



New York Re-Entry Today

April 2014

Volume 3 Number 2

Welcome to

New York Re-Entry Today

This bi-monthly newsletter provides news, policy and program updates and best practice information to the 19 County Re-Entry Task Forces (CRTFs) and stakeholders. CRTFs are located in these counties:

- *Albany*
- *Bronx*
- *Broome*
- *Dutchess*
- *Erie*
- *Kings*
- *Manhattan*
- *Monroe*
- *Nassau*
- *Niagara*
- *Oneida*
- *Onondaga*
- *Orange*
- *Rensselaer*
- *Rockland*
- *Schenectady*
- *Suffolk*
- *Ulster*
- *Westchester*

Re-entry as part of the Justice Department's Smart on Crime initiative

"If we simply warehouse criminals, we shouldn't be surprised at high rates of recidivism. Effective re-entry can enhance public safety, save money, and reclaim lives. We are on the cusp of something really significant. 2014 will be a truly groundbreaking year in criminal justice reform, and re-entry will be central."

U. S. Attorney General Eric J. Holder, Jr.

Remarks to the Federal Re-entry Council, November 2013

CRTF Brochure Completed for Distribution within State Prisons

To provide a better understanding of what the County Re-entry Task Forces (CRTFs) are doing and their commitment to assist individuals released from prison, DCJS, in collaboration with DOCCS, has designed a brochure for distribution to state correctional facilities, specifically through the Deputy Superintendents for Programs, who oversee the discharge planning process. The brochure is meant for individuals with pending release dates who are returning to areas with CRTFs. The brochure provides information about CRTF eligibility and the type of services which may be available upon release from prison, including CRTF contact information. The brochure is posted to the DCJS website.

DCJS Releases Semi-Annual CRTF Program Activity Report

DCJS has posted to its website the Semi-Annual Program Activity Report summarizing CRTF activities from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2013. During this period, CRTFs enrolled 1,906 moderate to high-risk persons, which is 95 percent of the six-month goal, of 2,003 intakes. Of the 1,906 intakes:

- 39 percent of CRTF intakes were between the ages of 25 and 49.
- 91 percent were males.
- 97 percent were moderate to high-risk offenders.
- 97 percent were under parole supervision.
- 83 percent needed employment programming, followed by social service assistance (82 percent) and chemical dependency treatment (80 percent).

Of the 1,598 discharges during the six-month period:

- 66 percent successfully completed the CRTF program.
- 5 percent were discharged due to a new arrest, and 18 percent due to parole violations.
- 90 percent of CRTF clients spent at least 45 days in the program.
- 68 percent spent 90 days or longer with the CRTFs.

CRTF Meetings

April 2014

Albany CRTF - 4/4

Niagara CRTF - 4/9

Bronx CRTF - 4/10

Suffolk CRTF- 4/10

Monroe CRTF - 4/14

Broome CRTF - 4/16

Dutchess CRTF -4/17

Nassau CRTF - 4/17

Rockland CRTF - 4/23

Westchester CRTF- 4/24

Oneida CRTF- 4/25

May 2014

Erie CRTF- 5/13

Broome CRTF - 5/14

Schenectady CRTF- 5/14

Orange CRTF -5/15

Kings CRTF - 5/21

Ulster CRTF - 5/21

Onondaga CRTF - 5/22

Thinking for a Change (T4C) Facilitator Training

In association with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), DCJS will sponsor three sessions of Thinking for a Change (T4C) Facilitator Training starting in April. NIC will utilize a blended model, that combines live online training events, independent study and classroom training. Classroom sessions will be held in Albany, Rochester and New York City. DCJS expects to train up to 90 participants. NIC made this substantial commitment to New York State based on its plan to offer T4C Facilitator Training to CRTFs, Probation, ATI programs, and DOCCS institution and field staff. Trainees will be responsible for completing all elements of the session to receive a certificate of completion. There is no charge, however attendees are responsible for travel expenses. By now, all CRTFs should have received the training information and application. Please contact Margaret Chretien or Margaret Schieferstine at 518-485-2393 for more information.

Re-entry and Mental Health Services

DCJS hosted a CRTF webinar on this topic on January 28. Presenters included Dr. Vanda Seward of DOCCS and Lori Schatzel and Wendy Vogel of the State Office of Mental Health (OMH). The webinar focused on the mental health classification system used to identify the level of services required by those in DOCCS facilities. Information was provided on the pre-release planning stage, which ensures access to benefits and a continuum of care to promote full community re-integration and recovery. Please contact Lori Schatzel or Wendy Vogel at 518-549-5051 to address specific county issues on this topic.

Around the CRTFs...

Mental Health Commissioner Ellery Reaves was designated as the Erie County co-chair, while Cindy McEachan was appointed the coordinator of the Erie CRTF.

DA Kenneth Thompson *has* designated Chris Owens as the Kings County co-chair, while Joyce Joiner is newly appointed as the DOCCS co-chair.

Tim Staples recently was appointed the coordinator of the Schenectady CRTF.

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This publication is produced by the DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA).

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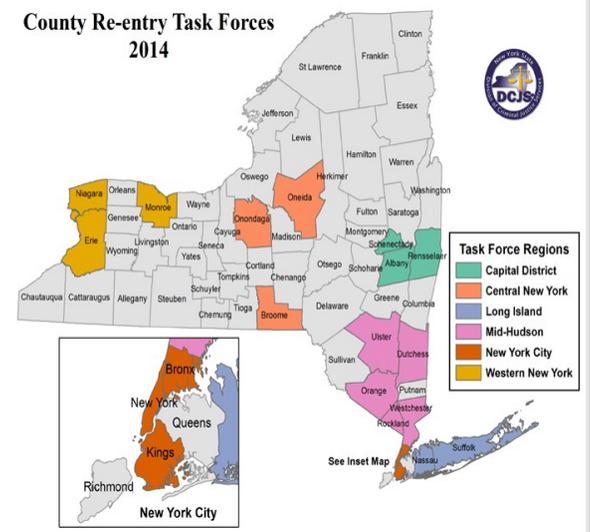
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County Re-entry Task Forces
2014



Save the Date: June 11, 2014

Efforts are underway to convene a statewide CRTF meeting in Albany. Look for more details in upcoming email announcements.