

Sullivan County NH - Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Date: October 1, 2009 1 PM

Place: Remington Woodhull County State Complex – 1st Floor Commissioners Conference Room – 14 Main Street Newport NH 03773

Attendees:

Ross L. Cunningham	Sullivan County DOC Superintendent
Jim Peale	Sullivan County Clerk of Superior Court
Jan Peterson	NH State Defense Attorney
Jane Coplan	DOC Program Director
Guest(s):	
Malcolm Smith	UNH Cooperative Extension
Gail Kennedy	Sullivan County UNH Educator
Liz Hennig	SPF/CUFSAP Coalition Coordinator
Kevin Warwick	Alternative Solutions Associate Inc.

1 PM The meeting was opened by Superintendent Ross L. Cunningham, as the Chair, Bennie Nelson, was absent due to a family illness.

Agenda Item No. 4. Introductions to new County DOC Personnel

Supt. Cunningham introduced Jane Coplan, Sullivan County DOC Programs Director. Ms. Coplan has been on board two months.

Agenda Item No. 1. Sullivan County Inmate Survey Presentation

Supt. Cunningham briefed the group on the DOC survey collaboration with UNH Cooperative Extension, and introduced Dr. Malcolm Smith.

Dr. Malcolm Smith:

Teaches family studies, family life and family policies with UNH Cooperative Extension. Expressed his excitement about the survey collaboration - no one has really gathered evidence of incarcerated with county jail populations in the past and it's a great opportunity to find out information pertaining to the Sullivan County family lives. Inmates were overwhelmingly interested in participating. They gathered over 100 surveys and he believes they can help the County strengthen the transition of inmates to the community through an inoculation of education. Their focus is not treatment, but education. Inmate population is the most vulnerable, family stresses are high – they are not equipped to handle situations with partners or children. In creating the survey they used Master Educators who spent a year developing the survey - used Gail Kennedy - identified three things they thought they could help with:

1. Family relationships
2. Parenting
3. Resource and financial management

Dr. Smith noted a DOC intake officer, who was trained by a Researcher with IRB approval of the protocol, administered the surveys from June through August.

The group reviewed the PowerPoint (attached) and discussed issues brought up within the presentation. Jan Peterson noted she sees an increase of breach of bail. It was noted the #11 slide does not include all the 100 surveys collected, as of yet. As a result of Sullivan performing this survey, Merrimack County jail has agreed to run the survey using their jail nurse to administer it. It was noted a lot of research could be found on prison families, but not County jail families. Statewide team met in this area, we agreed to test three curriculums

- 1) financial management resource

Sullivan County NH - Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

- 2) relationship strategies: how to avoid being in a relationship with a "jerk or jerkette". Dr. Smith and Ms. Kennedy want to build on Supt. Cunningham and Ms. Coplan's staff capacity to use these curriculums in the new facility; and work with the DOC staff to attain cultural buy in, thereby supporting the programs administered.
- 3) Parenting – this piece comes out of Perdue University

They are designing outcome-based measurers, as well as searching for funding to help support post jail follow-ups and long-term surveys. Dr. Malcolm feels they need to ask "how can you build protective factors while they are in jail to keep them from coming back?" "What is it that the people coming out of your program do right, that the others don't have."

Ms. Peterson noted she likes that the survey is inmate centered; her clients have programs that will help them out, but they need to understand they must change internally, change their vision in terms of partners to stop replicating the bad issues.

Ms. Hennig pointed out the perception piece was missing.

Ms. Kennedy noted the community support piece will be important: they need the appropriate supports to keep them from returning to jail, help finding place to live, the ability to turn on your lights, get food on the table, help with aspects of running a family and being independent. Dr. Malcolm concurred the program must look at the community.

Ms. Coplan: important to have the conversations and connect inmates to the resources as they get frustrated easily - it's about immediate gratification.

Dr. Malcolm noted this is the beginning for them, they are on the ground running and will compare this to other counties; Sullivan County will be their priority as they see Sullivan County trying to make a change.

Supt. Cunningham would like to publish the PowerPoint on the County website. Dr. Smith concurred and indicated he'd have one of his students tweak a few of the graphs so that all the surveys are included.

1:50 *Dr. Smith left the meeting.*

Mr. Warwick noted Sullivan County is really in a great position: line staff education has really developed within the jail, the staff understands the vision of inmates transitioning into the community. Collaborations with those in the community, such as with West Central Services, is a large part. Their inmate programs model has not changed. Triage: provide services for all in jail, services based on low, medium, and high risks and length of stay. Mr. Warwick would like to see more involvement from the judges. He noted the reason they do, or don't get funding is based on the model – we have something no one else has. He noted evidence based treatments are not being used in the County jails today.

2 PM *Ms. Hennig left the meeting.*

Mr. Warwick noted treatment is already being done, but this is full blown programming and staffing. All inmates must participate, or there is no "good time" provided. All will receive after care/post release programming. They anticipate inmates going through this programming are less likely to return/ The new CCC will be dormitory style – set up where staff can control, but comfortable enough and provides incentives for those in the older jail to continue on into the new jail. Curriculum is evidence based. The anger management piece is SAMHSA based. We are seeing a great evolution of staff working on the model; www.jailtransition.com (Urban Institute – the best research group) likes our conceptual model. Everyone involved in the County criminal justice system wrote this model.

Sullivan County NH - Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Ms. Peterson is a believer in credentials, believes a good CO can be just as good as an educational trainer; this is a sincere attempt and they have a captive audience.

Mr. Warwick and Jane Coplan will schedule time to meet with Jan Peterson and her staff to discuss the model. Cunningham noted he's a firm believer in that the inmate needs to earn his way through. He noted the County Attorney is on board with their programming visions. Cunningham noted they have the matrix in place and just need to clean up the classification piece; the program provides for a follow up "check in" 30 days after release.

2:27 *Jim Peale left the meeting.*

Agenda Item No. 3. Grants Update

Supt. Cunningham briefed the group on the \$260,879 Department of Justice grant.

Mr. Warwick briefed the group on the Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative Award of \$186,440.

Next meeting: anticipate scheduling December 3rd lunch meeting. They'd like to get Yazinski more involved and see if Judge Arnold will come up from Cheshire.

2:32 Meeting adjourned.