

Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2018

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Chief Tom Pape, City of Poughkeepsie Police Dept.
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt.
Tom Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Kari Rieser, Citizen Appointment
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, DC Family Court
Barbara Jeter-Jackson, DC Legislator
Karmen Smallwood, Dutchess County Probation, Women's Chair
Bill Eckert, DBCH
John Alessi, D.C. Jail
Dan Hairston, Citizen Appt.
Shirley Adams, CIC Chair
Rebecca Edwards, D.C. Legislator
Austin "Brud" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims' Chair
Michael Walters, D.C. Jail
Charles Robitaille, DBCH
Dawn Hawley, Coordinator

Guests: Joanne Nellis, Dutchess County Probation
Tom Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Nora Reissig, Exodus TC
Jeffrey Schneider, ENJAN
Sgt. Will Moore, D.C. Jail
Lt. Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Officer Pamela Lamonica, D.C. Jail
Molly Shanley, DCJ volunteer

1. Approval of March 13, 2018 minutes — The minutes were approved on a motion by Chief Tom Pape, seconded by Tom Angell.

2. Jail/ATI Report—John Alessi and Mary Ellen Still

The reports were sent out by e-mail. Copies were available at the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

3. **“Raise the Age” - Hon. Joseph Egitto** - Judge Egitto reported that he attended the Regional Youth Justice Team meeting and it is his opinion that Dutchess County is advanced in its planning. There is a preliminary plan in place and the final plan will be submitted once the state releases the planning instructions and guidance. At the Regional Youth Justice Team meeting, most of the discussion was about detention. Woodfield (detention center) is being expanded by approximately 100 beds, but is not expected to be ready for about two years. They will use trailers with about 30 beds each until the expansion is completed. The Westchester Commissioner believes that they will be able to serve the detention needs of surrounding counties, including Dutchess. The 2017 numbers show a reduction in arrests among 16 year olds. Misdemeanors all come to Family Court; felonies (Adolescent Offenders) will initially start in the Youth Part. Our Youth Part will be in County Court. Night arraignments will be handled by the City of Poughkeepsie with Beacon as the backup. Day time arraignments will go to County Court. Some of those felony cases will be transferred at arraignment to the Family Court. Once a case is transferred, the Adolescent Offender is designated a Juvenile Delinquent. There are adjustment services (Diversion) available for both AOs and JDs.

Judge Egitto said the committee will meet next week to discuss protocols. Mary Ellen thanked Judge Egitto for his report.

4. Presentation – Overview of Current and Future Programs /JTC

Jon Heller, Special Populations Committee Chair, introduced Charlie Robitaille from DBCH, Director of jail-based mental health services and RESTART; Jail Administrator Mike Walters, Lt. Winnie Milkovich, Lt. John Alessi, Sgt. Will Moore, and Officer Pam Lamonica. Jon stated that the Criminal Justice Council has long been committed to evidence-based programming. Evidence-based programming is objective, balanced and uses research to inform policy and practice so that outcomes are improved. The benefits of using evidence-based programs are: utilization of proven programming throughout the system, appropriate deployment of resources and measurable outcomes. We are therefore able to divert individuals presenting lower risk and focus interventions and resources on the populations that present higher risk.

Jon said it is important to have a general knowledge of pre-trial services in Dutchess County. Each day a member of the pre-trial services team interviews those newly admitted to the jail. Probation Officers are also present in higher volume courts. There are several evidence-based screening instruments used (COMPAS-FTA, Proxy, TCUDS). The initial screening is conducted to ensure eligible defendants are released as quickly as possible to the least restrictive option commensurate with their risk. The remaining jail population gets second stage screening to see if there are other release options available. In addition, there is a biweekly meeting held between the District Attorney’s Office, Public Defenders Office, Pretrial Services, Jail and the Department of Behavioral and Community Health to review remaining cases. Only a judge can sign a release order. This year we introduced the use of the Texas Christian University Drug Screen (TCUDS) to the screening process to reduce the time period from referral to completed substance abuse assessment and subsequent placement in an appropriate treatment program. Dr. Gary Christensen developed a matrix as a guide for criminal justice/treatment options based on risk/need.

Jon showed a slide showing the hierarchy of ATIs in Dutchess County for both the sentenced and unsentenced population. The Special Populations Committee identified a need for programming for our

highest risk population in the jail. This led to the development of RESTART which is both a jail-based and transitions program.

Charlie Robitaille said that the RESTART program (Re-Entry, Stabilization, Transition and Reintegration Track) was developed by the Special Populations work group with the assistance of our consultant, Kevin Warwick. The goal of RESTART is to provide treatment and re-entry services to male and female inmates housed in the Dutchess County Jail who are at high risk for reoffending. Some of the components of RESTART include MRT, (Moral Reconciliation Therapy), DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) that helps people with emotional regulation, mindfulness and stress tolerance, Seeking Safety, a trauma-based curricula and Helping Women Recover, a trauma based substance use curricula for women. Substance abuse treatment and education using the New Directions curricula is also utilized. We have co-occurring interventions as many of the participants suffer from both mental illness and chemical dependency. We provide Ready, Set, Work, an employment readiness program, parenting classes and educational classes. The programming provides heavy immersion for at least eight hours a day. RESTART serves over 600 people annually. Charlie showed a slide with a typical schedule for the RESTART program. A group has been added for women addressing grief and loss. Stages-of-Change was added more recently for inmates coming into RESTART who express some ambivalence towards treatment.

Lt. Milkovich presented a slide that shows how community-based programs interface with the Jail. The Sheriff's Office, the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health, Hudson Valley Mental Health, Project M.O.R.E., Lexington Center for Recovery, community volunteers and others work together to coordinate the programs that are in the jail.

Lt. Milkovich spoke about programs for non-RESTART inmates. There is a team approach to programming. There are many volunteers who regularly come into the jail to offer services to the inmates. There are also educational programs and religious services. There are domestic violence classes and the PEACE program for women. There is a trauma group and both men's and women's writing groups. There is an employment resume group run by volunteers. A book program allows inmates to read a story and put it on a CD for their child. There is Bible study, AA and NA. Pam is the volunteer/program coordinator.

Mike Walters reviewed the JTC conceptual design and the logic used in its creation. Mike said that we are designing a jail for public safety, to increase our programming and work towards recidivism reduction. There will be centralized common available. The final design is not complete, but there will be program space in all units as well as centralized space. The plan is based on modern, innovative and efficient designs for local jails. Programming will be offered to all inmates either on the housing unit to which they are assigned or in the centralized program space. Our new infirmary will provide specialized support for inmates with both mental health and medical issues. The JTC will provide program space to all inmates in all classification levels.

Charlie reported that jail-based services are provided by DBCH. This involves case management, including discharge planning. They also link to mental health and chemical dependency services. Case managers assist with forensic referrals to treatment as well as complete SPOA applications for housing. Case managers also coordinate Medication Assisted Treatment. The worker will help with transportation to services as well as facilitating access to other services.

Sgt. Moore spoke about the male and female infirmary housing unit for the Justice and Transition Center. It will have general purpose cells, dormitory beds, and beds for constant supervision inmates. There will be a large increase in the number of infirmary beds and the unit is designed for special medical and mental health needs. There is a female bed set up as a nursery in case it is needed.

Questions- Legislator Edwards asked if there is an opportunity for input, particularly about volunteer programs. She asked for more details about programming that will take place either on the housing unit or in a centralized program space. Her concern was that dividing up programming space among various units might require volunteers to offer the same program multiple times a week. Sgt. Moore said they understand the need for coordination and will not request volunteers to come in several times a week. There will be centralized space as well as space on individual units.

Sgt. Moore said that the new jail will be direct supervision. It will be completely different from what we have now. Gary said the very design of direct supervision allows for separation of populations according to various classifications. Specific and general programming can be offered. Brud Hodgkins asked if the volunteer community had involvement in the design. Officer Lamonica is the liaison to the volunteer community and has communicated with them concerning their needs.

Judge Hayes said that he believes there is a perception among some people that those in the jail don't belong there and that no screening or evaluation takes place. In reality, Dutchess County has been on the forefront with pretrial and ATI programs for years. Judge Hayes asked if more could be done to publicize our programs and interventions. Mary Ellen said there have been a number of efforts and there is the county website as well, but agreed we need to continue to get this information out to the public. She believes there will be further information about the LEC and JTC in the coming months. Gary said that what people need to understand is that every single person who comes into the jail is screened within 24 hours. The lower to medium risk people are recommended for release within the community. The people who are left in the jail are higher risk to offend, not likely to return to court or people who have committed an egregious crime. Mary Ellen thanked the presenters.

5. Committee Reports

CIC – Shirley Adams--Shirley reported that one of the tasks of the CIC is to raise awareness in the community. Shirley said that she would like to focus on getting relevant information out to the community. There is a meeting Thursday, May 24 at 1:00 p.m. at Catharine Street Center. There will be a briefing on the Justice and Transition Center. If anyone is interested in a specific topic or particular presenter, please notify Shirley.

Victims – Kelly Bunt – Kelly reported that her committee has been piloting a program with the help of the City of Poughkeepsie Police, the Town of Poughkeepsie Police and the Sheriff's Office for the last year to assist in tracking sexual assaults from initial report through prosecution. The pilot will end in June. The initiative will then be turned over to SART (Sexual Assault Response Team). SART has a law enforcement subcommittee. The committee is also working with colleges to get information about sexual assault to the student body. The Culinary has invited the Victims Committee to do a panel

discussion at the college in mid-summer. Kelly hopes that will encourage other local colleges to have similar informational presentations.

Women in Criminal Justice System – Karmen Smallwood --Karmen reported that the Women's Committee met in April to review the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) and discuss the importance of trauma-informed care. Project M.O.R.E. staff provided an overview of the Women's Center participants' profiles and explained how the WRNA assessment is used to drive the case planning process.

Committee members reviewed the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study which investigated the impact of childhood neglect and abuse on health and well-being and how it affected women in the criminal justice system. An excerpt from a documentary was shown. The film illustrated the impact of trauma on female offenders and the benefits of trauma-informed care.

The use of alternative forms of mental health treatment i.e. "telehealth" was discussed.

Interactive Journaling is a new initiative starting at the Women's Center this month. Interactive Journaling is an evidence-based, client-centered model to reduce recidivism by guiding youth and adults through a process of self-reflection. The model is based on structured expressive writing techniques, principles of Motivational Interviewing, cognitive behavioral interventions and the integration of the model of change.

Interactive Journaling consists of journals designed to help participants improve coping and social skills, planning and thought processing skills. Each journal is tailored to meet the criminogenic needs identified in the COMPAS. Interactive Journaling will be administered during one-on-one sessions as an aftercare program with Women's Center participants that have successfully completed the MRT program.

Bill Eckert joined the committee this month and presented an overview of female inmates in the Dutchess County Jail from a previous study conducted. Karmen said that this was extremely valuable information and she would like to continue to track such data.

Elaine Trumpetto, Director of CAPE will be presenting an overview of the peer advocates and the role of Recovery Coaches in Dutchess County at the June meeting.

Re-Entry --Tom Angell--Tom reported that the committee met in April and Linda Woodbine from Lexington Center for Recovery joined the meeting. Linda discussed the new program that the center has to assist people who are struggling with opioid additions. It is a great resource for the community.

There was a very powerful forum in April sponsored by the Interfaith Council. The issue of housing for people coming out of prison was raised. The county has submitted a proposal to the state for a re-entry house and is waiting to hear if that will be funded.

At the June meeting, the committee will talk about people with special needs in re-entry. There will be a presentation from the staff of Waryas House.

Diversion -- Steve Miccio--Steve was not present at today's meeting, but Mary Ellen reported that Crisis Intervention Training continues with more classes scheduled. Steve is also working to coordinate with other organizations to do a survey of local jails to determine the number of people waiting in jail for a bed to open in a mental health or psychiatric facility.

Quality Assurance –Gary Christensen--Gary reported that the committee meets often to look at case processing for higher risk people that remain in the jail. The next initiative is to look at case processing in the city and town because they are our highest volume courts.

Juvenile Justice – Karen DeSimone--Karen reported that the committee will meet May 24. The committee has been talking about “Raise the Age.” Committee members have been very interested in Judge Egitto’s reports. Next week Karen and Judge Egitto will travel to Westchester County to attend training they are having for law enforcement.

Legislator Jeter-Jackson commented that there seems to be a drastic reduction in the number of incarcerated people under age 21 from 2015 to 2018 and asked about the reason for that reduction. Mary Ellen responded that the number of youth admissions into the jail has steadily decreased over the past several years and although it is difficult to pinpoint one factor, it does coincide with the introduction of many evidence-based practices for youth. Mary Ellen added that we know from research these programs have an impact. Gary said that as we continue to get better with screening and assessing, we are matching people to resources they need. Gary added that they are working on statistics that show how successful screening is in identifying appropriate people for pretrial and other services. The success rate is quite impressive.

Special Populations –Jon Heller--Jon reported the committee met on April 16 and again on May 7. RESTART has a new clinician. The Probation Office has dedicated a probation officer to RESTART, particularly to assist those released from jail to community supervision. Jon reported that we have enhanced linkages to outside providers. We established a relationship with CORE, a Lexington Center program (Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Expansion.) HVMH has assigned a licensed behavioral health provider so that people are qualified for services while they are still in RESTART. There is also follow-up if they do not keep their appointment. RESTART has been visited by Dr. Tom Quinn, Deputy Commissioner of DBCH. Denise Rivera, Director of the Women’s Center also visited RESTART. Jon added that we launched a new co-occurring disorder curriculum. There was a presentation on the DBT curriculum by Mark Sasvary and Charlie Robitaille at the April 16 meeting. On May 7, there was a presentation from Linda Woodbine from CORE.

The next meetings of Special Populations are scheduled for June 25 and July 30.

6. Old Business – none

7. New Business - Legislator Rebecca Edwards asked for clarification about the process of designing the new JTC. Legislator Edwards asked when the draft, architectural plans or design will be completed and whether there will be an opportunity for dialogue here or in other forums before the plans are finalized. Mike Walters said it will not be finalized until the Commission of Corrections actually confirms the final design we are going to use. Mike said the Sheriff would need to determine what would be released and the time line, but there is a meeting with the COC in a few weeks to go over the schematics that we currently have. Mike said that the work group meets every week and there are changes to the design every week. Rebecca asked if there was any plan to share the schematics and Mike responded not at the present time.

8. Announcements – Mary Ellen announced that the Justice Management Institute sponsors a National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. There are only a limited number of Criminal Justice

Councils across the United States that are invited to join this organization. It is a very selective process and our application was accepted. Mary Ellen knows that they were pleased with the fact that we have a consultant who helps us with data and research. They also looked at the work that we have done throughout the years and some of the programs we have sponsored and issues we have looked at.

The acceptance letter said that “We will join a group of peers from around the country that represent well developed and highly functioning justice coordinating bodies.” This will allow us to have a conversation with other coordinating councils, share information, access data and look at some common issues across the United States. Mary Ellen feels that this will be very helpful to us and will pass on more information as she learns about it. We are planning to apply for a grant from DCJS that would further allow us to enhance and expand our jail-based programs including RESTART. If funded, MRT will be expanded and Interactive Journaling will be offered. Both interventions require trained facilitators.

9. Adjourn - Motion to adjourn made by John Alessi, seconded by Leg. Rebecca Edwards at 9:40 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at Catharine Street Center, Poughkeepsie