

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

Meeting Minutes—March 6, 2017

- Present:** Jonathan Heller, Chairman, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Mary Ellen Still, D.C. Probation & Community Corrections
Kevin Warwick, ASAI, Consultant
Tom Pape, City of Poughkeepsie Police Dept.
Sam Busselle, Citizen Representative
Charles Robitaille, D.C. Department of Behavioral & Community Health
George Krom, Jail Administrator
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Mark Sasvary, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Thomas Angell, D.C. Public Defender, Re-Entry Committee Chair
Kevin Hazucha, Hudson Valley Mental Health
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Center, CIC
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Susan Cooper, Lexington Center for Recovery
Dawn Hawley, Acting CJC Coordinator
- Guest:** Toni-Marie Ciarfella, Deputy Commissioner for Special Needs

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Judge Mora’s name will be added to the attendance list for the February meeting. The February minutes were approved on a motion by George Krom and seconded by Marty Lynch.

2. RESTART Quality/ Assurance Updates

Charlie reported that RESTART has been working on coordination of services and it is going well. The jail-based team and the RESTART staff will meet weekly. Charlie added that work has also been done to identify potential RESTART participants earlier in the process. Of particular importance is the length of stay in RESTART as participants need enough “dosage” in the program. Jon stated that it is also difficult to set up case plans and community services for individuals with very short jail terms. Opening the lines of communication, as Charlie is doing, is helping to get people in RESTART for the proper dosage and making it easier to follow up with outside agencies. Jon continued that knowing a person will receive a sentence that includes community supervision allows cases managers to make a better plan and for better connections to programs outside the facility. Kevin added this is the culmination of many meetings with the District Attorney and Public Defender and is a big step in the program model as we will now have a stable group of people coming into the program. Charlie added that prior to discharge proposed living arrangements of the individual must be thoroughly investigated. Jon added that further enhancing this function could possibly fit in at the pretrial investigation level.

Jon continued that they are reviewing reports from Northpointe COMPAS. There were some suggestions for improvement to the reports that were recommended by the Quality Assurance group. Jon added that we will need more people trained in MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy). Marty added that training trainers is a very onerous process but is something Project M.O.R.E. is looking into. Susan Cooper added that Lexington now has an MRT group on Tuesdays. Sam asked who the certified MRT trainers are. Marty answered there are no local trainers; they are provided from the home office of Correctional Counseling outside of Nashville. If you have ten or more people, they will send a trainer to you. They have come here a number of times. We have MRT facilitators at various departments and agencies in the county.

Sam asked about length of stay and steps being taken to study this issue. Mary Ellen explained that this work is being done by another committee that was formed several months ago. This group is looking at case processing and length of stay. The Quality Assurance group that is part of the Special Populations Committee focuses on performance measures and outcomes of RESTART. There is some cross over as RESTART must consider length of stay as it relates to program dosage. Tom Angell added that he will give his first report from the Quality Assurance Committee tomorrow at the CJC Executive meeting.

3. Second Chance Act—Kevin reported that the application for the Second Chance Act grant has been submitted. Kevin added that it is an excellent application and we hope to be awarded a grant this year. Announcements will probably be made in September. The funding would support transitional services in the community.

4. Inmates with Disabilities Discussion - Toni Ciarfella, the county's Deputy Commissioner for Special Needs, introduced herself and spoke about her background. Toni was with OPWDD (Office for People with Development Disabilities) for 22 years and held a number of positions. Toni's last position with OPWDD primarily dealt with overseeing placement and eligibility. Toni then taught at Marist College for five years before she came to this position

Kevin asked what Toni sees as needs for this client population when they are in the jail facility and how we can transition them to another setting or the community. Discussion continued regarding the special needs population and the lack of placement options. George added that special needs clients should not be housed with mentally ill clients. Tom added that he believes the key is to divert this population from coming into the criminal justice system in the first place and to work with the DA (District Attorney) to see that, to the extent possible, they don't get arrested. Toni stated that there are very few beds left in the system. Toni is willing to work with the committee to find better alternatives and outcomes.

There are three areas to work on: diversion, finding suitable alternatives once people are incarcerated and transition planning. Toni said she would really like to see a respite stabilization center for this population. Mary Ellen suggested that a small group, including Toni, be created to work on these issues.

George said that developing a tool to identify this population would be helpful for his staff. If it was short and easy it could be administered to every inmate as they come into the jail.

Kevin added that we need to get a better idea of the number of people with mental health or developmental disabilities in the jail. Mary Ellen said that we have been collecting data on severely mentally ill people admitted to the jail. George said they can determine the number of people on medication in the jail for mental illness. Kevin stated that we know that many people with mental health

issues are able to function in a RESTART setting. Kevin stated that we want to be sure the infirmary is the correct size in the new facility.

At April's meeting, we will talk about severely and persistently mentally ill. Mark will bring some information and we will look at some of the data that Bill has provided us with in the past. We will also have an update on the Stabilization Center.

5. Other—Sam asked for an opportunity to speak about a new initiative in the City of Poughkeepsie called Collective Impact. Sam stated that he has been trying to determine why people are committing crimes in the City of Poughkeepsie and why the jail is being used by a disproportionately high number of people that come from the City of Poughkeepsie. Sam continued that it occurred to him that issues such as health, drugs, education, jobs, poverty and transportation are factors to consider. It would be useful if we took an approach referred to as Collective Impact to harness all the resources we have available. Sam reported that he has been able to get the support of the Mayor, County Executive, churches, the president of Marist College and others for the Collective Impact idea. Sam said there is a group called FSG which has developed a very sophisticated approach which has been successful in other areas. Sam continued that they are trying to find a core organization who would orchestrate this. Sam is hoping to have a forum at the end of the month. It will take foundations and/or grants of a considerable amount to fund a person to organize this effort. A number of folks are convinced that a national foundation will be interested in funding this initiative. Sam will circulate information on this.

The next meeting will be on April 10th at 10:30 a.m. at the Public Safety Building, Main Street, Poughkeepsie. The following meeting will be held on May 8th at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment – Tom Angell made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Judge Mora at 11:50 a.m.