

**DUTCHESS COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
SPECIAL POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**

**December 5, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Ronald Knapp, Chairman, City of Poughkeepsie Acting City Administrator
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender's Office, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Community Center, CIC Chair
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
William Eckert, D.C. DBCH
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Jonathan Heller, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Hazucha, Hudson Valley Mental Health
George Krom, Jail Administrator
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Thomas Pape, City of Poughkeepsie Police Department
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections, CJC Chair
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Geneva Claire Hamilton, CJC Coordinator

Kevin Warwick began the meeting by stating that Ron Knapp is retiring from the committee and Jon Heller will be the new chair. Tom Pape will replace Ron on the committee.

Kevin commended Ron for his excellent work and thanked Jon for agreeing to serve as chair.

1. Approval of November 2016 meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mary Ellen, the November minutes were approved.

2. RESTART program - proposed/functional enhancements.

Kevin Warwick stated that the committee should continue to evaluate RESTART, but expand its focus and begin looking at Medication Assisted Treatment and other special needs.

Sam Busselle said that his concern was for people not in RESTART and that we should examine their needs. Kevin responded that the focus of RESTART is the higher risk individuals staying in jail for longer periods of time, but that we would continue to look at the needs of all special populations. In reviewing the abstract for the Second Chance grant application, strengthening the community programs was highlighted. This remains a goal.

3. RESTART updates.

Bill Eckert said that one of the staff from Hudson Valley Mental Health is leaving. Until a replacement is found, Project M.O.R.E. will fill in with a staff member who is trained in MRT and case management. Since our last meeting, staff has received training in motivational interviewing which is one of the core skills. We continue to work on transitional planning and after care.

Kevin said that he attended several group meetings and the facilitators were delivering the curriculum with fidelity. In particular, Craig has an excellent Power Point presentation that connects with MRT, which Kevin asked him to share with other facilitators. The participants were fully engaged in both classes. Kevin also observed that people were going to see their case managers and clinicians, resulting in a lot of connections and positive interactions. Amanda's groups were very good, as well as the women's groups. Kevin noted the programming was professional and impressive.

4. Quality Assurance – committee updates.

Jon said that he and Gary will make some minor tweaks to the jail management system to better capture data. We are moving toward more involvement with the courts and improving communication with the District Attorney and Public Defender's offices. We will develop a quick-reference guide for the courts and a standardized RESTART progress report.

There was a brief discussion on individuals with mental health needs, some of whom are in jail only a short time or are detoxing. We will look at their classifications and work to determine how their needs can best be met.

Getting individuals with special needs into the state system is often a long and complicated process. They may therefore remain in jail for a long period of time. Tom Angell asked if Kevin had met the new Deputy Commissioner of Special Needs, Toni Ciarfella. Tom suggested that the committee invite her to a future meeting. Bill Eckert added that she formerly worked with Taconic Resources and is very familiar with the system. Everyone agreed that Toni should be invited to a future meeting.

Other future topics of discussion included progress reports, updates, other special populations, MAT and review of the proposed infirmary and programming space. Mary Ellen said she would review those recommendations from the 2012 Needs Assessment that pertained to the Special Populations Committee. Jon Heller suggested the Stabilization Center as a topic and Kevin suggested that perhaps we could hold a future meeting there.

Sam Busselle added his concerns about the number of people cycling in and out of the jail—approximately 390 from the City of Poughkeepsie who spent more than 100 days in jail--and how to obtain specifics on them so that underlying problems could be addressed, including housing and employment. He said that an ad hoc initiative had been started to examine geographic areas of poverty and other contributing factors such as housing and educational issues. He suggested that a snapshot of the population that is contributing to these numbers would be helpful. Gary is conducting a study of the 100+ day inmate population at this time which reveals that less than 18% of the population accounts for 70% of jail days used. Mary

Ellen mentioned the challenge of collecting accurate data for those who are undomiciled, have multiple addresses or are mobile. The alleged offense may have occurred in a jurisdiction other than the residence of record. These are considerations as we analyze the data. Kevin mentioned that Gary's work is directed by the Executive Committee as they have the bigger picture and can prioritize the research. As we continue to study the 100+ day population, more information will become available.

5. Medication-Assisted Treatment – continued discussion.

Kevin Warwick told the committee that he had compared what other areas, such as Massachusetts and Rhode Island, are doing regarding medication-assisted treatment and he did not find any major differences from our practices. Primarily suboxone, methadone and Vivitrol are being used. He did say that the presence of suboxone in a jail or residential setting is complicated due to potential contraband issues. Bill said that there has been some resistance to medication-assisted treatment but that is changing. Kevin referred to an article he sent to everyone on the committee giving the pros and cons of the various medications. Kevin said that each case should be evaluated to see if medication is warranted and, if so, which medication would be advisable. Kevin added that he has researched some medically-assisted treatments being conducted around the country, and there is no one drug that is being universally used. What is important, he continued, is to evaluate how a certain drug fits in with what else is being done. Tom voiced his concern that Dutchess County has a greater number of opiate deaths than many other areas and MAT should be considered more often. Tom asked how we can transition to greater consideration of MAT. Marty Lynch said that when traditional treatment has been exhausted, additional options should be introduced. He added that OASAS in New York has recently declared that all OASAS-licensed treatment programs must deal with medically-assisted treatments. After additional discussion, Bill added that the new psychiatrist at the Lexington Center has agreed to prescribe suboxone.

At this point, Kevin Warwick asked for feedback on scheduling the next meetings for 2017. It was agreed that the next two meetings in 2017 will be January 9 and February 6. The venue was not decided, but Ron will check on the conference room availability at the PSB.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Next meeting: January 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.