

**DUTCHESS COUNTY  
SPECIAL POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**

June 13, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

**PRESENT:** Ronald Knapp, City/Poughkeepsie Acting City Administrator, Special Pop. Committee  
Kevin Warwick, Consultant  
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Community Center, CIC Committee Chair  
Thomas Angell, DC Public Defender's Office, Re-Entry Committee Chair  
Sam Busselle, Citizen Appt.  
Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant  
William Eckert, DBCH Jail-Based Services  
Jonathan Heller, DC Office of Probation and Community Corrections  
Kevin Hazucha, Hudson Valley Mental Health  
Winifred Milkovich, DC Jail  
Honorable Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court  
Mary Ellen Still, DC Office of Probation & Community Corrections  
Kendra Harris, CJC Administrative Coordinator

**1. Approval of April and May meeting minutes**

As the April 11, 2016 meeting minutes were approved at a previous meeting, only the May 16, 2016 meeting minutes needed approval. The minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Thomas Angell and seconded by Judge Frank Mora.

**2. Updates on RESTART program**

William Eckert reported that three clinicians had intensive Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) training this week. There are men's and women's groups meeting and using the DBT model, which is a sophisticated model for behavioral and emotional regulation. Participants are identified following an assessment by a clinician. It will be offered in the jail as well as in the community.

The number of Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) groups has expanded as part of the core programming. Kevin Warwick and Bill expressed their abundant satisfaction with utilizing multiple providers in the correctional environment. They agreed that it was a positive decision and all entities are working well together.

**3. Quality Assurance committee update**

Johnathan Heller stated that the second READY, SET, WORK! program will begin soon. The program will run concurrently at the jail and probation.

Sam Busselle asked if there are statistics on how it's being used in the community and the number of people that transition between the program in the jail and the community-based program. Jon stated that one of the reasons the program is run concurrently is to accommodate people being released so that they can continue. The same is also true of other RESTART programs such as MRT. Bill stated that the synchronizing of various jail and community programs "has been amazing as it hasn't happened in the 30 years that I have been in the system." Kevin added that the COMPAS (database) is being used to collect and analyze data. We need to have sufficient data and enough time must pass in order to conduct a meaningful evaluation.

Jon reported that the Quality Assurance committee continued their work on developing process and outcome measures. The target population is individuals with Proxy scores of four and up. Tom Angell added that the Public Defender's office had been receiving lists of program participants in the past but has not received the lists on an ongoing basis. Bill replied that he will address this with staff this week.

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

Kevin stated that there are no updates on jail planning at this time; however, it will remain on the agenda.

#### **5. National Overview of MAT models**

Kevin stated that as we had previously agreed, the majority of this meeting will be devoted to a discussion of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programming in relation to heroin/opioid use. Information on national data was gathered today to review. The discussion is anticipated to continue into future meetings. Bill displayed a power point presentation "Medication Assisted Treatment & Re-entry".

The following discussion ensued during the presentation:

Tom asked Bill how many individuals stopped taking methadone successfully during the time he oversaw the methadone clinic. Bill responded that while there were a few individuals that eventually were able to taper their dose and leave the program, the most successful cases he noted were those who stayed on methadone. Bill mentioned that in his experience, prescribers tend to be the most hesitant to prescribe Vivitrol. Discussions continue with prescribers, commissioners and jail medical staff to determine the use and distribution of the medication.

#### **6. Overview of Dutchess County MAT work to date**

The power point presentation continued with an overview of Dutchess County's MAT work to date.

The following discussion ensued during and following the presentation:

Kevin stated that the northeast has a very high rate of heroin use in all counties. The Special Populations Committee should start to evaluate any gaps, what is being done and what additionally can be done. Bill suggested hiring another person to expand treatment programs. Tom mentioned that the two drug courts in Dutchess County are abstinence- based programs. The guidelines allow individuals to be in MAT programming; however they cannot graduate while on vivitrol, suboxone or methadone. Tom stated that these guidelines create a justice equity issue and MAT should be offered to everyone. He mentioned that there may be an education and capacity component that should be addressed. Bill stated that we need enough medical doctors willing to prescribe medication if appropriate.

Tom inquired if we knew what percentage of individuals who overdosed were involved in the criminal justice system. Gary suggested that we begin to define the target population and then develop a treatment protocol along with a triage plan. The committee discussed obtaining data from various sources. Winnie Milkovich and Bill Eckert were asked to follow up with jail administration to see what data might be available. The committee decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

The next Special Populations Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 11th at 10:30 a.m. The location will be confirmed and committee members will be notified in advance.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, July 11, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.  
Poughkeepsie, NY