

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2017

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Kelly Bunt, Victims Committee Chair
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt.
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
William O'Neil, D.C. Executive's Office
Julia Pagones, D.C. Executive's Office
Chief Tom Pape, City of Poughkeepsie Police Dept.
John Alessi, Dutchess County Jail
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Tom Angell, Public Defender
Hon. Denise Watson, DC Family Court
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt.
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Kari Rieser, D.C. Legislator
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Committee Chair
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Austin "Brad" Hodgkins, Citizen Appointment
Sabrina Jaar Marzouka, DCFS
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
William G. Carlos, Jr., Citizen Appointment
Teresa Burgess, DOCCS/Parole
Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, DC Family Court
Dawn Hawley, Coordinator

Guests: Thomas Morris, Dutchess County Probation
Karmen Smallwood, Dutchess County Probation
Joanne Nellis, Dutchess County Probation
Shannon Wong, NYCLU Intern
Jeffrey Schneider, ENJAN
Peter Van Schaick, Collective Impact
Dean Michael, Deputy Sup/ Town of Clinton
Molly Shanley, DCJ volunteer

1. Approval of September 12, 2017 minutes — The minutes were approved on a motion by Judge Mora, seconded by John Alessi.

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

The reports were sent out by e-mail. The jail population has decreased and is running in the mid-420s. There were no comments.

3. Criminal Justice Report—Dr. Gary Christensen

Gary reported that he continues to work on criminal justice processing. We had seen a decrease in average length of stay but unfortunately these decreases have diminished. Bill O’Neil asked Gary if he thinks that the parolee count is causing some difficulty in achieving the ALOS goal. Gary said we have seen a reduction in the average length of stay for parolees, but the number of parolees is up. We continue to work on reducing average length of stay and will address it from several different approaches. One of these is through RESTART which at this early point shows a 13% reduction in recidivism for those who remain in the program for 30 days or longer. Gary added that research shows up to a 30% reduction for well-established programs. Gary said achieving a 13% recidivism reduction is very good for the first year. We are working on getting people sentenced to RESTART more quickly.

4. Data on Placements of Juveniles—Sabrina Jaar Marzouka (DCFS)

Mary Ellen thanked Sabrina for joining us to bring information on the detention/placements of juveniles. Sabrina ran a report for 2016 looking at both secure and non-secure detention. Sabrina also ran another report for 2017 to date. Sabrina compared Dutchess to Orange County and Broome County. These are the two counties that we typically compare ourselves to. Dutchess County’s total admissions to **secure detention** for 2016 were 33. Total in-care days were 1,254. For the same period, Orange County had 14 admissions and 315 days in-care. Broome County had 38 admissions and 738 in-care days. For 2017, total admissions for Dutchess County were 32 days and total days in-care were 1,257 so we will exceed our 2016 numbers. Orange County had 24 admissions and 774 days in-care. Broome County had 20 admissions and 672 days in-care. For **non-secure detention** in 2016, Dutchess County had 140 admissions and 2,762 day in-care. Orange County had 74 admissions and 743 days in-care. Total admissions for Broome County were 58 and total days in-care were 1,529. In 2017, Dutchess County had 113 admissions so far and 1,804 days in-care. Orange County admitted 96 with 900 days in-care and Broome County admitted 57 with 1,175 days in-care.

Mary Ellen thanked Sabrina for getting this data and acknowledged that it was challenging to obtain it. There was discussion as to why our numbers are higher than the other two counties. Mary Ellen said that similar to the jail, there are multiple factors influencing it. Gary said we need to drill down further and see if perhaps several cases are having a major impact on length of stay. Judge Watson agreed that multiple issues are influencing both admissions and length of stay, but had hoped to get the statistics sooner. Mary Ellen said DCFS and the Office of Probation have been collaborating on developing new initiatives. Services for an older population will need to be developed due to Raise the Age.

5. Report on Women’s Summit—Mary Ellen Still

Mary Ellen gave a report on the Women’s Summit she recently attended. In 2013, we received technical assistance from the Center for Effective Public Policy and the National Resource

Center on Justice Involved Women. They came into the county and worked with us for two years. The purpose was to develop gender-responsive approaches for women at the pretrial stage. Ultimately, a needs assessment called the ION (Inventory of Needs) was developed and it was tested by a researcher attached to the project. It was adopted and is used at the Women's Center which opened around the same time. The ION looks at trauma, housing and a variety of other needs that may influence pretrial success. The information is gathered through an interview process using motivational interviewing and the goal is to develop an individual plan for each woman. The findings were published and presented through webinars and at the American Probation and Parole conference held in Los Angeles. A national summit was held in 2014 and again in October of 2017 in Washington D.C. Mary Ellen attended and presented at both summits. Mary Ellen spoke about risk and needs instruments and how the ION is used along with the Proxy and COMPAS. Mary Ellen said that the research and conversation will be ongoing. There is additional information on the county's website.

6. Raise the Age – Honorable Joseph A. Egitto, DCFC

Judge Egitto has been appointed to coordinate the Raise the Age effort in the county through the 9th Judicial District. Judge Egitto was asked to put a committee together to discuss how each of the members will intercept with the court system in implementing Raise the Age. All of the family court judges are on the committee as well as Probation, DCFS, Public Defender's Office, the Sheriff's Office, the DAs Office, County Attorney's Office and others. The County Executive's office has been invited to participate on the committee. More agencies will be added in the future.

Judge Egitto said that we need to plan how we are going to handle the older juvenile delinquents and the new designation of adolescent offender (AO). It is not clear if a Family Court judge or County Court judge will preside in the Youth Court part. AOs can't be transported or housed with adults or juveniles. A secure facility will be needed; we will have to build a facility or become a tenant. We will need sufficient resources and services for these youth. This will have a tremendous impact on Probation as they will get at least 60 new JDs coming into their system.

Gary said it is going to be particularly complex as it relates to detention. They are talking about creating a third type of detention. Mary Ellen said this is a work in progress and we don't have answers to all of the questions raised. Judge Watson said that judges have to have a place to send these kids. The state has said they are not going to solve the issue of where to place kids. There may be funding to support resources related to RTA. Mary Ellen serves on a state Probation RTA workgroup. Sabrina said she has a meeting in December about financial impact. She will let us know if they have a plan. Sabrina is looking at regional options and regional facilities.

Committee Reports:

Juvenile Justice Committee – Karen DeSimone

The committee met on the November 16. The agenda focused on Raise the Age. They had a similar presentation from Judge Egitto. Karen said that they continue to focus on the needs of mentally ill youth in the system. Judge Watson has estimated 75 to 80% of the youth in court struggle with mental illness. The J-Fire program has expanded thanks to more funding from the District Attorney using asset forfeiture funds. They have doubled the size of the program and referrals have increased. There was another successful Building Bridges full day conference in

October. There were 12 school districts and one private school in attendance as well as 23 agencies. The committee will meet again in January.

CIC – Shirley Adams – Shirley is out of town and will report at the next meeting.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell and Teresa Burgess

Mary Ellen introduced Teresa Burgess who is now co-chair of the Re Entry committee with Tom Angell. Tom reported that they had a meeting on October 19. There was a presentation from Collective Impact. The meeting was well attended. There will be a presentation at the next meeting on December 21 from a community group that is involved with re-entry services. The committee continues to work on the housing issue for parolees.

Diversion—Steve Miccio

Steve reported that they just completed another CIT class and trained 19 which included academy recruits for the first time. There was another CIT training last week in Putnam that included four people from Dutchess. On December 8, there will be a “first aid” training for law enforcement officers and first responders.

Quality Assurance—Dr. Gary Christensen

Gary reported they continue to provide weekly reports to Tom and Matt for case review. Recently the entire Quality Assurance Committee met to look at the impact average length of stay has on various groups including those who are sentenced. We see an increase in local sentences which is reflective of some of the efforts to keep people out of prison. Tom reported that looking at the reports has been a good exercise and has improved communication with the District Attorney’s office. Tom said that one area to focus on is parolees. Tom has a meeting today with individuals from Albany to look for ways to streamline that system. There have been a number of people with resolved cases who remain in jail for a month or six weeks before they are moved out. Tom would like to reduce that time.

Victims—Kelly Bunt

Kelly reported that the Victims Committee continues with their pilot project to develop a tracking system for sexual assault cases. The law enforcement departments in the pilot project are the City of Poughkeepsie, Town of Poughkeepsie and Sheriff’s Office. The purpose of this project is to identify any gaps in services. Some departments have been identified as needing more services for victims at first contact. The Dutchess County SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) will oversee the tracking once it is standardized. The next meeting is December 8.

Special Populations—Jon Heller

The last meeting was October 23. Jon reported they are working on getting people into RESTART earlier in the process and strengthening the connections to the community. For probation cases, the probation officer will meet with the participant and the case manager for discharge planning. Jon said they are working with the jail to help participants connect to services. Sometimes this means releasing someone later in the day (with their consent) to facilitate appointments. The committee had a report on the recidivism rate. There was a 13 % reduction in recidivism for RESTART participants. The Quality Assurance group of RESTART is setting up a meeting for all MRT providers to ensure fidelity to the model. The Special Needs sub-committee

met and is moving forward with training that will be provided by the Anderson Center. The training will start with Correction Officers and will subsequently include staff from Probation, Public Defender and District Attorney's offices. The training will help these agencies recognize and respond appropriately to individuals on the spectrum. The TCU is a screening instrument used by Probation to determine the presence of substance abuse disorders. A certain score will result in a referral to DBCH for an assessment. The committee had several meetings with staff from the Department of Behavioral and Community Health to standardize our statistical reporting. Jon said there was a joint meeting with staff from the District Attorney and Public Defender's office on the new TCU/assessment protocol. The committee's next meeting is Nov. 27.

Women in the Criminal Justice System—Karmen Smallwood

Mary Ellen reported that Mio resigned from the Women's Center. Karen Smallwood, who is a probation officer and member of the committee, offered to chair until a new director is found and has some time to settle in. At the November 9 meeting, Martin Lynch, the Director of Services for Project M.O.R.E., did an overview of the pretrial conference held in October. He spoke about the bail options manual and ATI programs and how they relate to women in the criminal justice system. Marty also talked about the use of evidence-based practices. Marty announced that Laura Benson has accepted the Women's Center Director position and will start in January. The committee is starting to think about 2018 goals. Molly Shanley started a newsletter in the jail and Karmen said they are looking for women in Project M.O.R.E.'s programs to submit articles for the newsletter. They are also planning to enhance their pro-social activities and services. Karmen said they will look at criminal justice trends as they relate to women in the criminal justice system. They are also planning to have speakers. The next meeting will be on December 5. Mary Ellen thanked Karmen for chairing the committee.

Old Business – Mary Ellen said that a Pretrial conference is held in Troy every other year, the most recent being in October. Dutchess County was very involved and several people served on panels. Jon Heller and Tom Jones from Probation, Marty Lynch and Nicole Willoughby from Project M.O.R.E. all presented on panels that were very well received. There has been a lot of interest and discussion around potential changes in the bail and pretrial system so it is important to remain current. Jon Heller was reelected to another term on the Board of the New York State Association of Pretrial Service Agencies.

New business – The 2018 meeting schedule was in the packet and will be posted on line. The first meeting of 2018 will be on January 16. Most meetings fall on the second Tuesday of the month, but there are exceptions.

Kari Rieser commented that although she lost her election for County Legislature, she recognized all the work that CJC does and that it was an honor to serve on the Council. She also commented that she has been getting a lot of calls regarding the change of visitation schedule at the jail. There are no longer weekend visits. People are very concerned they can't see their loved ones on the weekend. Kari has spoken to the Sheriff, but he said they had to do it for

efficiency purposes. She thought this was an issue that should be followed as it impacts many people. Mary Ellen thanked Kari for her service on the Council.

Adjourn -There was a motion to adjourn by Bill Carlos, seconded by John Alessi.

The next meeting will be on January 16 at 8:00 a.m.

**Meeting location: Catharine Street Community Center
(Entrance on 152 Mansion Street)
Poughkeepsie, NY**