



New York Re-Entry Today

January 2014

Volume 3 Number 1

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**

“Successful re-entry policy requires state officials and local service providers to ensure that we are working in a coordinated, multidisciplinary way to remove barriers to re-entry and invest strategically in policies and programs that reduce crime, promote employment and economic growth and further strengthen New York’s social fabric.”

Governor Andrew Cuomo
State of the State Message
Jan. 8, 2014

New York Launches Nation’s first State-Led Social Bond to Reduce Recidivism

Individuals released from New York prisons now have greater opportunities for job training and employment as a result of an innovative, \$13.5 million investment raised from private sector investors and foundations. Referred to as a Social Bond, 2000 individuals released from state prison and assessed as high risk for recidivism will receive intensive employment training and job placement services upon their release. The target area for this social investment is New York City and Rochester with services provided by the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO). The Governor highlighted this effort in his 2014 State of the State message, noting that it is focused on helping men and women change their criminal behavior and fostering their development as productive members of society while increasing overall public safety and community prosperity. It dovetails with the Governor’s Work for Success Initiative, which is designed to increase job readiness and improve employment outcomes for those released from prison. For more information about this initiative, contact CEO’s Marta Nelson at:

mnelson@ceoworks.org

CRTFs Invited to Correctional Facilities to Promote Collaboration

DCJS is working with DOCCS to foster collaboration between CRTF staff and DOCCS Offender

Rehabilitation Coordinators, the individuals who develop discharge plans for prison inmates with pending release dates. One effort involves CRTF staff visiting correctional facilities to discuss CRTF processing. CRTF Coordinators located within Hub regions will be invited to present their re-entry programs and learn from the Offender Rehabilitation Coordinators about their discharge planning efforts. So far, CRTFs have visited Bedford Hills and Hudson correctional facilities, and a visit to the Oneida Hub is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014. These visits are coordinated through DOCCS Central Office Program Services. DCJS also is finalizing a “re-entry fact sheet” for use by DOCCS institutional staff that will provide basic information about CRTF programming and a contact list for all task forces.

DCJS Co-Hosts Webinar: Re-entry and Mental Health Services on Jan. 28, 2014

DCJS, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and the Office of Mental Health (OMH) recently hosted a webinar focused on re-entry and mental health services. A link to the webinar recording and the PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the DCJS website on the Re-entry Initiatives webpage.

Recent and Upcoming CRTF Meetings

January 2014

Erie CRTF - 1/14

Broome CRTF - 1/15

Kings CRTF - 1/15

Ulster CRTF - 1/15

Rockland CRTF - 1/22

Onondaga CRTF - 1/23

Orange CRTF - 1/23

February 2014

Albany CRTF - 2/3

Oneida CRTF - 2/7

Niagara CRTF - 2/12

Bronx CRTF - 2/13

Suffolk CRTF - 2/13

Broome CRTF - 2/19

Dutchess CRTF - 2/20

Monroe CRTF - 2/10

Nassau CRTF - 2/20

Westchester - 2/27

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CRTF Discharges Need to be Updated in Monthly Reports

All CRTF participants reported as intakes must be included on subsequent discharge reports. CRTF coordinators were recently asked to review 2011 and 2012 open cases and reconcile the discharge status of each case. This work is necessary and emphasizes that all intakes provided in the monthly reports must result in a subsequent discharge report

CRTF Operations

As a reminder, here are some of the key points made during the Nov. 25, 2013 webinar that focused on CRTF quarterly reporting requirements to DCJS.

CRTF Eligibility—Track I eligible individuals are assessed as moderate to high-risk of re-offense as determined by COMPAS re-entry assessments of Supervision Levels 1, 2, and 3. Special populations eligible for intake include: women; maximum expirations; youth released on parole or released from an OCFS facility; individuals with mental illness or developmentally disabled persons; persons with severe medical conditions and sex offenders.

Intake Definition—Includes cases that are referred by DOCCS co-chairs, assessed, case-conferenced, offered CRTF participation, and accepted by the candidate. Prior to case conferencing, CRTFs should request that parole officers include the employability profile in each case file that will be conferenced.

Fiscal Reimbursement Forms—Personal identifying information should not be used on quarterly fiscal reports submitted for reimbursement. Please use the NYSID number only. In the rare event that a NYSID is not available, a date of birth may be used. Revised fiscal reporting forms are available via the DCJS website at: www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/ofpaforms.htm

Around the CRTFs

Rockland District Attorney Thomas Zugibe re-established the Rockland CRTF in December 2013 and Andy Kohlbrenner, CRTF coordinator, and Stephen Hegarty will manage the program. The first CRTF meeting was held Jan. 29, 2014 and was co-chaired by DA Zugibe and Paul Pacheco (DOCCS).

Erie County Co-Chair Peter Curtis will retire in February 2014. Special thanks are due to Peter, Acting Coordinator Eric Weigel and DOCCS Co-Chair Mercedes Jordan, each of whom were instrumental in a reform effort that is now achieving greater CRTF efficiency and effectiveness.

