

# Kings County Re-Entry Task Force



# K C R T F

*“Brooklyn will help you come home”*



## MINUTES

Meeting Date:	<b>Wednesday, September 24, 2014</b>		
Meeting Time:	<b>1:00 PM – 2:30 PM</b>		
Meeting Location:	<b>Office of the Kings County District Attorney 210 Joralemon Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201</b>		
Co-Chairs:	<b>Christopher Owens, <i>Director, Bureau of Youth Diversion &amp; Re-Entry Programs, Kings County District Attorney’s office (KCDA) - Present</i></b> <b>Joyce R. Joiner, <i>Bureau Chief, New York State Department Of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) - Present</i></b>		
Coordinator:	<b><i>Vacant</i></b>		
Attendees:	<b>Vanda Seward (NYS-DOCCS)</b> <b>Petero Sabyne (NYS-DOCCS)</b> <b>Norma Fernandes (KCDA-KCRTF)</b> <b>Gregory Russell (KCDA-KCRTF)</b> <b>Sharon Richards (KCDA-GRASP)</b> <b>Michael Davenport (KCDA-BYDRP)</b> <b>Shauna Philip (KCDA-BYDRP)</b> <b>Hailey Nolasco (KCDA-BYDRP)</b>	<b>Yvonne J. Behan (NYS-DCJS)</b> <b>Margaret Chretien (NYS-DCJS)</b> <b>Melina Rose (CSEDNY)</b> <b>Wendy Hersh (ACCES-VR)</b> <b>William Glenn (THE DOE FUND)</b> <b>Victoria Aderin (GREEN HOPE)</b> <b>Paul Guth (AMI Group)</b> <b>Naatiffah Costello (HELP-PSI)</b>	

ITEM #	ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND ACTION ITEMS
1	Call to order	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Owens at 1:00 pm.
2	Opening Remarks	Ms. Joiner welcomed Dr. Vanda Seward as the incoming Coordinator of the Kings County Re-entry Task Force (“KCRTF”) effective October 1.
3	Introductions	The meeting participants introduced themselves.
4	Update on KCRTF matters by Co-Chair Chris Owens	<p><i>SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The three-way Memorandum of Understanding between the KCDA, DCJS and DOCCS has been executed by the KCDA and DCJS. It awaits DOCCS’ signature.</li> <li>KCRTF is now operating as a totally separate entity from ComALERT within the KCDA’s Bureau of Youth Diversion &amp; Re-Entry Programs (BYDRP).</li> <li>Dr. Vanda Seward has been selected as the next Coordinator of the KCRTF. She brings a wealth of experience. Her first day will be Wednesday, October 1, 2014, and her staff will be Ms. Norma Fernandes and Mr. Gregory Russell.</li> <li>We are in Year 3 of a three-year grant. Budget modifications have been made, specifically</li> </ul>

		<p>with regard to fund allocations by category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An aggressive retention initiative has been in place since the start of FY2015 (July 1). Staff members are using a new database to manage and track participants. The goal is to have at least one contact per month during a participant’s first year of release.</li> <li>• Dr. Seward and Mr. Owens will be attending the technical training for CRTF co-chairs and Coordinators next Tuesday in Albany.</li> <li>• Within the next couple of months, KCTRF “membership applications” will be sent to all interested parties. The “membership” concept needs to be clearly defined in a manner that works for the KCTRF. From that point forward, there will be some vetting necessary for those entities who may be “officially” affiliated with the KCTRF. All of this will take some time.</li> </ul>
5	Report on Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Year to Date	Mr. Davenport reported that for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 2015, there have been 66 intakes, with 73 participants reaching the 45-day threshold, and 42 reaching the 90-day threshold.
6	KCRTF Planning for 2014-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Owens stated that he would like to see an increase in the number of active KCTRF partners -- particularly potential employers -- in order to offer clients everything possible.</li> <li>• Mr. Owens stated that a KCTRF committee structure will be developed and presented by the Coordinator. This structure will include a committee to review cases on a bi-weekly basis, as well as a committee to handle broader issues such as employment fairs and other activities.</li> <li>• Mr. Owens stated that there will be a detailed calendar of KCTRF events and other relevant events to keep members informed. Through better communication, everyone who is interested will be kept current regarding what is going on with the KCTRF.</li> </ul>
7	Reports/concerns from task force partners and/or service providers	Mr. Owens stated that all formerly-incarcerated individuals will receive assistance from the re-entry programs associated with the District Attorney’s office, whether through the KCTRF, through ComALERT, through GRASP, or otherwise. Dr. Seward added that the KCTRF cannot let anyone “fall through the cracks” just because it is experiencing a transition. “Everyone needs to be serviced or else there will be a public safety issue.”
8	Presentations by guests and/or candidates for KCTRF partnership	<p><b>Wendy Hersh from ACCES</b> announced that there will be a Re-entry Consortium on October 16<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 1:00pm and 5:00pm, at 55 Hansen Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn. Consortium meetings are scheduled for every three months or so. The focus will be on education and training to go back to work. 15- 20 vendors are expected. To attend, send Hersh an email.</p> <p><b>William Glenn from The Doe Fund</b> provided some information on the organization’s “Day Program” -- a five-to-seven month training program that prepares individuals for the workforce and also includes job placement. Because the program is aware of the needs of participants, there are both early and late shifts available. Mr. Glenn also advised that, as long as a consent form has been signed, the program will share assessments with other organizations if requested to do so. The Doe Fund also services the homeless and currently has 70 beds at their 520 Gates Avenue location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Seward</b> mentioned the importance of looking for partners that have diverse service hours, and that if something is not a good fit for the KCTRF, the KCTRF can still steer the partner to other programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Victoria Aderin, Outreach Coordinator for GreenHope.</b> GreenHope caters only to women and children. There is an out-patient program and a residential program (an ATI, Parole, “Mother and Child,” and Community.) They provide a wide variety of services which include substance abuse, re-entry, vocational, educational, trauma and family services, amongst others. GreenHope also has housing for those who are eligible. The best way to contact Ms. Aderin via cell phone. If you are interested in visiting the facility, please give her a call and she will arrange a tour.</p> <p><b>Paul Guth from HMI (Health Management Information Group).</b> Mr. Guth described two</p>

		<p>parts of his company's technology program.</p> <p>The Electronic Documentation System provides a bridge between prisoner intake, welfare or social service offices, and health care systems to ensure a seamless transfer of information as necessary (in a HIPAA compliant manner) which also ensures effective continuity of health care as well as Medicaid eligibility upon release, etc.. The system is currently being used or launched in a few jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Telehealth system is HMI's exclusive rights to an effective disease management program originally developed by an HMI partner for the U.S. Veterans Administration. The system is currently in use with thousands of health cases – both serious and less serious – and only requires such basic equipment as a regular landline telephone. A number of psychiatric practices are currently using the system with dramatic results.</p> <p>HMI is currently working with drug courts in New Jersey, Florida, and California, and is currently talking to the Philadelphia prison system and the Pennsylvania State Parole Board. Costs have been reduced and the rehabilitation of individuals has been helped as well. The software is assisting with re-entry.</p> <p><b>Naatifah Costello from HELP/PSI</b>, a health care organization that originally specialized in the care of individuals with HIV and AIDS. HELP/PSI has expanded its scope to include other at-risk populations. They are now working with 85% of the shelters in NYC and other organizations. HELP/PSI offers primary care services, has a dental clinic facility in the Bronx (and provides free transportation) with flexible hours. The Health Home program provides medical case management for those who are HIV positive, have AIDS, are mentally ill, or have other moderate health conditions. The goal is to keep the patient out of the emergency room.</p> <p>The Alpha School in Brooklyn (East New York) is now run by PSI. It is a newly acquired substance abuse program, and there will be an open house on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> (Halloween). If anyone is interested in attending, Ms. Costello will send you an email.</p> <p><b>Greg Russell (KCDA)</b> handed out a flyer with information regarding free OSHA.</p>
9	Outstanding old business	None.
10	New Business	The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19 <sup>th</sup> , 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.
11	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.



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Kenneth P. Thompson  
District Attorney

## Kings County Re-Entry Task Force Meeting of September 24, 2014

Office of the District Attorney, Kings County  
210 Joralemon Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

### ATTENDANCE

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ENTITY
Chris Owens		KCDA
Wendy Hersh	Wendy Hersh	ACCES-VR
Margaret Chretien	Margaret C.	DCJS
Joyce R. Jones		DCJS
Victoria Abrin		Greenhope
PAUL GOTTI		HMI GROUP
Michael Davenport		KCDA
William Glenn	Wm Glenn	THE DCE FUND
Hailey Nolasco		KCDA
Naatifah Costello	Costello	HELP/PSI
Sharon Richards	S.A. Richards	KCDA - GOASP
PETERO SABUNE		DOCCS

