

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

Meeting Minutes—October 23, 2017

Present: Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Dr. Gary Christensen, Consultant
Charles Robitaille, Department of Behavioral & Community Health
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Winifred Milkovich, D.C. Jail
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Community Center, CIC
William Grady, D.C. District Attorney
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Dawn Hawley, CJC Coordinator

1. Approval of September Minutes – The minutes were approved on a motion by Mary Ellen Still and seconded by Tom Angell.

2. Second Chance Grant Update – Kevin reported that we were not awarded the Second Chance Grant we had applied for. There were 27 applicants and five awards.

3. RESTART Update – Charlie reported that the percentage of successful RESTART participants was 57%, the total incomplete were 31% and 12% were unsuccessful. The incomplete were released from the jail before they had the full dosage. Charlie said that does not necessarily mean we wouldn't continue to work with them or that they would not be successful. Charlie said they have begun to talk about how to incentivize the program, particularly for the probation cases. Charlie has noticed a pattern where people are coming into jail saying they want to do their time; they do not want to do the RESTART program. In some cases, the time they would do may be less. They discussed giving people who have a Violation of Probation a fixed amount of time that would give the correct dosage of RESTART and would resolve the violation. Bill Grady asked Mary Ellen her opinion on this. Mary Ellen said that participation in RESTART is frequently recommended on Violations of Probation as long as the person is eligible and willing to participate.

Jon reported on some highlights for the RESTART program. One graduate from the Drug/Diversion Court credited his turnaround to participation in RESTART. This individual was facing prison, but the judge gave him another opportunity by engaging in RESTART. Jon said that with significant help from the jail, Winnie in particular, we have been able to delay the time of release for an inmate so that we could make arrangements to take him or her to their first community appointment. Charlie thanked Winnie for her full commitment to the program and process. Tom Angell commented that he thinks they are doing a great job getting everyone to Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) which is making a big difference in the success of the program. Tom also said that when he looks at the list of

discharges, not many will be under supervision. He feels that we need to make referrals for RESTART as early as possible in the criminal justice process.

4. Quality Assurance Updates – Kevin reported that they had a discussion with Dr. Knight, who is the developer of the Texas Christian University instrument (TCU), about the matrix. The matrix is a menu of options to be considered based on the TCU screen. Mary Ellen told him step-by-step what we are doing and how we are doing it. Dr. Knight confirmed this is an ideal way to use the TCU.

Kevin said that early screening with an instrument is something we have not had before. Tom said that early communication to the Public Defender and District Attorney helps determine next steps.

5. Update from Tom Angell - Special Needs Subcommittee -

Tom reported that they haven't met since our last meeting. Jon reported that he spoke with Correctional Mental Health because the Anderson School wants forms filled out before we can set up training. Jon is waiting to hear back.

6. New Facility update - Kevin

Kevin reported that LaBella is working on the plans for the Justice and Transition Center and Kevin thinks they are clear on the needs of the RESTART units and program space. Tom Angell said there should be room for a court in the new facility. Winnie suggested contacting Sgt. William Moore. He is the coordinator for Corrections.

7. Recidivism Data - Gary – Gary presented a PowerPoint with a graph showing the overall recidivism rate for all people released from our jail, other than RESTART, for January 2012 through January 2016. It also shows a recidivism study from the beginning of September, so it shows a minimum one-year recidivism rate by Proxy score. Gary said you can see that the tool validly measures recidivism risk. Gary will send this to the committee. The next slide shows recidivism rates for RESTART participants. At this point, we show a 13 % reduction in recidivism for RESTART (high risk people). There is less of an impact with lower risk people. Mary Ellen added that these people may have gone into RESTART when the program opened so we may see even better results as the program evolved. Recidivism is measured by anyone coming back into our jail for any reason. These numbers excluded people that attended less than 30 days. Gary added that the data is very encouraging. Kevin said that getting more cases on probation will make a positive difference. Gary said that as inmates see that RESTART will help them, more will be likely to accept early sentencing.

8. Other Business – none

Next meeting – The next meeting will be November 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Ellen Still, seconded by Winnie Milkovich.