

Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Meeting

June 22, 2015

Present:

Chief Ronald Knapp, Chair, C/Pok Police Dept.
Shirley Adams, Catherine Street Community Ctr, CIC Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Onaje Benjamin, DC Jail
Sam Busselle, Citizen
Gary Christensen, Consultant
Bill Eckert, Dutchess County Mental Hygiene Jail-Based Services
William Grady, District Attorney
Kevin Hazucha, HVMH
Jon Heller, Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections
Margaret Hirst, DMH
Noel Knille, Commissioner, DCDPW
George Krom, DCJ
Martin Lynch, Project MORE
Hon. Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Eunace Skelly-Senatore, DMH
Mary Ellen Still, Director of Probation
Kevin Warwick, Consultant, ASA

The minutes of the April and May 2015 meetings were approved on a motion by Judge Frank Mora and Eunace Skelly-Senatore.

1. Update on provider agencies working with RESTART

The County Attorney's Office is preparing contracts for the agencies selected through an RFP process. Tasks and functions were outlined in the RFP. Details will be discussed following execution of the contracts.

George gave an update on the PODS. There are about 44 inmates in each section. Currently the overall jail count is down to 399, with nine housed out. All those housed out are in Ulster County.

Onaje said that there have been some classification issues. Bill Eckert and George both commented that there are new security classifications and they are addressing new protocols with corrections staff. Classifications are now maximum, medium, and low. They are now implementing new security measures because the COC changed classification for the PODS. Onaje said that there are currently 50 inmates in Unit 22, and they are working on the new

procedures. Kevin said that Bill Eckert is running classes at this time. Onaje also added that new procedures are being implemented for civilians accessing the jail for programming.

Equipment and workbooks have been purchased and classes scheduled. GED classes will also be offered.

2. Women's programming

Kevin reported that they had their first meeting in May. They discussed the goals of the program and the curricula to be used. Bill Eckert said the program will be centralized. The class sizes will be targeted for 8-12 participants. Bill added that the flow committee wants to have community agency involvement. This will include involvement with Mary Haight from the Women's Center as well as the Community Transitions Center and other community agencies.

Kevin said that case management post release will be less intensive for those participating in programs such as the Community Transition Center (CTC) and the Intensive Treatment Alternatives Program (ITAP). There is a need for more case management when there is no immediate transition to a community agency.

Community agencies will be encouraged to continue those programs that were started in the jail. Case managers will be available to facilitate a smooth and successful transition. Bill Eckert said that there will be a meeting with mental health providers on July 13th to discuss training needs and programming. Margaret added that an evaluation plan will provide feedback. Kevin said that this is a pilot program and will likely need adjustments along the way. Standardization will aid in evaluating the programming. Margaret asked if there are special requirements for the new providers to obtain clearance to access the jail. George said that the standard forms may be used.

3. Software Committee updates

Kevin reported that they have drafted a narrative that describes the program requirements. They have determined the key documentation needs of the program. We will also need access to case notes, screening and assessment information. We will need the ability to track program attendance and group information as well as to evaluate outcomes. Jon Heller said that the support and assistance of OCIS has been very valuable. A meeting will be held today.

Kevin said that there are only a small number of software programs available that will fit our needs. There will be some initial costs as well as ongoing costs. Margaret added that COMPAS scores should be attached to the case so we can determine progress.

4. Quality Assurance and Flow Committee Updates

Jon Heller said that they have been focusing on schedules and women's programming as well as identifying suitable candidates for RESTART. The goal is to identify and work through issues

ahead of time. There will be performance measures set up later as the process becomes more established. We will look at a referral process as well.

Margaret said that we need to establish goals and performance measures that can be evaluated as we move forward. We will get this process started with the QA committee.

Kevin said that we have worked on a review process to target inmates for the unit. We want to look at core components and perhaps have a more detailed discussion in July. We need to look at the processes involved in post-release. There will be outcome measures that can be evaluated quickly as well as looking at recidivism rates that can take as long as 18-24 months. Mary Ellen said that we need to identify key aspects of the program that we want to measure and evaluate. George commented that we need to be able to track those that succeed or fail in RESTART. Tom added that we should also get the booking numbers to link to cases. Margaret suggested that there should also be authorization forms in place to let individuals know that they are part of a research project.

5. Developing community continuum discussion and next steps

Kevin said the Flow Committee has begun to look at a continuum. We are working on an evidence-based chain including screening, assessment, programming and outcome measures as part of a continuum. Kevin added that we are also working on expanded case management, both in jail and post release. The best programs are those that have community involvement. Mary Ellen said that the program is designed for those that are higher risk and more likely to recidivate. Kevin added that the Diversion Committee is focusing on the front-end of the system and we may be able to prevent incarceration. This is a holistic approach that is an effective model.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a. m.

**NEXT MEETING DATES: MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.
MONDAY, AUGUST, 10, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG., POUGHKEEPSIE**