

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

Meeting Minutes—May 8, 2017

**Present:** Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections  
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections  
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant  
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative  
Charles Robitaille, Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH)  
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.  
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health  
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair  
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court  
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant  
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail  
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney  
Dawn Hawley, Acting CJC Coordinator

**1. Approval of April 2017 meeting minutes-** The April minutes were approved on a motion by Tom Angell and seconded by Mary Ellen Still.

**2. RESTART update -** Gary reported that he worked with the Quality Assurance group earlier that morning to determine different points to measure recidivism. Gary will review initial outcomes for RESTART. Gary said that you can look at 6 month recidivism knowing that 80% of recidivism occurs within 6 months and get some meaningful data, but the data at a year would be more meaningful. Kevin said that as we move forward, we will see larger and larger recidivism reductions until eventually it will plateau. Kevin said that our system is a little more complex than average so it makes the process here a little more complicated than other counties. Gary said it is important to remember that the group we are looking at is responsible for at least 60% of the crime. These are people in the 4, 5 & 6 Proxy range. Gary added that data shows that 90% of our jail days are used by people who are in our jail 10 days or more which verifies the validity of our pretrial practices. Gary continued that we really do a good job of getting people who should be out of jail released quickly. Gary added that our pretrial system is better than anywhere else he has seen and there is not a lot of room for improvement. Kevin added that very few jurisdictions use the same curriculum throughout the system and this will have a positive impact. We still need to continue our focus on communication and process issues.

**RESTART Quality Assurance –** Jon reported that they are working on further enhancing communication and linkages. Bill Grady said we are really still in the early stages of this program, but much has been achieved. Kevin will attend a RESTART work flow meeting. Kevin said he thinks we should do another focus group soon. Jon will schedule both. Charlie said a RESTART community meeting has been established and he is working on further “bridging” to the community. We started an aftercare at Community Transition Center (CTC) on Fridays. RESTART participants can just drop in from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This will help them stay connected. Charlie said one of the goals is to have more Probation involvement (sentences) to support continuation of programming upon release. Jon added that right now about 40% of RESTART participants receive a probation sentence.

The RESTART monthly report is being modified to capture additional information. Nicole has been very helpful with this process.

**Collective Impact Initiative**--Sam stated that they had a successful forum and chose a target group-- millennials ages 16-24. The focus is on five categories: education, work, youth and families, public safety and employment. These categories will be discussed at the May 24 meeting at 5:00 p.m. Tom Andriola from the Office of Youth Justice, DCJS will be the speaker. Everyone is invited.

**3. Inmates with Disabilities discussion committee update** –there is a meeting scheduled for May 18 at 11:00 a.m. at the Office of Probation. Jon will have a report next month.

**4. Plan for June Meeting** –the next meeting will be held June 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the jail’s conference room followed by a tour of the jail including RESTART. There will be an abbreviated agenda. Jon thanked Winnie for setting up the meeting and tour. The following meeting will be on July 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Kevin discussed providing specialized training for new jail staff working on program units. Kevin thinks it would be useful to do an in-service on RESTART. Winnie said an explanation of the Proxy would be helpful as well. Charlie said he is going to a “train the trainer” suicide prevention training for law enforcement in June.

**5. Other discussion Items** - Tom Angell had a meeting with the County Court judges and Bill Eckert regarding evaluations for people with substance abuse issues. Bill Eckert said the normal turn-around time to complete the reports is about six weeks. Tom said he is aware that other jurisdictions do screening differently and feels that we may reduce this time by looking at other alternatives and best practices. A full assessment typically gives you the plan of action while the screening tool will indicate level of care. Kevin stated forensic assessments are valuable, but wonders whether a screening tool could be used earlier in the process. The state now requires an actuarial assessment be conducted. Our county DBCH uses the Locator so both the forensic and Locator may be conducted. Kevin said that if we form a workgroup to look at this issue, he would be happy to participate. Charlie noted that DBCH has records that no one else has which are used as part of the background. Kevin feels a conversation about the process and where it may be getting delayed needs to happen. Bill and Mary Ellen suggested a smaller group meet with DBCH. Tom asked if we can have a presentation from a jurisdiction that does assessments differently. Kevin replied we could, but that would be step two. We need to form a smaller group to look at the issue.

The second item Tom brought up for discussion concerned people in need of psychiatric hospitalization that are either not being sent to a hospital or waiting an inordinately long time. Charlie said hospitalizations do occur, but it is more difficult and taking longer. Tom said the only mechanism left to deal with that population is the CPL730 process and the problem is the length of time it takes. As we study the jail population with lengths of stay exceeding 60 days, these cases stand out. This is a multi-faceted issue involving many factors including uncooperative inmates. If an inmate refuses the evaluation, the judge can do a temporary order of observation.

**6. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Angell, seconded by Judge Mora.

**Next meeting: June 19, 2017 at the D.C. Jail’s Conference Room**