



Welcome to the first issue of *New York Re-entry Today*. This quarterly newsletter will bring news, policy, program updates and best practice information to the 19 County Re-entry Task Forces and stakeholders.

Nineteen county re-entry task forces (CRTF) represent 77 percent of all prison releases in 2011. CRTFs provide case-managed program services to those released from prison and returning to the community.

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

November Webinars

The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) kicked off a Re-entry Webinar Series this month. The first webinar was held on Wednesday, Nov. 14 and featured presentations on County Re-entry Task Force (CRTF) performance-based contract vouchering and reporting. More than 50 individuals participated in this critical webinar, which was intended for all coordinators and fiscal staff. Please contact Margaret Schieferstine for follow-up information and assistance at (518) 485-2393 or e-mail at Margaret.schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov.

The second webinar is scheduled for 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29. It will highlight "*Broome County CRTF Best Practices: Insight and Suggestions to Making the Process Work from Start to Finish.*" Broome CRTF Coordinator Jeff Pryor and DOCCS Co-chair Janice Smith will present the elements of their successful referral and assessment process. For more information, e-mail margaret.chretien@dcjs.ny.gov

Thinking for a Change

Facilitator training in the National Institute of Correction's (NIC) *Thinking for a Change* is scheduled to be held on Feb. 5-8, 2013, at OPCA's new offices at the Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 80 South Swan St. in Albany. This nationally-recognized cognitive behavioral change program is provided to county re-entry task forces as a tool to reduce recidivism through positive offender change. Seating is limited and preference will be given on a first-come, first-served basis and to those who are prepared to implement this program. Registrations are due by **Friday, Dec. 14, 2012**. Please e-mail dorothy.ray@dcjs.ny.gov for a copy of the registration application. For more information, please contact Margaret Schieferstine at (518) 485-2393 or e-mail margaret.schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov.

CRTF Reporting Requirements: Monthly and Quarterly Monthly Intake and Discharge Reports

The monthly *Track 1 Intake and Discharge Reports* submitted by CRTFs are used to determine the status of each CRTF's program activities, magnitude of the work being performed and the extent of services provided. The aggregate data is analyzed to understand statewide progress toward reaching overall re-entry goals and objectives. This county-by-county data analyses helps to pinpoint specific progress towards reaching contractual milestones.

New York State Offender Re-entry Program

The goal of re-entry in New York State is to reduce recidivism through the provision of 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 rearrests 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.

New York Re-entry Today is a publication of NYS DCJS' Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA).

Michael C. Green
DCJS Executive Deputy
Commissioner

Robert M. Maccarone
DCJS Deputy Commissioner
and OPCA Director

Yvonne J. Behan
OPCA ATI/Re-entry Unit
Manager

Margaret Chretien, Editor
OPCA Senior Policy Analyst

Quarterly Reports

Quarterly progress reports are required to demonstrate compliance to offender re-entry funding contracts executed between DCJS and participating counties. These reports provide specific detail concerning the contracts' three performance milestone measures and are the basis for which the performance-based contracts are paid. It is important for all CRTFs to maintain ongoing program information for inclusion in both of these reports.

CRTF Program and Fiscal Monitoring

DCJS staff will attend bi-monthly task force meetings to gain first-hand information about obstacles, problems or unique trouble-shooting activities that facilitate successful re-entries of those released from prison. When taken together, data collection, progress reporting and first-hand observation enables DCJS staff to determine training and technical assistance that may be required to improve and enhance case management and supervision needed to reduce recidivism and improve community safety.

Veterans Justice Program

Through a national mandate, U.S. Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to serving justice-involved veterans by devoting resources and attention to the special needs of war veterans. The VA has added justice outreach through initiatives known as the *Veterans Justice Programs*. The VA provides services through two national programs: Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) and Health Care Re-entry Veterans (HCRV). Field-based specialists function as program coordinators and clinical service providers and have experience in both veterans and criminal justice programs. These specialists work to identify justice-involved veterans, assess their needs, refer and access care, and help to overcome barriers to needed programs and services through case management.

For more information about the available resources in New York City, please contact: Julie.Irwin@va.gov. For available resources in upstate locations, please contact: Jean.Dittman@va.gov.

Topic Suggestions

Please send program information and story ideas to Margaret Chretien at margaret.chretien@dcjs.ny.gov.
