

DUTCHESS COUNTY
Special Populations Committee
Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2016

PRESENT: Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Community Center, CIC Committee Chair
Gary Christensen, Consultant
William Eckert, DBCH Jail-Based Services
Colleen Feroe, DBCH
Kevin Hazucha, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Jonathan Heller, DC Office of Probation and Community Corrections
Noel Knille, DC Commissioner of Public Works
George Krom, DC Jail Administrator
Judy Lombardi (Representing Thomas Angell), DC Public Defender's Office
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE, Inc., Diversion Committee Chair
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Winifred Milkovich, DC Jail
Sam Busselle, Citizen
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Mary Ellen Still, Director of DC Probation & Community Corrections
Kendra Harris, CJC Administrative Coordinator

Mary Ellen introduced Kendra Harris as the new Administrative Coordinator for the Criminal Justice Council. Kendra will take the minutes for the Special Populations Committee meetings.

1. Approval of February 2016 Minutes

The minutes of the February 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by George Krom/ Steve Miccio.

2. Reviews of next steps

Sam Busselle asked the committee for overall statistics for various categories such as the number of inmates with co-occurring disorders or chemical dependency issues; how many are incarcerated for misdemeanors; the level of recidivism; the impact on women and men; the level of mental illness and the characteristics and types of treatment. Bill Eckert explained that there is historic general data available from periodic monitoring for a bench-marking system to evaluate and create a recidivism reduction program model. Gary Christensen added that this committee will analyze recidivism rates periodically after a statistically significant number of people have completed RESTART. At that time, we would measure the data against baseline recidivism rates to determine the impact of RESTART. The committee clarified that while the data of each of the areas inquired about is important, as a committee our focus is special populations. Other committees are focusing on the specific issues mentioned. We report back to the Executive Committee and CJC along with the other committees and these combined efforts help us to take a comprehensive approach. Progress and outcomes are reported by the chairs of the respective committees at CJC meetings.

Kevin explained that the Quality Assurance group is evaluating the data collection process along with Gary Christensen and RESTART programming. The assessment data obtained from the Proxy and COMPAS will give us much of the information requested. We will then need to evaluate outcomes, both for the RESTART program and community-based services.

Sam also inquired if there will be a need for a more permanent residential facility that is an alternative to jail. Steve Miccio responded that the state now plans to make forensic beds available, and the Office of Mental Health is allowing organizations, like PEOPLE, Inc. to have specialized housing for individuals that were previously incarcerated. Kevin Warwick added that an application has been submitted for the Second Chance Act Re-entry for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders. This grant would provide services at the Women's Center and HVMH to ensure a seamless transition for RESTART participants.

Sam asked Gary about his progress in working with the District Attorney and Public Defender on case processing. Gary responded that they are currently discussing ways to improve practices that will include both offices as well as judges. Also under review is a comparison of risk levels and jail admissions from various jurisdictions. A time frame has been agreed upon between the DA's Office and Public Defender regarding case processing with the understanding that it may need to be adjusted to fit the complexities of individual cases.

Sam said that he appreciated the progress that the committee is making and looks forward to ways to continue to support these additional efforts.

3. Updates on RESTART Program

Bill reported that one of the core components of the curriculum is MRT; all staff has been trained. Space has been identified to hold all of the groups. Recently, Northpointe COMPAS software was installed and there are plans to have it customized for the program. Ready, Set Work, an evidence-based employment readiness program has been held for the last 10 weeks, with two more weeks until completion of the cycle. All participants were retained in the class with the exception of one individual who was released from jail; that person was able to continue in the community-based program. A probation officer has been filling in at the jail until more staff are trained in the curriculum. Marty Lynch added that two additional staff will receive training in the near future: one from the Women's Center and one from CTC. Currently, trained staff are available at both CTC and the Women's Center.

Bill added that the men's unit is full and that we have more women interested and eligible for the program than anticipated. Jon Heller said that the waiting list is constantly changing and increasing, but eligible inmates are quickly screened for the program.

4. Second Chance Grant application

Kevin reported that the Second Chance Act Re-entry for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders grant application has been completed and submitted. He said that he feels it was a comprehensive application and has a good chance to be selected for funding.

5. Update on jail planning

Noel Knille reported that the architect was selected last week. The selection committee chose the same firm for both Project A, the Law Enforcement Center and Project B, the Justice and Transition Center. The firm selected will be announced shortly. Contract negotiations are underway. It's anticipated that the architectural firm will be under contract by the end of this month. A review of the schematic design will occur. Meetings will be held with the jail staff, sheriff's staff, and others to review plans for program space.

Work on the Stabilization Center is progressing. The asbestos abatement is scheduled to start next Monday. Noel advised that there will be a 4-5 month construction period, and anticipated the Center to open in October. Last week a meeting was held with neighbors to inform them about the project. Steve reported training has been done and policies and procedures are being created. There will be a meeting with the State Office of Mental Health to request waivers. The State Office of Substance Abuse Services has already granted waivers for the Center. Funding opportunities continue to be explored.

Crisis Intervention Training is ongoing. The State Office of Mental Health has agreed to pay for the next training. The training in June is expected to have approximately 40 officers.

UPDATES

The next Special Populations Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16th at 10:30 a.m. The location will be confirmed and committee members will be notified in advance.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 16, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
 Poughkeepsie, NY

**NOTE: THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, 505 MAIN ST.,
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY.**