every forum will be open and there will be opportunities for the public to provide comments and raise questions, to offer suggestions and criticism. He invited all to keep coming and said everyone who wants to be heard will be in an appropriate forum. He shared that programming seemed critical. Housing out just isn't working and it is too expensive. Further, it is not fair to the inmates nor the taxpayer. Incarceration without doing something to address the behavioral issues which cause the criminal offenses will not reduce recidivism.
- Chairman Saland reiterated that the Jail/ Sheriff complex is in a community near the Walkway and that a new design could potentially attract new development, retail services or even public park-like area. The team hired by the County includes experts in the field of urban and community development and integrating jail facilities within residential neighborhoods. This will be a major goal of the DCJTC project.
- The Group will begin meeting regularly in January.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.