



Welcome to  
**New York Re-entry  
Today**  
This bi-monthly  
newsletter brings news,  
policy and program  
updates and best  
practice information to  
the 19 County Re-entry  
Task Forces (CRTFs) and  
stakeholders.

CRTFs are located in  
the following counties:

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

## **Save the Date: February 7, 2013 Webinar**

**Veterans in the Criminal Justice System** – OPCA will host a webinar on this topic from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013. This is part of a series of webinars for County Re-entry Task Forces. Presenters will share information about programs and resources available at the national, state and local levels to assist veterans with successful re-entry into the community while reducing recidivism.

For additional information, please contact Margaret Schieferstine at (518) 485-5157 or [Margaret.Schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Margaret.Schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov).

## **CRTF Coordinators and Task Force Members to be trained in “Thinking for a Change” Program**

OPCA will train 16 representatives from the County Re-entry Task Forces in the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) cognitive behavior “Thinking for a Change” (T4C) Program on Tuesday, Feb. 5 through Friday, Feb. 8, 2013, in Albany. This training will enable coordinators and other service providers to facilitate this nationally recognized cognitive behavior intervention program for re-entry program participants. OPCA requires the delivery of T4C in CRTFs funded by DCJS as a means to assist individuals change their behavior and reduce recidivism.

For additional information, please contact Margaret Schieferstine at (518) 485-5157 or [Margaret.Schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Margaret.Schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov).

## **CRTF Activities Report**

DCJS recently released the CRTFs’ monthly intake report for the first quarter of the 2012/13 contract period (July through September 2012). This report includes information only on Track I clients, which are higher-risk prison releases served by the CRTFs.

- 776 Track I clients were admitted to the CRTFs during the first quarter.
- The majority of Track I clients were assessed for 13 need areas. Needs assessment information is reported for each area of need and the CRTFs record whether an assessment is conducted as well as the results.
- Employment programs, social services assistance and chemical dependency treatment were the most commonly identified needs among Track I clients.

Programs were usually available for clients with an assessed need. Notable exceptions include mentoring programs, sex offender treatment and domestic violence offender treatment. The quarterly CRTF Report for July 2012 through September 2012 is now available on the DCJS website at:

<http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/Jul-to-Sep-2012-CRTF-Report.pdf>

## New York State Offender Re-entry Program

New York's re-entry goal is to reduce recidivism by providing essential services that support behavioral change in individuals returning from state prison to the community. An effective County Re-entry Task Force (CRTF) coordinates local efforts to reduce offender re-arrests and parole violations, to change offender behavior, enhance offender accountability and promote public safety.

Nineteen CRTFs are funded in New York State to secure and manage services to moderate- and high-risk parolees and ensure the provision of cognitive behavioral and employment services.



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## **NIC Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS)**

### **Training: CRTFs to convene "Ready, Set, Work!" Groups**

NIC -certified, evidence-based, 180-hour training will be offered over three weeks in the coming months for CRTFs by OPCA and the state Department of Labor. This is OPCA's sixth annual Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training program. Graduates of this competitive training program will join more than 100 probation officers and ATI professionals who are certified as OWDS Specialists.

The completion of this training by the CRTF is a DCJS contract requirement. The training is directed to CRTF coordinators and service providers with the CRTF-partner employment agency. Staff certified in the OWDS must be available to address the employment needs of the re-entry population and lead **Ready, Set, Work!** cognitive behavioral employment groups. Candidates must have the ability to complete a challenging, comprehensive curriculum. OPCA's statewide goal is to have at least one individual in each CRTF trained to convene **Ready Set Work!** offender employment groups. For additional information, please contact OPCA Community Corrections Representative Cynthia Blair at [cynthia.blair@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:cynthia.blair@dcjs.ny.gov). **Applications are due Friday, Feb. 8, 2013.** The NIC Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training will be held in Albany on the following dates: Monday, March 18 through Friday, March 22; Monday, May 6 through Friday, May 10; and Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21.

### **CRTF Coordinator Changes and Updates**

OPCA bids fond farewell and offers best wishes to Rensselaer CRTF Coordinator **Bill Payne** and Rockland CRTF Coordinator **Myrna Lopez**, who retired in December after successfully pioneering CRTFs in their counties. Newly-appointed coordinators include:

- Marlene Klock, Onondaga CRTF - [marlene.klock@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:marlene.klock@dfa.state.ny.us)
- Eric Weigel, Erie CRTF Acting Coordinator - [eric.weigel@erie.gov](mailto:eric.weigel@erie.gov)
- Diana Ortiz, Dutchess CRTF - [dortiz@etcny.org](mailto:dortiz@etcny.org)
- Chris McLaughlin, Bronx CRTF - [chrismclaughlin@gmail.com](mailto:chrismclaughlin@gmail.com)
- Marian Sanborn, Orange CRTF - [msanborn@recap.org](mailto:msanborn@recap.org)
- Wendy Brown, Rensselaer CRTF - [wbrown@renesco.com](mailto:wbrown@renesco.com)
- Florentino Fernandez, Monroe CRTF - [ffernandez@monroecounty.gov](mailto:ffernandez@monroecounty.gov)

### **Resource Information: SUNY ATTAIN Labs**

Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN Labs) is an innovative program developed by the State University of New York (SUNY) and available at multiple community locations statewide. ATTAIN Labs was created to build and enhance academic, vocational and workforce skills through access to more than 30 interactive multimedia education and training software programs. Once enrolled, CRTF clients receive training on using the Internet, participate in a math refresher course and become certified in the Microsoft Office Suite.

For more information about ATTAIN Labs and their locations statewide, visit:

<http://www.attain.suny.edu>.