

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

Meeting Minutes—January 9, 2017

Present: Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Charles Robitaille, DBCH
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
George Krom, Jail Administrator
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Dawn Hawley, Acting CJC Coordinator

1. Approval of December 2016 meeting minutes –Jon stated that we do not have the minutes from the December meeting yet so we will approve them at the February 6th meeting. The March meeting was scheduled for March 6th.

2. RESTART update- Jon advised that Charlie Robitaille will replace Bill Eckert on the committee and in RESTART. Charlie was introduced to the committee. Jon added that the program is still down a therapist from HVMH, but recruitment is underway and there has been no interruption of services as Project M.O.R.E. has “loaned” staff for the interim. Jon added that RESTART is near or at capacity with an average daily population of about 50 males and 16 females.

3. Quality Assurance Updates - Jon reported that we have increased and enhanced communications between RESTART and community stakeholders to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. Jon continued that we are also working with the District Attorney and Public Defender on screening and processing issues. We also need to ensure that communication with the courts is ongoing. When possible, it is beneficial to have sentenced people enter the program or at least to have an agreement for sentencing. Jon added that they have had two meetings with staff from the DA’s office and the Public Defender’s office.

Kevin explained that Probation screens newly admitted defendants for pretrial release before they are screened for RESTART. Jon clarified that we want to target the population of people who are going to stay in jail. Gary added that 60 days of programming followed by the same community programming would be very effective. Gary and Kevin also stressed that incentives can be offered and that early release may happen. Gary added that it is important to understand the complexity of the program. Sam asked if there is drug treatment available in the community. Jon answered that people are currently being released into a variety of treatment programs. Mary Ellen stated that individual case plans are developed. Marty mentioned that generally placement in an inpatient facility happens quickly unless there are extenuating circumstances. Kevin added that not everyone needs inpatient care. He said that

compared to many other communities, our county has an array of treatment options. Jon added that RESTART was created to fill the gap for those people who frequently are arrested and incarcerated. Sam asked about getting data on arrests/recidivism. Kevin said that the Proxy generates this information and the data is provided at this meeting. The goal with this high-risk group is not diversion, but interrupting the cycle of recidivism. This group is responsible for 60 percent of the crime in Dutchess County.

4. Review of Infirmery Planning - George Krom spoke about the infirmery area of the new facility. A handout with a proposed layout was distributed. George added that the layout is still subject to change, but the concept will remain the same. There is good natural light for the area. There will be hard cells for those who need them. There is a small dorm section and an area for constant supervision. This unit will be staffed by medical personnel. A small group programming room was suggested. Modified dorms with half walls were also discussed. Kevin added that research is showing programming should be provided for people with mental illness and brain injuries etc. and the programming that works best is cognitive behavioral approaches such as MRT. The plan is to meet with the architect in the early spring. Kevin added that he feels the designs are good and we are just suggesting small tweaks to it. Kevin added that someone could move from the infirmery to general population or RESTART units depending on needs.

Kevin asked for any additional feedback. Sam asked if Ricci Greene will continue as a consultant on this project. Mary Ellen replied that she believed they were still serving as consultants. Jon asked if the current proposed design takes into account separate units for youth. George said no; the numbers for youth are very low. Mary Ellen added that legislation removing 16 and 17 year olds out of the criminal justice system may happen at some point. Our minors are housed in Ulster County, but we would also need to provide educational services if they are returned to our jail. Gary noted that the number of youth in our facility has dropped significantly over the past few years.

5. Other-Jon will ask Steve Miccio and Toni Ciarfella to make presentations at upcoming meetings.

Sam had asked if there was follow-up on the recommendations from the 2012 Needs Assessment. Mary Ellen, with a focus on the recommendations pertaining to special populations, reported that we have progressed very well to date:

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Result</u>
Jail Transition Program	RESTART
Law Enforcement training	Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)
Crisis Center	Stabilization Center
Women's programming	Women's Center & Inventory of Needs Assessment

In addition to the progress mentioned, we are working with our CJC consultant, Gary Christensen, on case processing. Project M.O.R.E. has received a grant for employment-focused services and we continue to work on housing and youth issues. Furthermore, it was noted that pending changes in youth legislation might influence the direction programming would take. Sam thought these achievements should be more publicized.

6. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. on a motion by Judge Mora, seconded by Winifred Milkovich.

Next meeting: Monday, February 6th at 10:30 a.m.