

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

Meeting Minutes—February 6, 2017

Present: Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Tom Pape, City of Poughkeepsie Police Dept.
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Charles Robitaille, DBCH
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
George Krom, Jail Administrator
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Kevin Hazucha, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC
Hon. Frank Mora, City of Poughkeepsie Court
Dawn Hawley, Acting CJC Coordinator

Jon opened the meeting and thanked Steve, Charlie and Margaret for making arrangements for the meeting to be held at the Stabilization Center.

1. Approval of Minutes – The December minutes were approved on a motion by George Krom and seconded by Marty Lynch with a clarification from Sam. Sam noted that his reference to 390 people with 100+ days in the December minutes was in regard to the City of Poughkeepsie. The correction will be made and the minutes will be redistributed. The January minutes were approved on a motion by Mary Ellen Still and seconded by George Krom.

Kevin Warwick stated that he received a call from Ken Ricci last week indicating that we should begin working on the plans for the RESTART unit. Kevin assured Ken that committee members have been meeting about the plans for the past five months and our team is ready to proceed at any time.

2. RESTART/Quality Assurance Update – Jon stated that coordination for discharge planning has been further enhanced. Jon added that we tweaked our termination codes so they more effectively capture the data we need to determine outcome measures. We are also continuing to work on our process measures. Charlie added that he has been on the unit and observed some groups; they are going well.

Bill Grady stated that the District Attorney's office is still reviewing how RESTART fits into the continuum of interventions, especially the Drug/Diversion Court. He does not want RESTART to be a substitute for longer term treatment or used as a sentence reduction. Jon added that this is why enhancing the lines of communication has been helpful. When a person is being considered for RESTART, the name is submitted to both the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office. Tom Angell suggested we prepare a brief memo for the magistrates so they understand how to access

the program. This would be an addition to the brief outline of the program that is already being prepared. Tom also suggested that this memo be circulated to all private defense attorneys. Jon and Charlie will write a short narrative to go with the operational document. It needs to be understood that RESTART does not end upon release from incarceration, but continues into the community. Mary Ellen emphasized that RESTART and other interventions and programs are not mutually exclusive and that each individual will have a unique case management plan.

Kevin asked George if there is a way to distinguish inmates with mental health issues that are held in special housing so that we can look at what supports might be needed. George said his system could not separate out this population but that they could hand count those for us. Charlie added that the medical unit might have records. Tom Angell said another issue is that people sent to a mental health facility are counted in the jail stats. There is very little or nothing we can do locally to influence their length of stay there. Often there is great difficulty getting people with mental health issues into such a facility. Tom added that Margaret had said that the state's new idea is to restore people to competency from the jail. Things are getting worse for people with developmental disabilities that often remain in jail for lengthy amounts of time as state facilities won't accept them. No one seems to be advocating against closing more mental health beds. The jail is left trying to figure out a way to deal with it. Tom believes that somebody needs to be pushing back. George Krom added that the jail cannot force people to take their medication. Tom believes this situation will have a huge impact on the corrections system. George will talk with the Sheriffs' Association. Mary Ellen added that although this was a good idea, corrections alone, without support from other groups, will be insufficient to make a change. Steve said he can bring this issue to the Mental Health Association of NY and also the NY Association of Psychiatric Services. Steve does not think they are aware of this.

Jon stated that Toni Ciarfella, Deputy Commissioner for Special Needs, will speak at our next meeting.

3. Second Chance Act--Kevin stated that we are applying for the Second Chance Act grant again this year. Unlike last year, more funds are available. The goal is to enhance community-based services. This is a three year grant.

4. Tour and discussion of the Stabilization Center - Steve took the committee for a tour of the Stabilization Center and explained the purpose of each area.

The next meeting will be on March 6th at 10:30 a.m. The following meeting will be held on April 10th at 10:30 a.m. Both meetings will be held at the Public Safety Building, Main Street, Poughkeepsie.