

**DUTCHESS COUNTY**  
**SPECIAL POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**  
Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2016

PRESENT: Kevin Warwick, Consultant  
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Community Center  
Sam Busselle, Citizen  
Gary Christensen, Consultant  
William Eckert, DC Department of Behavioral & Community Health  
William Grady, DC District Attorney  
Jonathan Heller, DC Office of Probation & Community Corrections  
Noel Knille, DC Public Works  
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E., Inc.  
Jennifer L. McGahan, Hudson Valley Mental Health  
Winifred Milkovich, DC Jail  
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court  
Mary Ellen Still, DC Probation & Community Corrections  
Kendra Harris, CJC Administrative Coordinator

**1. Approval of April 11, 2016 Minutes**

The Minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Sam Busselle and seconded by Mary Ellen Still.

**2. Updates on RESTART program**

William Eckert reported that the RESTART program is fully staffed with the addition of a new clinician from Hudson Valley Mental Health. The clinician has participated in orientation, training and begun to see individuals in groups. There has been an increase in both the types and number of groups being offered, including more MRT groups. An intensive training will be held in June for Dialectical Behavioral Therapy with three RESTART therapists attending. As room space and security staff is made available, additional groups can be added. We are still limited by the configuration of space in the current jail. The Vivitrol pilot program has begun with three individuals having received an initial injection in jail and released to services in the community. Bill explained that the medical unit at the jail performs an assessment and medical screening for each person prior to receiving the injection.

**3. Quality Assurance committee update**

Johnathan Heller reported that the committee had a very productive meeting. A full month of data for RESTART compiled in the NorthPointe case management system is being reviewed and adjustments will be made for defining outcome measures. Gary Christensen will evaluate what's needed for long-term studies, queries and reports. The committee will review the program acceptance criteria, proxy scores, individual case management, along with the number of groups an individual attends for further analysis. A weekly meeting is held to identify various ways program referrals are made and how case management planning is working as inmates are released. This information will impact how jail programming units are planned and used in the future. Noel Knille suggested that consideration be

given to what program space will be needed for the Justice and Transition Center and how that may potentially change over time so that construction plans can be made accordingly.

Sam Busselle asked if the committee is evaluating performance objectives. Kevin Warwick responded that the both performance objectives and outcomes will be evaluated. We will analyze RESTART and community-based programs that are a continuation of RESTART programming. Our focus is on recidivism reduction programs.

#### **4. Updates on jail planning**

Noel informed the committee that the contracts for the selected agencies are pending and will be signed shortly. In addition to the firm selected to design and construct the Law Enforcement and Justice and Transition Center, two local agencies will work on the project. Noel explained that the Law Enforcement Center will be built first and that the original request list has been reduced to the point that it cannot be downsized further without compromising safety and efficiency. The RFP stipulates that the architects must look at every aspect in order to minimize costs and maximize efficiency. RicciGreene Associates has been retained to advise the county on the project.

The Stabilization Center asbestos abatement is expected to be completed in the next two weeks. Construction is expected to begin the first week in June.

#### **5. Data Report--Gary Christensen**

Gary Christensen reviewed a power point which had recently been presented to the Criminal Justice Council. The power point will be posted on the Dutchess County website. The following discussion took place during and after the presentation:

It was clarified that individuals in RESTART can continue the same programming once they are released to the community. If an individual is in programming prior to incarceration they may continue their programming as well. Data for all programs are maintained in order to review statistical results. Bill explained that RESTART and ITAP utilize the New Directions curriculum which is designated as the substance abuse curriculum. It addresses very specific attitudes using a cognitive behavioral curriculum for high-risk populations. Kevin added that all RESTART programming is CBT based. He said that significant recidivism reduction is generally not seen in the first 6-12 months when a program is starting, however, significant reductions will be seen over time.

The committee discussed and reiterated that their task is to evaluate, create and implement programming for special populations and examine how these programs will work within the framework of the Justice and Transition Center. There was discussion regarding what data would be helpful in moving forward. The importance of having an overarching plan coordinated by the Executive Committee was highlighted. After further discussion, it was agreed that the next topic to be explored would be heroin and opiates, especially in regard to individuals presenting with lower criminogenic risk but higher needs because of their addiction.

#### **Other Business**

Tom expressed concern over a report reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting that revealed Dutchess County as having the highest rate of heroin overdose deaths per capita in the state. The committee agreed to dedicate a generous portion of the next meeting to this issue.

