



## COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

### Memo

TO: Dale Borchert, Chairman of the Legislature  
Gregg Pulver, Chairman, Public Works and Capital Projects Committee

FROM: William F.X. O'Neil, Deputy County Executive *wfxo*

DATE: March 17, 2016

RE: Justice and Transition Center Project

I am responding to questions regarding the Justice and Transition Center project.

**Question:** Please provide the Average Daily Population of the Jail for 2007-2016.

**Response:**

Average Daily Inmate Population			
Year	Men	Women	Total
2007	280	32	312
2008	295	36	331
2009	306	38	344
2010	346	41	386
2011	372	44	417
2012	394	57	452
2013	395	59	454
2014	415	58	474
2015	387	53	428
2016	362	55	417

**Question:** Please provide any reports and additional information on existing Alternative to Incarceration Programs (ATIs). What is the success rate of all existing ATI's? What is the maximum capacity for all ATI's and are there waiting lists for any of them? If so, which ATI and how long is the list?

Response:

**Criminal Justice System Needs Assessment Final Draft**

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/CJSystemNeedsAssessment.pdf>

**RicciGreene Associates Validation Study of the Dutchess County Criminal Justice System Needs Assessment**

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/18970.htm>

**Planning and Transition Report**

[http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/ASAI\\_Nov\\_2014\\_report.pdf](http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCouncil/ASAI_Nov_2014_report.pdf)

**Review of Alternatives to Incarceration & Special Populations Work Group Accomplishments Report**

See Attachment #1.

C: All Legislators  
Carolyn Morris, Clerk of the Legislature

# Review of Alternatives to Incarceration & Special Populations Work Group Accomplishments

- March 2016



Alternative Solutions Associations, Inc.  
Kevin Warwick, President

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# REVIEW OF ATI PROGRAMS & SPECIAL POPULATIONS WORKGROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

March, 2016

This report provides information on the Alternative to Incarceration Programs currently provided in Dutchess County. The report also details the work and accomplishments to date of the Special Populations Work Group of the Criminal Justice Council.

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### **Observations and Review of Current Dutchess County Alternative to Incarceration Programs**

- Pre-trial Services Unit
- Intensive Treatment and Alternative Program (ITAP)
- Transitional Housing Program
- Electronic Monitoring Unit
- Community Transition Center (CTC)
- Women's Reporting Center
- Review of ATI Programs
- Quality Assurance
- Coordination with DCJ Programs

### **Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Accomplishment to Date**

- Development of the Reentry Stabilization Transition and Reintegration Track Program – RESTART:
  - Development of a Screening and Assessment Process
  - Programming
  - Software and Program Evaluation
  - System Wide Quality Assurance Planning
- Next Steps:
  - Grant Funding to Expand Community Programs
  - Design and Implementation of Programming at the Proposed New Facilities
  - Recidivism Reduction Model

## **Observations and Review of Current Dutchess County Alternative to Incarceration Programs**

The Consultant reviewed each of the existing Alternative to Incarcerations programs as follows:

### **Pre-trial Services Unit**

The goal of the Pre-trial Services Unit is to screen and release pre-trial defendants on their own recognizance (ROR) or under supervision (RUS) without financial conditions. In 2014 this unit released over 1000 defendants, drastically reducing DCJ populations while maintaining public safety. This Unit is part of the Probation Department as a standalone unit. The Pre-trial Services unit utilizes a risk assessment tool (COMPAS Failure to Appear Scale) designed to determine the risk of a client to appear in court. Those deemed ineligible are reviewed for further options including electronic monitoring and transitional housing. The Pre-trial Services Unit also piloted a specialized needs assessment tool for female defendants - the Pre-trial Inventory of Need (ION).

### **Intensive Treatment and Alternative Program (ITAP)**

The ITAP programs is operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene (DMH) and Probation. ITAP offers and intensive day treatment program for justice involved men and women In lieu of incarceration. There are full time treatment staff at the program as well as a full time probation officer who completes a full COMPAS assessment on each client, while DMH completes a clinical assessment to determine treatment needs related to their substance use needs.

### **Transitional Housing Program**

The Transitional Housing Program provides a secure supportive substance free environment. Justice involved clients in this program participate in treatment services at the ITAP program (or are awaiting placement in residential treatment) and are provided additional support services at the house. ITAP clients at the house step down to appropriate housing as determined by the staff and probation.

### **Electronic Monitoring Unit**

The Electronic Monitoring Unit, a component of the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, provides for monitoring of an offender 24 hours per day in lieu of incarceration. This Unit serviced 422 justice involved offenders in 2014.

### **Community Transition Center (CTC)**

CTC is operated by Project MORE as a day reporting program that provides an array of intensive services for offenders including employment readiness (Ready, Set, Work!) cognitive behavioral therapy programs (MRT), GED classes, and other evidence based programming for pre-trial and sentenced clients.

### **Women's Reporting Center:**

The Women's Reporting Center (referred to locally as the Women's Center) is operated by Project MORE and funded through an ATI grant from the State. The Women's

Center provides services to local pre-trial and probation clients. These services include cognitive behavioral intervention (MRT – Moral Reconation Therapy), employment skills development (Ready, Set, Work!), case management services, nutritional and family education programs, and other prosocial activities at the center.

### **Review of ATI programs**

Dutchess County should be commended for the wide array of ATI programs in the county. Each program contributes to a reduction in jail beds and assists the County in managing their DCJ populations. The Dutchess County system is one of the more advanced systems in the country that this consultant has worked with. The following are key observations:

- Each of these programs utilizes evidence based screening and assessment tools to target high risk justice involved clients.
- Each program utilizes evidence based programs and curricula for their programs.

In this Consultant's estimation, the County has the right size and scope of ATI programs and is not in need of expansion of these programs at the present time. However the following recommendations should be considered:

**Quality assurance:** the Quality Assurance Committee, in addition to supporting adjustments in the DCJ jail program, should work to ensure all ATI programs have agreement as to the best practice programs and curricula being used. Further training of all staff in MRT (Moral Recognition Therapy) should be provided.

### **Coordination with DCJ programs**

It is important moving forward that DCJ clients being released be considered for these programs as part of their transitional plans moving into the community.

## **Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Accomplishment to Date**

### **Development of the Reentry Stabilization Transition and Reintegration Track Program - RESTART**

After evaluation of the Dutchess County Jail Programming, the Consultant and the Special Populations Committee felt there was a need to enhance the existing Dutchess County Jail programming for inmates. The following is a list of accomplishments to date:

#### **Development of a Screening and Assessment Process**

RESTART is targeted to those offenders who are at the highest risk to commit new offenses. This in-jail program provides evidence based interventions related to the participant's criminogenic risk factors as determined through use of the COMPAS instrument. These risk factors may include substance abuse, criminal thinking/orientation, anger management, employment readiness, peer group, financial management, mental health, and other issues that may contribute to an individual becoming re-involved with the criminal justice system.

#### **Programming**

In order to provide for the post-release continuation of recommended treatment, RESTART will be promoting the use of a uniform set of curricula by the community-based programs to which many RESTART participants will be referred. The links to these community based programs (including but not limited to Community Transitions Center, Transitions House, DMH ITAP, the Women's Center, Office of Probation and Community Corrections, NYS Parole, Lexington Center for Recovery) will be maintained and coordinated throughout the course of the participant's RESTART involvement. It is intended that RESTART participants will complete their recommended "dosage" of treatment just prior to release back to the community. Efforts will be made to connect participants to post release services consistent with criminogenic needs and cognitive approaches introduced in RESTART. Work to date includes development and implementation of RESTART, as well as a programming continuum at ITAP, CTC, the Women's Center, and Transition House - all offering recidivism reduction as well as options outside of incarceration. These programs were built on earlier efforts in the County to establish and provide alternative to incarceration and screening and assessment.

#### **Software and Program Evaluation**

RESTART uses the Northpointe COMPAS risk and needs assessment instrument. This actuarial risk assessment system contains offender information specifically designed to determine their risk and needs and inform dynamic case plans that will guide the offender as they navigate the criminal justice system.

The RESTART program through efforts of the Special Populations Committee is currently collecting data to help provide information to evaluate the program. This

includes measurement to evaluate recidivism, engagement in treatment both in jail and in the community, as well as other factors.

### **System Wide Quality Assurance Planning**

The Special Populations Committee convened a subcommittee to work on the development of a quality assurance plan for the RESTART program as well as all other programs with services both in jail and community based offender populations. These are process measures, such as focus groups with offenders who have participated in the program, as part of an effort to provide ongoing quality assurance. A Quality Assurance subcommittee of the Special Populations work group has worked on the development of these performance measures, as well as to evaluate and improve on the programs being delivered to the inmates both in the jail programs as well as community based programs. This committee meets monthly and the effort is ongoing and intended to meet on a regular basis for the foreseeable future. This includes enhancement to the Dutchess county ATI programs.

### **Next Steps**

The Committee, in collaboration with key community providers, will be working on the following efforts as we plan for the new facility and continue our ongoing efforts to develop programs that can serve offenders in the less restrictive setting possible. They include the following:

#### **Grant funding to expand community programs**

The Committee is in the process of pursuing funding to expand community based services for offenders after they complete initial treatment in the jail. Many offenders fail in the first few months after release due to lack of engagement in work and other services. This funding would allow for additional ongoing support during this difficult time in their first several months after release.

#### **Design and Implementation of Programming at the Proposed New Facilities**

The existing facilities provide numerous challenges regarding the implementation of these state of the art evidence-based programs due to lack of program space and the treatment units not being designed for programming or office space for community providers. The Special Populations Committee is working with the County Executive's Office and the community to provide space for programming that will be conducive for treatment services including large group spaces, office space for staff serving the inmate population, and a correctional environment more conducive to treatment services.

#### **Recidivism Reduction Model**

The goal of all of these evidence based programs is to assist offenders in moving back to the community as productive working citizens with an improved quality of life. These programs increase the offender's chances to change and improve their life while decreasing community public safety risks. This model also attempts to place as many offenders as possible into community based settings and to avoid incarceration

whenever possible. These recent efforts are to build upon a long history in Dutchess County to develop alternative to incarceration and community services.