

Dutchess County Special Populations Work Group Meeting

September 15, 2015

KEY AGENDA ITEMS AND INFORMATION:

The following was the agenda for the meetings:

Agenda:

- 1. Opening of Unit**
- 2. Quality Assurance outcomes for the RESTART Program**
- 3. Discussion of eligibility criteria and movement**
- 4. Staffing**
- 5. New Jail Planning**

Other Items:

Present:

Ronald Knapp, Chair, City of POK Police Chief
Shirley Adams, Catharine Street Community Center, CIC Committee Chair
Thomas Angell, Public Defender, Re-Entry Chair
Sam Busselle, Citizen
Gary Christensen, Consultant
Bill Eckert, Dutchess County Mental Hygiene Jail Based Services
William Grady, Dutchess County District Attorney
Kevin Hazucha, HVMH
Jon Heller, Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections
Margaret Hirst, Acting Commissioner of Dutchess County Mental Hygiene
George Krom, DCJ
Martin Lynch, Project MORE
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE Inc., Diversion Committee
Lt. Milkovich, DC Jail
Judge Frank Mora, Poughkeepsie City Court
Mary Ellen Still, Director of Probation
Kevin Warwick, Consultant, ASA

The August minutes were still being finalized and would be sent out to committee members shortly. To expedite the approval process so they could be posted to the website before the October meeting, Ron asked to have the minutes approved and any corrections to be emailed to him. Minutes were therefore approved by George Krom and Steve Miccio.

1. Opening of RESTART Unit

Kevin began by discussing the opening of the RESTART unit. Bill Eckert and Marty Lynch discussed new hires for the program. Some of which are in the final stages of their contracts with the County. Bill added that the RESTART program will require full staffing, but the Program Unit is ready. Bill said that the two women now working with the females are being borrowed from CTC. Jon Heller added that on August 31st there was a full-day coordinator meeting. Kevin said that they have been meeting since then to review logistics as well as the curriculum. Marty said that the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) group has been suspended to enable more case management assistance. The trainings will run four days and they are still scheduling times to come back out. Craig and Randy will be available in the unit for training. Margaret asked if the case managers have had a chance to meet with Lee and Tony. Bill said that they have met to provide assistance. Kevin added that there are also backup people for MRT, Seeking Safety, etc., to ensure the program runs while staff take vacations or are not available. We still need to map out the schedule. There are also some existing space issues, such as the women are still in multiple units due to housing but that is also part of the need for a new facility. George said there were 47 women now at the jail. The new jail though will allow for separate units for programming and non-programming.

2. Quality Assurance outcomes for the RESTART Program

Jon said that most of the Quality Assurance issues will be focused on procedural and logistical issues. Bill added that the assessment portion will be divided into three sections: what happens before, in-jail programming, and post-release measures. The screening will involve face-to-face contact.

Opening of the RESTART UNIT

Staff from jail, probation and mental hygiene is tracking how many people that they did screen. The COMPAS is to be done by the case managers. There is both the National and New York scale, and we will be using the New York scale. RESTART will be using the North Point management software. The transition plan will be available throughout a person's programming into the community. Margaret noted that we would want to note a person's COMPAS score and redo it six months later. It was noted that 100% should be screened. Substance abuse levels are not a criteria for classification.

3. Discussion of eligibility criteria and movement

We are allocating 50 beds currently. Units 22 and 23 will not be program units in the future. Movement is the biggest issue at this point. Currently Units 22 and 23 are max units for classification purposes. John Heller added that this was a bigger problem in July and beginning of August, but now things are flowing better and will continue to do so as we work through the newness of the program.

Bill Eckert added that they will meet weekly to decide who needs to be returned to their units. Safety and security is the first priority.

The administrative criteria will be: Proxy score between 4 and 6 (there has to be justification of scores not between 4 and 6); multiple bookings; COMPAS score between 8 and 10; and someone with release continuation may also be good candidate.

Tom asked what the criteria is of probation to distinguish between from jail or transitional housing (PBSRC). Mary Ellen said that those criteria include: factors of the case; if person has high-risk COMPAS or Proxy scores; need for stabilization; and if they have not been stayed in any program successfully.

Mary Ellen said that there will be a plan in place before a person goes to the Transitional House or to any other community program. We would not put them in a house if they could not benefit from it. Tom added that he would like to recommend that everyone be released to Probation. We need to track all persons and develop the linkage. If there is a linkage with the court then this may then bring attention to the judges. Ron added that it would be good if Gary can present to this committee the characteristics of those 50 that are currently in the program.

4. Staffing

The two case managers have been hired by Project More for the RESTART program-an additional case manager that will focus on screening and assessment for the program and gender specific case management will be hired in the next few weeks. The two clinicians are in the process of being hired by HVMH. Margaret asked if it is timely to speak with the staff, as part of the orientation and training, on motivational aspects into the program and its further continuation into the community, and build into the thinking of the staff to direct movement. Kevin noted that the case managers are clear on this and the follow through. There will be a supported linkage with the case managers and community programs. Tom asked that if we could meet the new staff at the next meeting.

5. Updates on jail planning

The screening process will be multi-faceted and will involve pre-trial and sentenced offenders. They will have to earn their way into the program. Doing this pilot RESTART program now is important and will situate placement for the unit. The size of the program unit at the new facility will also be dependent on the overall size of the jail and will be a percentage of the full jail. There will also be an area of the jail to include workers. Tom asked if the new units are correction grade units. George said that the units will be correction grade but dorm style with single beds. The new facility will allow for greater flexibility. Gary Christensen noted that this design is also much less expensive and more cost-effective. The open areas demand more inclusive dynamics which is better for programming. There will be a sanction that a person can be returned to their unit from RESTART, but it will depend on the offense.

It was noted that the committee would invite Family Court Judge Denise Watson to join the Special Populations Committee.

Next dates FOR MEETINGS -

November 16th at 10:30am and Dec 7th at 10:30am

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH AT 9AM
PUBLIC SAFETY BLDGE, POUGHKEEPSIE**