



New York Re-Entry Today

September 2014

Volume 3 Number 5

Welcome to

New York Re-Entry Today

This bi-monthly news-letter 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*

September 30 Training and Technical Assistance Day

The DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) will conduct a County Re-entry Task Force (CRTF) Technical Assistance Training in Albany on Tuesday, Sept. 30. The target audience is CRTF Coordinators and the agenda will be relevant to County and DOCCS Co-Chairs. The training will be held in Room 118 of the Alfred E. Smith Building.

In recent months several CRTFs experienced changes in coordinators and co-chairs, thus creating the need for this training. Based on CRTF feedback, the agenda will include topics such as: the recently-circulated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), CRTF contract and reporting requirements, intake and case conferencing processes and the applicability of cognitive-behavioral training programs. Registration forms are due to OPCA by Sept. 16. More details will be emailed to registrants.

NYS Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration Announced

The newly created NYS Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration will address obstacles faced by formerly incarcerated people re-entering society from prison. The Re-Entry Council will promote collaboration among state, local and private agencies as well as community groups in order to address a wide range of issues pertinent to successful re-entry, which include housing, employment, healthcare, education, behavior change and veterans' services.

Each year, nearly 23,000 individuals leave State prisons and face challenges when re-turning to their home communities including access to legal identification, employment and education, health care, substance abuse and mental health services and the effects of anti-social behavior and homelessness. The Re-Entry Council will:

- Identify specific legal, regulatory and administrative policies that create barriers to successful re-entry.
- Solicit feedback relating to potential policies, laws and practices that can facilitate improved re-entry outcomes.
- Assess effectiveness of existing programs and identify evidence-based best practices that support positive outcomes.
- Develop collaborative strategies between state, local, private and community-based groups to achieve successful re-entry.

For more information and to review a complete list of Re-entry Council members, go [here](#).

Meeting and Due Dates

September 2014

Monroe - Sept. 8
Sch'dy CRTF- Sept. 10
Oneida CRTF - Sept. 12
Erie CRTF - Sept. 16
Suffolk CRTF - Sept. 18
Kings CRTF - Sept. 24
Westchester- Sept. 24
Onondaga CRTF - Sept. 25

October 2014

Albany CRTF - Oct. 3
Niagara CRTF- Oct. 8
Bronx CRTF - Oct. 9
Broome CRTF - Oct. 15
Rockland CRTF- Oct. 22
Dutchess CRTF -Oct. 23
Manhattan - Oct. 3
Orange- Oct. 23

Sept. 15 - Monthly Snapshot reports are due.

Sept. 30 - CRTF Training & Technical Assistance Day in Albany

Oct. 15 - Monthly Snapshot reports are due.

Oct. 31 - GMS & Fiscal quarterly reports due.

New York Re-Entry Today

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

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Re-entry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

DCJS, with input from DOCCS and CRTFs, has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a protocol intended to promote the work of the CRTFs by clarifying mutual expectations of each partner to each other and to your county. The information in the MOU is consistent with language in the Program Guidance document that DCJS releases when soliciting annual Requests-for-Applications from CRTFs. The MOU seeks to further formalize the roles and responsibilities of each CRTF partner and to demonstrate State support for your program. On Aug. 29, DCJS mailed to each County Co-chair copies of the MOU for signature and return for final execution by DCJS and DOCCS.

T4C Training

OPCA will offer Thinking for a Change (T4C) training in Albany during the week of Nov. 18-21. Look for details in upcoming email announcements.

Around the Task Forces...

Katherine Daniel recently was appointed Suffolk County Co-Chair, replacing Dr. Errol Toulon, Jr. who rejoined the NYC Department of Corrections. Nassau CRTF is searching for a Coordinator to replace Pam Lincoln when she retires later this year. Carlos Valencia is now the Dutchess CRTF Coordinator and Ann Graham is the newly-appointed Monroe CRTF Coordinator. Click [Here](#) for the list of CRTF contacts.

Certificates of Relief from Disabilities and of Good Conduct

There are often questions regarding Certificates of Relief from Disabilities or Certificates of Good Conduct. Generally, these certificates can remove statutory bars imposed on a person convicted of a crime (such as bars against eligibility for certain jobs and licenses). Certificates of Relief from Disabilities are granted to persons with one felony and/or any number of misdemeanor convictions. The certificate only applies to the conviction for which it was granted, and a separate certificate must be obtained for each conviction. The Certificate of Relief from Disabilities does not lift the felony bar to holding public office. There is no waiting period for a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities. This certificate may be granted by the court at the time of sentencing or at any time after. People who were incarcerated in a state facility and are interested in obtaining a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities should apply through their Parole Officer to the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Certificate Review Unit, 97 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206.

Certificates of Good Conduct are granted to persons with multiple felony convictions. There is a waiting period before the client is eligible to apply for a Certificate of Good Conduct. The Certificate of Good Conduct applies to the entire conviction history, including misdemeanor convictions. Persons interested in obtaining a Certificate of Good Conduct should apply to Parole at the address above.