

Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Meeting

August 10, 2015

KEY AGENDA ITEMS AND INFORMATION:

Agenda:

1. RESTART Update
2. Women's Programming
3. Software Committee Update
4. Updates for CJC

Other Items:

Present:

Ronald Knapp, Chair, City of Poughkeepsie Police Chief
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Onaje Benjamin, DC Jail
Sam Busselle, Citizen
Bill Eckert, Dutchess County Mental Hygiene Jail-Based Services
Kevin Hazucha, HVMH
Jon Heller, Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections
George Krom, DCJ
Martin Lynch, Project MORE
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee
Hon. Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Mary Ellen Still, Director of Probation
Kevin Warwick, Consultant, ASA

The minutes of the July meeting were approved by Judge Frank Mora and Tom Angell. The June minutes will be emailed shortly, and if there are no changes, they will be posted on the website.

1. RESTART Update

Mary Ellen reported that contracts are in place for the two vendors: Project MORE and Hudson Valley Mental Health.

Tom asked why we decided on two vendors instead of one. Mary Ellen said the county reserves the right to hire more than one vendor for projects. After reviewing all the responses, it was decided that it would be more effective to have two organizations provide services as each brings unique strengths and skills—one with a clinical focus and the other in criminal justice. This model will also strengthen our collaboration. Each agency was supportive of this model. The

budget was not changed and will be split between the two organizations. Everyone will be trained in the same curriculum.

Hudson Valley Mental Health will provide the mental health, one-on-one, and group services. Project MORE will provide case management, and serve as a link to the community, as well as conduct group sessions. Bill Eckert will provide clinical supervision. Overall, this will be a team effort. Bill Eckert added that Project MORE will be very active with transition planning. There will be a high ratio of case managers to clients. We want to have staff cross trained. There is a meeting scheduled for August 31st to finalize scheduling and other QA issues, related to the RESTART implementation.

Tom asked about lines of authority. Bill Eckert said he will review cases and provide clinical supervision, but as civilians we cannot authorize movement through the facility, so this has to be in collaboration with corrections staff. Corrections will have final authority on safety and security issues. Kevin added that models that work well throughout the country use not-for-profit organizations as part of their treatment team.

Tom asked about criteria for admission to RESTART. Jon Heller said that the Flow Committee has been addressing this area. Referrals may come from various sources including the individual. The program will select higher risk offenders. RESTART will provide programming and services to address criminogenic needs. People can come into the program from many different sources. Tom suggested that communication was necessary between RESTART and defense attorneys, especially in pretrial cases. Jon mentioned that the Flow Committee would work with Tom and his staff in this regard. Mary Ellen said that all persons in jail are there because they have either been sentenced to a period of incarceration or been remanded by a judge following arrest. Those who cannot make bail are screened for pretrial release. Those not getting out immediately, who are often higher risk, may be eligible for RESTART. As the curriculum offered by RESTART will also be available in the community, people will be able to participate in programming regardless of their custody status.

Kevin emphasized that everyone has different needs and will have different road maps. A decision tree has been developed by the Flow Committee.

2. Women's programming

Women's programming is being put into place which includes gender-specific classes. Screening is occurring and women are being placed into appropriate unit housing.

3. Software Committee updates

The committee meets today. Bill said that there are only a few options available that will meet our needs and it would be better to use a product that is already being utilized by the county. Kevin added that software will also need to be included with the training.

4. DC CJC

Mary Ellen said we need to bring CJC up-to-date on our progress by doing a presentation in either September or November, preferably September. Mary Ellen said that she believes Ricci Greene will provide an update in September. Sam suggested that September might be better.

Future meeting dates:

September 15th at 10:30 a.m. and October 5th at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th at 10:30 a.m.
PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG., POUGHKEEPSIE**