



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
 KINGS COUNTY
 350 JAY STREET
 BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908
 (718) 250-2000
 WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

Kenneth P. Thompson
 District Attorney

Kings County Re-Entry Task Force

Bi-Monthly Meeting of August 3, 2016 – Minutes

Meeting Date:	Wednesday, August 3, 2016	
Meeting Time:	12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	
Meeting Location:	Office of the Kings County District Attorney 350 Jay Street, 19 th Floor – Bob Kaye Room, Brooklyn, NY 11201	
Attendees: (From Attendance Sheet signatures)	AHRC NYC: Francelene Louis BLACK VETERANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (BVSJ): Steven Colon, Rosalie Cutting, Jon-Pierre Kelani BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES (BDS): Wesley Caines, Kasandra Martinez, Amanda Morales (Intern) BURNING HOUSE PROJECT, INC.: Melvin Blackman CENTER FOR APPELLATE LITIGATION: Susannah Karlin CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES (CCA): Lucy Chrysiliou, Xiomara Romain CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION (CCI) / BEDFORD-STUYVESANT ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT: Hailey Nolasco CHOSEN VESSELS PRISON MINISTRY: Margaret Johnson CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE - PROJECT CONNECT: Dave Ehlke COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY (CSS): Carlos Jesse CONSTANTINOPLE & VALLONE CONSULTING LLC: Amanda Ritchie CORE SERVICES GROUP: Lesley Bruno CORNELL UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: Jackie Davis-Manigaulte COUNSELING SERVICES – EDNY (CSEDNY): Daniel Tolbert CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW: Prof. Ann Cammett DOE FUND: Charles Bryant FAMILIES, FATHERS AND CHILDREN: Ellen Edelman FAMILY SERVICES OF WESTCHESTER / LANDING STRIP: Rev. Alphonso Simmons FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF NEW YORK: Danielle Azzarelli, Vivianne Guevara FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY: Prof. Amy Shlosberg FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROWN HEIGHTS:	KINGS COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE
		KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
	Renee Gregory, 1 st Assistant District Attorney Christopher Owens, Co-Chair Designate Director, The Re-Entry Bureau Dr. Vanda Seward, Program Administrator/Coordinator Norma Fernandes, Case Manager Andrea Johnson, Case Manager Dominick Lynch, SYEP Intern NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (DOCCS) Audrey K. Thompson, Re-Entry Operations Manager Mary Smith, Regional Director – Brooklyn / NYS DOCCS NYS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (DCJS) Margaret Chretien	KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
	<u>The Re-Entry Bureau</u> Anne Broomfield, ADA for Re-Entry Compliance <u>ComALERT</u> Marybeth Melendez, Case Manager Kelly Burns, Case Manager Lorraine Julian, Administrative Assistant <u>Human Resources</u> Dana Martin, Performance Management Specialist	

<p>Rev. Darryl Bloodsaw, Rev. Donald Odom</p> <p>FORTUNE SOCIETY: John Dawson, Katharine Samberg</p> <p>HOUSING WORKS: Dee Baker</p> <p>JOHN JAY COLLEGE: Sandra Martinez (Student)</p> <p>NYC DEPT. OF HEALTH-OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH: Julia Phillips</p> <p>NYC HEALTH & HOSPITALS (FORMERLY HHC) – CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES: Patricia Brown</p> <p>NYC HOUSING AUTHORITY: Yolanda “Keep Hope Alive” Johnson-Peterkin</p> <p>NYS ASSEMBLY – HON. ANNETTE ROBINSON: Michael Smith</p> <p>NYS DEPT. OF EDUCATION – ACCESS-VR: Cuquita Douglas, Wendy Hersh</p> <p>PREP FOR PROSPERITY / HELP ROADS: Nicole Jenkins</p> <p>PRISON WRITES: Jessica Hall</p> <p>RESOURCE COUNSELING CENTER: Michelle Gonzalez</p> <p>SHADES OF WOMEN: Stephanie Reid</p> <p>SOS – SAVE OUR STREETS: Tiffany Murray</p> <p>US COURTS – EASTERN DISTRICT (PROBATION): James “Jim” Bloomfield, Richard “Rick” James, Yara Suarez</p> <p>US DOJ – BUREAU OF PRISONS: Camille Bramble, Cynthia Hugar, Jana Martinez, Erin Rogers</p>	
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ITEM #	ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND ACTION ITEMS
1	Call to Order	<p>The meeting was called to order by <i>Mr. Christopher R. Owens, KCRTF Co-Chair designate</i>, at 12:30pm.</p> <p>Mr. Owens asked all participants to sign-in so that attendance records will be accurate and asked everyone to sign-in legibly to ensure that their contact information is accurate. He asked for attendees to complete the website survey provided and return it at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Co-Chair Audrey Thompson was introduced.</p>
2	Opening remarks	<p>Co-Chair, Ms. Audrey Thompson, representing NYS DOCCS, presented the Agenda for August 3, 2016.</p> <p>Ms. Thompson also presented the following statement:</p> <p>“First, I want to thank all of our community-based providers and partners for their continued commitment and dedication to working the formerly-incarcerated. No one agency can do this work alone.”</p> <p>I would also like to pay homage to Regional Director Mary Smith -- Brooklyn Administration, New York State DOCCS -- who is here with us today. This will be her last contact with the Kings County Re-entry Task Force, as she will be retiring at the end of this month. Her level of integrity and sense of compassion for working with the formerly-incarcerated will be greatly missed!</p> <p>So with that said, I just wanted to talk about some of the initiatives that are going on with NYS DOCCS. We continue to work on healthcare and employment initiatives. In 2015, NYS DOCCS partnered up</p>

		<p>with The Harm Reduction Coalition and the NYS Department of Health to provide opioid overdose prevention training to inmates leaving Correctional facilities. And since that program started, it has expanded to the Brooklyn Regional Office of Community Supervision. So far, the Brooklyn Region has trained 945 parolees from February, 2015 through June, 2016 in the use of Naloxone – which is a medication -- an antidote – that reverses an opioid overdose in an emergency situation. 560 parolees have received overdose prevention kits in the Brooklyn Region and, if I may add, most of the trainings have taken place at the KCRTF/ComALERT office [210 Joralemon Street, 3rd Floor].</p> <p>Also, we will soon be partnering up with Mount Sinai -- who already provides HEP C and HIV testing at our orientations -- to provide K2 awareness – which is really plaguing our communities, especially for our newly released parolees that really may not be familiar with this kind of synthetic drug. We also reached out to OASAS, who also provided some facts about K2, as well.</p> <p>In regards to employment initiatives, we continue to work with the Center for Employment Opportunities, who provide transitional work and employment opportunities for our parolees, and with the Department of Labor – our partner agency -- that provides job readiness in the areas of resume building, interviewing skills and job searches. We also partner up with the Doe Fund and DHS [NYC Department of Homeless Services] for parolees who reside in DHS shelter system. They provide transitional housing and work as well to move the parolees to more permanent employment.</p> <p>And, of course, we continue our great partnership with the Kings County Re-entry Task Force.”</p>
3	Presentation of meeting minutes: June 1, 2016	<p>Mr. Owens also acknowledged the retirement of Regional Director Smith and expressed gratitude on the part of the District Attorney’s office and the KCRTF for the high level of cooperation between the KCRTF and NYS DOCCS that has been facilitated by RD Smith.</p> <p>Mr. Owens requested that attendees review the Minutes from the June 1, 2016 KCRTF Bi-Monthly Meeting, and contact the Co-Chairs if there were any comments or concerns that required corrections. There were no comments or corrections.</p>
4	Introductions	<p>Those in attendance introduced themselves, their organizations (if applicable), and their interest in the KCRTF.</p> <p>Mr. Owens noted that two attendees, representing different organizations, are former interns with the District Attorney’s Re-entry programs. He acknowledged Ms. Hailey Nolasco and Ms. Amanda Ritchie and asked those in attendance to congratulate them both on their performance as interns and their continued work.</p> <p>Mr. Owens introduced Dr. Vanda Seward, Coordinator of the Kings County Re-Entry Taskforce.</p>
5	Coordinator’s Report	<p>Dr. Seward presented the Coordinator’s Report.</p> <p>Dr. Seward specifically thanked the representatives of the Federal agencies for their attendance “in force” and welcomed the first-timers. She stated that these meetings are not just for the KCRTF to report, but to share what is going on in the communities and with resources. She stressed that the networking aspect of these meetings has great value in the ongoing effort to assist people and minimize criminal activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Seward stated that the KCRTF has met and exceeded its contractual obligations regarding CBI participation for FY16. She stated that the close working relationship with DOCCS has been helpful in keeping participants enrolled and engaged. She stated that the ongoing improvements in communication between the KCRTF and DOCCS are proving to be extremely helpful in facilitating good service and optimal outreach. <p>Referring to Page 8 of the agenda packet, Mr. Owens stated that the KCRTF’s performance during the past contractual year was very good and exceeded contractual requirements. He also stated that efforts are beginning to improve the “tracking” of clients to assess the real impact of the KCRTF on recidivism and on the discussion of the issue. He stated that having evidence matters.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Cognitive Behavioral Intervention programs: <p>Dr. Seward discussed the method of selection that is used to identify and recruit CBI participants, and the great involvement of DOCCS in this process. In some cases, Dr. Seward noted, the identified individuals have employment opportunities that may lead to postponement of their participation in a CBI, but parole officers have been helpful in the process. She also noted that some people are just not ready for this transition, and “stabilizing behavior” is difficult.</p> <p>Dr. Seward specified that the RSW (Ready, Set, Work!) CBI appears to be very challenging for potential participants, but they may be deterred from full participation due to the time obligations and the work each participant needs to do to experience success. She stated that we have to adhere to the model, given that it is an evidence-based program, but there is room for creativity.</p> <p>Dr. Seward explained that T4C is “Thinking for Change.” It is an approved program that is also utilized within NYS DOCCS in a slightly different form and in a very different environment (prison subculture vs. outside community). CBIs are part of the contract deliverables; each CRTF needs to utilize CBIs. KCRTF has two CBIs: T4C and RSW! T4C just completed its fourth (4th) “cohort.” The completion is marked with recognition and, on a case by case basis, a review of the individual’s supervision level and a possible reduction of that level. T4C can also satisfy an “anger management mandate.”</p> <p>Mr. Owens specified that the focus on state-released individuals does not mean that Federal releasees are irrelevant. He also noted that Federal KCRTF participants should feel free to advocate with their Representatives (Congress) for comparable programs or other ways to integrate their re-entry work with what is going on through the more local agencies.</p> <p>KCRTF Committee updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE. Dr. Seward noted that the June 9th Conference regarding human rights and re-entry was a success in terms of attendance and the quality of the content. She noted that participants wanted the half-day conference to be a full-day event. She noted that The Fortune Society’s leader, JoAnne Page, was the main speaker. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REPHIDIM MINISTRY REPORT: This new initiative is focusing on the impact of incarceration on the well-being of families of those incarcerated both during and post-incarceration, as well as on those who have been incarcerated after they have been released. Rev. Odom from the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights spoke about the June 9th initial meeting of this initiative – a forum in partnership with the District Attorney’s office. He noted that there was a diverse panel sharing information with attendees. There was concern regarding the small number of people “in the room” who need services the most and subsequent meetings have attempted to address this issue. The goal is to keep moving forward in October, in alliance with Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and Friendship Baptist Church. The hope is to bring in more people who need to hear the message. Mr. Owens pointed out that Church of Gethsemane has a history of working with formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, so conversations should take place. <i>[For more information, send an email to reentry@brooklynda.org.]</i> KCRTF WEBSITE: Mr. Owens explained that approvals have been received to establish a web presence, which will be affiliated with the District Attorney’s website. A survey form is available for attendees to complete so that the DA’s staff has input as to what this site should feature and look like. Mr. Owens stated that the attendees are the first group of folks to be surveyed regarding the website. <i>[For more information, send an email to reentry@brooklynda.org.]</i>
6	Fiscal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As stated above, all contractual obligations/milestones for the performance-based contract with DCJS were met or exceeded during FY16.

7	Reports / Concerns	<p>There will be a resource fair at the Federal Detention Center on August 11th. The DA's office will have a representative there. Ms. Rogers stated that there is a broad swath of concerns that will be addressed. She asked very specifically for information regarding health care services that may be available.</p> <p>Ms. Hersh stated that the Brooklyn Re-Entry Consortium is hoping to have its next gathering in September.</p>
8	Guest Presentations	<p>PATRICIA BROWN, CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, NYC HEALTH & HOSPITALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Brown, Ms. Patricia - Senior Associate Director, Comm & Behav Hlth Initiatives / NYC HEALTH & HOSPITALS - CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES - 55 Water Street 10041 (347) 774-7271] <pbrown@nychhc.org> <p>Corizon Health Services is no longer providing health services; Correctional Health Services is now the provider. A new CHS health center has been established and affiliations with various provider sites, FQHCs and networks have been established to facilitate health care service delivery to those who are incarcerated, those who are formerly incarcerated, and their families – including medical, dental, ophthalmology, gynecology, etc. Health Homes is also offered to clients with chronic health issues. Care coordination and discharge planning also take place through this new CHS center (which focuses on Rikers Island). Location is at the entrance to Rikers Island (Queens access), 49-04 19th Avenue, Astoria. Appointments can be made and walk-ins are also allowed. Other sites are across the boroughs, except for Staten Island.</p> <p>Q: Are services limited to certain populations? No. Everyone will be served.</p> <p>Q: What if you have no insurance? If someone needs insurance, there is someone on site to facilitate enrollment into a plan.</p> <p>Q: What are the real changes taking place? CHS always handled re-entry populations, but the umbrella is now bigger given recent changes.</p> <p>Dr. Seward stated that Ms. Brown is hoping to increase the involvement of community-based organizations in the work of CHS and the Center, so please connect with her and see what the possibilities are.</p> <p>Ms. Brown stated that CHS is surveying families of incarcerated individuals to determine the real needs of the inmates and their families. “We don’t really know what people want until we ask them.” Various services are being recruited to serve as resources for the CHS Center’s clientele and visitors. There will be a series of events, starting with a September Health Fair focusing on Diabetes and Hep C, that will take place on a quarterly basis. One community forum will focus on legal issues. Mr. Owens stated that he could see a few of the Houses of Worship who attend the KCRTF sessions as being willing to host or co-host Ms. Brown’s forums.</p> <p>Dr. Seward mentioned that people should not be focused on getting grants for work before any work has been done. The CHS Center’s situation provides an opportunity for organizations to define themselves in a positive way through “volunteerism” and develop a track record that can be used later on to advocate for and support requests for additional funds. “You can’t get money until you get clients; you can’t get clients until you get exposure! This is about enhancing our services and bridging the gaps! So, volunteerism is good for the soul!”</p> <p>JON-PIERRE KELANI & ROSALIE CUTTING, BLACK VETERANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Kelani, Jon-Pierre - Employment Specialist, HVRP5 / BLACK VETERANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC. - 665 Willoughby Avenue 11206 (718) 852-6004] jkalani@bvsj.org [Cutting, Ms. Rosalie - Outreach Specialist/Job Coach HVRP-5 / BLACK VETERANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC. - 665 Willoughby Avenue 11206 (718) 852-6004] <rcutting@bvsj.org>

		<p>Mr. Kelani is an employment specialist with BVSJ and a veteran. Services are broad and targeted to all populations, including the HVRP (Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program) and the IVTP (Incarcerated Veterans Transitional Program). Goals are to assist clients with all needs pertaining to all aspects of their lives.</p> <p>Ms. Cutting is an outreach specialist and job coach at BVSJ. Targeting veterans who are going to be released or who have been released within the past 12 months. Various services are offered to assist with housing, education and social services. New releasees face daunting challenges and many new phenomenon. There should be a master directory to assist everyone with service selection and to make sure everyone knows about your/our work. BVSJ services everyone, regardless of military status.</p> <p>Q: New York Public Library has a resource book – “The Connections Book” – that providers can and should get themselves listed in. Mr. Owens pointed out that quality matters when selecting and evaluating the providers listed in a directory.</p> <p>Q: What about veterans home for more than one year? They should come to BVSJ for services. Mr. Owens pointed out that those newly released are experiencing the heat of the transition and will be the focus of many services in order to ensure that they get a good start, but everyone gets serviced on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Q: If people are dishonorably discharged do they have equal access? No, but BVSJ will assist ineligible individuals to access appropriate services.</p>
9	New Business	<p>Dr. Seward spoke about the purpose and success of Regional Director Smith’s work and reminded the attendees that the success of the KCRTF’s re-entry work is due to the support of RD Smith and her leadership of the DOCCS Region.</p> <p>Dr. Seward thanked the attendees for coming to the meetings.</p> <p>Dr. Seward reminded everyone that individuals no longer on parole or on probation can vote, as well as those who have been detained but not convicted. People need to be educated about this issue and reminded that they are empowered to vote. (Mr. Cain noted that some parolees CAN vote if they have certain paperwork in place.)</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Peterkin stated that there are formerly-incarcerated individuals who are not familiar with the internet and still “need paper” (as opposed to working on-line). We need to make people comfortable with using technology but also meet them where they are. Mr. Owens stated that the KCRTF website is a supplement, not a substitute, for other information. Dr. Seward stated that computer training takes place at the KCRTF every week with the assistance of the Brooklyn Public Library, so people should feel free to send individuals who need computer access or training.</p>
10	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.
		<p>2016 & 2017 KCRTF meetings are proposed for 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm on these first Wednesdays</p> <p>2016: December 7. 2017: Feb 1, Apr 5, Jun 7, Aug 2, Oct 4, Dec 6.</p> <p>Please mark your calendars. Locations may vary.</p> <p><i>Corrections to the minutes should be emailed to: OwensC1@BrooklynDA.org</i></p>