



# *New York Re-Entry Today*

July 2014

Volume 3 Number 4

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 these counties:**

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

## ***Annual Meeting Brings CRTFs Together for News and Information***

DCJS Deputy Commissioner and Director Robert Maccarone welcomed nearly 85 attendees and presenters to Albany for the first statewide meeting on June 11. CRTF coordinators, county and Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) co-chairs and staff received timely information about key issues involving re-entry services and community supervision and participated in panels to discuss successful elements of re-entry, best practices, employment and healthcare. Mr. Maccarone announced that all 19 renewal funding applications for 2014-15 were approved to be finalized as contract agreements. He went on to recognize the extraordinary work of the task forces to help releasees overcome the challenges associated with rejoining society after incarceration. DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci recognized county re-entry programs as instrumental to improving public safety by supporting community supervision activities and by engaging participants in programs and services fostering stabilized, crime-free living.

Presenters included Thomas Abt, the Governor's Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, who emphasized his commitment to policies and practices that change criminal behaviors of high-risk parolees through cognitive interventions and swift and certain sanctions. Secretary Abt discussed the establishment of the Governor's Council on Community Re-entry and Reintegration to coordinate the broad spectrum of state policies, remove barriers and support county re-entry efforts. He introduced the new DOCCS project, Recidivism Elimination Supervision Enrichment Teams, or RESET, as an innovative approach to community supervision that will be demonstrated in two counties and evaluated.



Deputy Secretary Thomas Abt addresses the June 11 Annual CRTF Meeting in Albany.

RESET was presented in greater detail by DOCCS Deputy Commissioner Thomas Herzog, who spoke of the initiative as a transformative community supervision model. The RESET goal to reduce recidivism will rely on: risk-based decision making; place-based supervision; case plans based on risk and needs; community partner participation; informal social controls; enhanced incentives and rewards; and swift and certain sanctions. It will be demonstrated in two counties and evaluated before being implemented statewide.

## ***CRTF Meetings and Due dates***

### **July 2014**

*Erie CRTF - July 15*

*Kings CRTF - July 22*

*Onondaga CRTF - July 24*

*Rockland CRTF—July 23*

*Schenectady CRTF- July 9*

**July 10**– Revised Reporting Webinar

**July 15**– Monthly reports for June are due.

**July 30** - GMS quarterly reports due.

### **August 2014**

*Albany CRTF - Aug. 1*

*Bronx CRTF - Aug. 14*

*Dutchess CRTF - Aug. 14*

*Nassau CRTF- Aug. 21*

*Rensselaer - Aug. 14*

DCJS Deputy Commissioner Terry Salo presented *NYS Criminal Justice Trends* during the period 1990 through 2013, when crime dropped 62 percent; violent crime fell 64 percent and property crime declined 62 percent. Statewide, homicides were reduced by 75 percent while firearm-related homicides fell 79 percent during the timeframe.

Participant post-meeting evaluations underscored the importance of this meeting and many suggested consideration of a two-day event in 2015.

## ***Re-entry Fairs are Highly Successful***

DOCCS Co-Chair and Bureau Chief Irwin Davies spearheaded efforts which led to a very successful Job Fair in Nassau County on May 2. The idea of the fair came about during a CRTF meeting which focused on the high needs for re-entry housing and employment. Mr. Davies reviewed DOCCS data sources and found that in June 2013, only 265 releasees, or 29 percent of those supervised by his staff, were employed. As a result, a CRTF subcommittee was formed to develop job readiness classes to prepare individuals referred by the CRTF and their Parole officers for interviews and meetings with prospective employers. The committee planned a breakfast and invited employers to learn the economic advantages of hiring formerly-incarcerated persons and gain their commitment to participate in the job fair. The event was a success and Nassau County followed up with certificates of appreciation to participating employers. At the fair 120 people under supervision met with prospective employers and by early June, 33 parolees were employed as a direct result. Participating employers continue to contact the Re-entry Committee with job offers for CRTF participants. Mr. Davies reports that as of the end of June, 361 releasees under supervision were employed, an increase of 36 percent from the previous year.

Another Re-entry Fair was held in May at Hale Creek Correctional Facility. DOCCS invited participants from DCJS, CRTFs, community organizations, trade schools, the New York State Department of Labor, job developers and public libraries, among others. Nearly 150 incarcerated individuals with upcoming release dates learned more about re-entry services. DCJS distributed copies of a new brochure providing specific contact information for CRTFs statewide.

***Around the CRTFs - Best wishes...***to Kings CRTF Coordinator John Chaney, who leaves the CRTF is joining the faculty at LaGuardia Community College. ***Welcome...***To Krista Whitman, who was recently appointed as the Suffolk CRTF Coordinator and to Ann Graham also recently appointed as the Monroe CRTF Coordinator.

### ***New York Re-Entry Today***

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