



“Expanding (re-entry) services will help more at-risk New Yorkers break the cycle of recidivism and incarceration, helping them to lead more productive lives and increasing the safety of our communities.”

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
November 2016

This newsletter shares news, policy and program updates and best practice information to 20 County Re-entry Task Forces (CRTFs) and community stakeholders.

Funded by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Task Forces are located in the following counties:

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

State Increases Funding to Achieve Re-entry Success

More than \$10 million was awarded to support job training, employment and other re-entry services to individuals under community supervision. A \$6.4 million grant will support 21 programs among 14 agencies and non-profit organizations that provide employment-focused services to individuals on probation, parole or who are referred by the court to alternatives to incarceration programs.

An additional \$4 million grant will support the 19 existing re-entry programs and the creation of a new re-entry task force in Queens County. The 20 county re-entry task forces have a collective goal to serve approximately 5,000 individuals released from prison, identify their needs, refer them to services, provide cognitive behavioral intervention therapies, and employment readiness training in support of the case management and supervision function performed by parole authorities. Referral services include housing, medical care, basic living requirements, coordinated substance abuse and mental health treatment.

CRTF Coordinators’ Meeting Hosted in Albany

The Office of Probation and Corrections Alternatives (OPCA) convened its statewide coordinators’ meeting in Albany on Dec. 6, bringing together the 19 task forces and those working to establish the new one in Queens County. Deputy Commissioner Robert Maccarone thanked attendees for their hard work and dedication serving more than 5,000 persons released from prison. The meeting focused on providing technical assistance and resource information to the task forces, including newly-appointed coordinators and representatives from Queens.

Ana Enright, assistant commissioner at the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) joined her staff in presenting *DOCCS Re-entry Staffing and Strategies*. The presentation underscored the commitment of enhanced resources by Corrections to work with the task forces and all counties statewide in efforts to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. DOCCS Co-chairs in attendance contributed critical information and clarification during discussions.

Agenda topics included data collection and case reporting initiatives, case management, program administrative requirements, promising practices, effective community and cross-system collaborations and the development of websites as a means to increase community awareness to re-entry programs.

CRTF Meeting Dates

December 2016

Dec. 1: Suffolk
Dec. 2: Albany
Dec. 7: Kings
Dec. 8: Nassau
Rensselaer
Dec.14: Niagara
Westchester
Dec.19: Queens Planners
Dec.22: Dutchess

January 2017

Jan. 6: Bronx
Jan. 9: Monroe
Jan.13: Manhattan
Jan.18: Broome
Schenectady
Ulster
Jan.19: Onondaga
Jan.26: Orange
Oneida

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Coordinated Continuum of Health Care Sought for Re-entry

State officials are seeking a federal waiver to provide Medicaid coverage to incarcerated individuals with serious behavioral and physical health conditions before that are released from state prisons. The coverage would apply to certain clinical, case management and pharmaceutical services provided to individuals 30 days prior to their release date.

A critical gap now exists between medical care for individuals in jail or prison and health coverage for those who are leaving incarceration. Medical care is provided through correctional facilities during incarceration, but many former inmates are left without any health coverage when they leave prison. New York would become the first state nationally to create a coordinated continuum of care for individuals transitioning out of prison.

TAPER-Training Achievement and Potential Employability Reports

Parole Officers can now print Training Achievement and Potential Employability Reports (TAPER) for each person scheduled for release. This report reflects an individual's vocational accomplishments while in custody and also the tasks and job titles for which they have been credited, including apprenticeships, the completion of high school equivalency programs or higher education degrees, and industry job titles earned during incarceration. The program history of the report provides information about program assignments, length of programs and facility locations, including participation in Thinking for a Change, phase 2 of transitional services.

Queens CRTF

The Fortune Society will establish the Queens County Re-Entry Task Force in conjunction with the Queens District Attorney's Office, DOCCS and the state Division of Criminal Justice Services. Alternatives to Incarceration Program director Doug Knight will represent District Attorney Richard Brown as his county co-chair designee. Bureau Chief Alan Preston is the designated DOCCS co-chair.

Fortune Society is recruiting candidates to serve as coordinator for the task force. Planning is now underway for the program, which is expected to launch in early 2017. Once created, the Queens County Re-Entry Task Force will become the 20th in operation around the state.

Around the Task Forces...

Khalid Emerson accepted a position with federal probation and Glen Mrgich was appointed as Erie County coordinator. Probation Director John Plackis is the new Nassau County co-chair, replacing Rita Nolan. Bureau Chief Jarvis Jenkins is the Suffolk DOCCS co-chair. Rockland County Independent Living Center, which implements the re-entry program, was renamed BRiDGES earlier this fall. Onondaga DOCCS co-chair Ken Gilbert was promoted to Central New York Regional director. Westchester DOCCS co-chair Frank Gemmati was promoted to Hudson Valley Regional director replacing Ana Enright, who was promoted to assistant commissioner. Bill Hogan, who was Manhattan/Staten Island regional director and active with the Manhattan County Re-entry Task Force, was promoted to assistant commissioner.

Congratulations to all!