

**DUTCHESS COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL**

SPECIAL POPULATIONS COMMITTEE

July 11, 2016

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

- Kevin Warwick, Consultant
- Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC Committee Chair
- Thomas Angell, DC Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
- William Eckert, DBCH Jail-Based Services
- William Grady, DC District Attorney
- Jonathan Heller, DC Office of Probation and Community Corrections
- Noel Knille, DC Public Works
- Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E., Inc.
- Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
- Mary Ellen Still, DC Probation & Community Corrections
- Kendra Harris, CJC Administrative Coordinator

1. Approval of June meeting minutes

The Minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Mary Ellen Still and seconded by Martin Lynch.

2. Updates on RESTART program

William Eckert reported that Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) programs have been implemented at the jail as well as in community programs. Bill Eckert and Mark Sasvary explained that DBT was created by Marsha Linehan over 30 years ago. It is a structured approach to emotional regulation and skill-building that targets people who are at high risk of harming themselves or others. It is a type of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) consistent with MRT, Seeking Safety, Anger Management and other programs offered at the jail. DBT requires specialized training and instructor supervision.

3. Quality Assurance committee update

Jon Heller reported that after last month's Quality Assurance meeting, he and Bill Eckert were tasked with determining, organizing and detailing the quality assurance RESTART process measures. A draft document was created and reviewed at today's Quality Assurance meeting. Upon finalization, it will be presented at a Special Populations Committee meeting in August. Next, identifying and determining outcome measures will begin. Bill Grady inquired what data besides recidivism would be representative of the success of RESTART. Jon Heller mentioned that there will be several outcome measures including: job retention, completion of programs etc. This will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

Tom Angell stated that the Public Defender's (PD) office had initially been receiving the RESTART referral list as well as the program roster, but that has not been occurring recently. Bill Eckert agreed to look into this and ensure that the referral list is sent out. It was also suggested and agreed upon that the list be sent to the District Attorney's (DA) office. Bill Grady stated his concern is whether individuals in the program are serving a definite sentence or a split-bit (jail and probation). Jon replied that typically individuals are directed to programming as soon as they enter the jail with the information known from the courts; the program is not focused solely on sentenced individuals. In many cases, sentencing occurs while inmates are already involved in RESTART.

Bill Grady requested that Kevin and another RESTART team member give a presentation to the staff at the DA's office to help them become familiar with RESTART. Kevin Warwick agreed. Jon added that RESTART is directed to a very targeted audience-- individuals with a Proxy score of 5 and 6, with the highest rate or probability to recidivate. Individuals will not be court-ordered into the program. Bill Grady stated that he agrees with this position as individuals need to be self-motivated to have the most successful outcomes. Tom stated that he has received a lot of positive feedback from his clients regarding MRT.

Kevin relayed that the strength of Dutchess County is the effectiveness and consistency of its programming. Individuals are able to receive services around a system that is consistent and evidence-based. Kevin stated this should bring significant positive results in the long run. Research indicates that if individuals are given the right program and classes (consistent with their risk and needs), establish a transition plan and connect with a community agency then recidivism will be reduced. Evaluation by the flow committee and performance measures will aid in determining whether adjustments need to be made.

Tomorrow's RESTART presentation at the Criminal Justice Council meeting by RESTART

providers will be a follow-up to Kevin's last presentation. It will present an opportunity for the providers to speak about their roles and functions.

4. Updates on jail planning

Noel Knille reported that planning is currently focused on the Law Enforcement Center. The planning for the Law Enforcement Center includes the demolition of the Sheriff's building and the storage building behind the Sheriff's building. The contract for the Justice and Transition Center is in place. Designs will be reviewed at the end of the year. Physical space and program space needs will be aligned with the Special Populations Committee providing guidance.

The committee discussed that RESTART staff are spending a great deal of time on programming space logistics. With the establishment of the new Justice and Transition Center, efficiency will be enhanced. The current programming space is inadequate although corrections staff do an admirable job meeting the challenges.

Noel mentioned that the Law Enforcement Center will have a few holding cells for arrestees. The plans will be reviewed with the COC and Sheriff's Office. Tom stated that new legislation was recently enacted requiring that each county will need to have some form of centralized arraignment capability; it is pending the governor's signature.

5. Continued discussion on Medication Assisted Management options

The committee discussed the importance of evaluating Dutchess County's program structure and identifying gaps in the current Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) options. Dutchess County has implemented some interventions and options which were reviewed in the power point last month. System-wide outpatient capacity is limited and there is a need for more transitional housing and residential support. Also, additional psychiatrists and community providers are necessary as well as shorter appointment waiting lists with current providers. In addition, we need more prescribers willing to write prescriptions. Overall, philosophical differences exist among providers. There is a need for clearer coordination of care and a harm reduction approach involving MAT. Various mental health clinics in the county are limited due to regulations, shortage of psychiatrists, training and funding issues. Mark asked that if anyone becomes aware of any grants or funding to help support MAT to please contact HVMH. The vast majority in treatment courts at this time are opioid addicts. As Vivatrol is being more widely utilized, more individuals who are being released into judicial diversion will be under MAT. Tom suggested that prescribers who are utilizing MAT have a discussion with prescribers who are reluctant or refrain from doing so. Bill Eckert agreed that a prescriber to prescriber discussion could be a beneficial route to explore.

The committee agreed to continue the discussion at future meetings listing specific gaps, how can they be resolved or merged and how they be addressed. The intent of the committee is also to bring the discussion to the Criminal Justice Council for further support and direction.

The next Special Populations Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 1st at 10:30 a.m. The location will be confirmed and committee members will be notified in advance.

6.Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 1, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
 Poughkeepsie, NY