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Kings County Re-Entry Task Force
Bi-Monthly Meeting of October 5, 2016 – Minutes

Meeting Date:	Wednesday, October 5, 2016	
Meeting Time:	12:30 pm – 2:35 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMERICA WORKS OF NY, INC.: David Aguado, Antona Cove, Samantha Goldstein, BROOKLYN COMMUNITY SERVICES (BCS): Ira Lengel BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES (BDS): Wesley Caines, Kasandra Martinez, Sadia Zaman BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY (BPL): Brenda Bentt-Peters BROWNSVILLE THINK TANK MATTERS, INC.: Ronald Robertson BURNING HOUSE PROJECT, INC.: Melvin Blackman CENTER FOR APPELLATE LITIGATION: Susannah Karlin CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES (CCA): Josefina Bastidas CHOSEN VESSELS PRISON MINISTRY: Margaret Johnson CHRIST FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Marva Harris-Small (Youth Chaplain) COMMON JUSTICE: Lauren Lipps CONSTANTINOPLE & VALLONE CONSULTING LLC: Amanda Ritchie CORNELL UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: 	<p style="text-align: center;">KINGS COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE</p> <p>KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE</p> <p>Renee Gregory, 1st Assistant District Attorney Christopher Owens, Co-Chair Designate Director, The Re-Entry Bureau Dr. Vanda Seward, Program Administrator/Coordinator Norma Fernandes, Case Manager</p> <p>NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (DOCCS)</p> <p>Audrey Thompson, Co-Chair Designate Re-Entry Operations Manager</p> <p>Michelle' Yon</p> <p>NYS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (DCJS)</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner Robert Maccarone Margaret Chretien</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY</p>

Jackie Davis-Manigault
COUNSELING SERVICES – EDNY (CSEDNY):
Daniel Tolbert

EAC NETWORK:
Lillian Bopp

THE DOE FUND:
Tony Bennett

FAMILIES, FATHERS AND CHILDREN, INC:
Ellen Edelman

FAMILY SERVICES OF WESTCHESTER / LANDING STRIP:
Rev. Alphonso Simmons (Chaplain)

FEDCAP REHABILITATION SERVICES / EMPLOYMENT WORKS:
Terrence Byerson

FEDERAL LATIN AMERICAN CHAPLAINS:
Zahir Murray

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROWN HEIGHTS:
Rev. Darryl Bloodsaw, Rev. Dr. Donald Odom

THE FORTUNE SOCIETY:
Michael Holley, Ann Travers

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH:
Min. Catharine Royall

HEALTHCARE CHOICES:
Paul Ammendola, Maria Siebel

H.O.L.L.A.!:
Thomas “Arocks” Porter

THE HOPE PROGRAM:
Elyssa Gersen-Thurman, Michele Knox

HOUR CHILDREN’S HOUR WORKING WOMEN RE-ENTRY PROGRAM:
Johanna Flores

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE OASIS BEACON:
William Boone

MIDDLE VOICES – THE BALDWIN PROJECT:
Lucy Thurber, Jenna Worsham

NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS:
Derek Slaughter, William Whitaker

NYS DEPT. OF EDUCATION – ACCESS-VR:
Anita Darby

NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION:
Delta Barometre (Queensboro Correctional Facility)

NYS HOMES AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL:
Beverly Hewitt, Gean Davids

THE OSBORNE ASSOCIATION:
Matthew Burstein, Cortez Sutton

RESOURCE COUNSELING CENTER:
Michelle Gonzalez

RAMONA’S PLACE SOBER HOUSE FOR HOMELESS MEN:
Lester Richard

US DOJ – BUREAU OF PRISONS:
Jana Martinez

VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE:
John Bae, Kathleen Culhane

VILLAGE LIFE FOUNDATION:
Rev. Anthony Sandusky (Yale University)

WORKFORCE PROFESSIONALS TRAINING INSTITUTE (WPTI):
Anabel Diaz-Guzman

The Re-Entry Bureau

Anne Broomfield, ADA for Re-Entry Compliance

ComALERT

Maria Abadia, Program Administrator
Marybeth Melendez, Case Manager
Kelly Burns, Case Manager

Youth Diversion - Project Re-Direct

Tyrone Larkins, Case Manager

ITEM #	ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND ACTION ITEMS
1	Call to Order	<p>The meeting was called to order by Mr. Christopher R. Owens, KCRTF Co-Chair designate, at 12:30pm.</p> <p>Mr. Owens asked all attendees to stand and share in a moment of silent reflection in support of District Attorney Ken Thompson, who has announced that he has cancer and who will not be performing his regular functions as District Attorney until he has completed his recovery. There was a moment of silence.</p> <p>Mr. Owens asked all attendees 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.</p> <p>KCRTF 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 a few introductory remarks regarding DOCCS' ongoing work in the area of employment development.</p>
3	Introductions	<p>Those in attendance introduced themselves, their organizations (if applicable), and their interest in the KCRTF.</p> <p>Dr. Seward introduced DCJS Deputy Commissioner Robert Maccarone and asked him to speak.</p> <p>Remarks by Commissioner Robert Maccarone:</p> <p>Robert Maccarone ("RM") expressed his appreciation for the gathering and each of the participants in the meeting. He acknowledged Margaret Chretien as someone who advocates for the KCRTF within DCJS. She also compiles "Re-Entry Today." RM saluted leadership of DA Thompson, Mr. Owens, Ms. Thompson and Dr. Seward. He expressed his best wishes for the DA.</p> <p>When RM took office in 2011, 18 CRTFs were serving a collective total of 1500 individuals. Currently, 19 CRTFs with 20th hopefully on the way (Queens) and there is strong support from Governor Andrew Cuomo through the Governor's Council on Re-Entry and Reintegration, led by the Governor's Counsel, Alphonso David, and Secretary of State Rosanna Rosado. "Banning the Box" on SUNY applications is critical because education has been and remains "the path out." New announcements are forthcoming. RM acknowledged CBOs and advocacy groups that made the "Banning The Box" change possible, particularly CCA.</p> <p>Current metrics are as follows: As of 10/16, the 19 CRTFs are serving 5,100 individuals – moderate to high-risk individuals and special populations are all being served. He anticipates another 1,000 to be served with the next \$1M in funding. Announcements are imminent.</p> <p>Program Model. Changes this past July included metrics for CBI participation – Thinking 4 Change and RSW! (Ready Set Work!) – itself a three-week, 180-hour training. We have to address primary service needs, including stable housing, clothing, food, because it's difficult for a person to focus on changing behavior if s/he doesn't know when s/he is going to eat or where s/he will be sleeping. RM referenced the Maslow Triangle – primary needs come first, such as substance abuse treatment, addressing mental illness challenges, veterans' challenges, etc., before someone gets to the stage of "pre-contemplation" regarding their choices and decisions. We can address all of these needs, however, but if we don't change a person's thinking, we might not change their behavior. A more concerted effort has existed to increase the CBI numbers – through program reimbursements.</p> <p>Relationship with NYSDOCCS has greatly improved over time. Requiring DOCCS to be a co-chair of each CRTF was an excellent decision and has been very helpful. DOCCS has already been interested in working on the CRTF initiatives, but the state-agency structure matches up awkwardly with county-based administration of criminal justice services. The "partnerships" have done well. DCJS position with DOCCS is "if it is not working for you, it is not working for us" and DCJS will make the changes</p>

		<p>necessary to ensure that CRTFs are of value to DOCCS.</p> <p>The KCRTF is a strong example of the positive outcomes. RM is considering recommending the KCRTF as a pilot training site for New York State, and have the other CRTFs come to KCRTF meetings to understand what is taking place within the KCRTF and how to possibly replicate it.</p> <p>Series of hub meetings have been taking place in Albany to build on the commitment to positive re-entry goals. Work is being done to clearly define the “re-entry” concept as a process from the moment an individual enters incarceration through their tenure and beyond; what are the steps that must occur to ensure a smooth transition to the community.</p> <p>“I congratulate you. I salute you. You are doing God’s work. What could be more important in life than helping individuals change their lives? There’s nothing more important.”</p>
4	Presentation of meeting minutes: August 3, 2016	<p>Dr. Seward requested that attendees review the Minutes from the August 3, 2016 KCRTF Bi-Monthly Meeting, and contact the Task Force if there were any comments or concerns that required corrections.</p>
5	Coordinator’s Report	<p>Dr. Seward presented the Coordinator’s Report.</p> <p>Completed 90-day mid-contract-year period from July 1 through September 30 prior to the next contract. It is being labeled the 16X period and stats will be reported in December.</p> <p>Clients are now more savvy than before. They are more selective regarding their desires, programs and outcomes. Credit goes to preparation “on the inside” that allows them to think critically about their choices on the outside. Transformation is a challenge to some degree, due to these changed dynamics. The KCRTF is committed to assisting every client with finding the right programs for their needs, and new clients need to understand this.</p> <p>On 9/26, the proposal for the new DCJS contract was submitted. The proposal requested additional funds for an additional Case Manager and an obligation to serve a minimum of 300 clients, rather than the current 250. The KCRTF network and DOCCS collaborations will enable the KCRTF to reach a higher goal.</p> <p>Clients are coming with many different needs that should be addressed as much and as soon as possible, preferably within the initial 90-day period. No longer a “three-legged stool” of housing, employment and treatment – there is now a “bench.” Power from the Pastors in the room is needed to ensure that we get the additional funds and case manager.</p> <p>[Mr. Boone noted that he has been meeting more formerly-incarcerated men through the young people involved with his program and it has been rewarding.]</p> <p>CBI REPORT</p> <p>Cohort 4 of Thinking For Change (T4C) has been operating. Dr. Seward identified a consultant, Mr. Jefferson, who is working with the KCRTF staff (Andrea Johnson) on T4C sessions. T4C sessions take place on Tuesday mornings on-site at DOCCS Brooklyn Regional office, with the assistance of Ms. Thompson, Michelle’ Yon and Ms. Hall. Majority of participants are younger, have not been in prison for a long time but have recidivism challenges.</p> <p>Selection of T4C participants by DOCCS has advantages as a client then gets to address multiple needs during his/her visit to DOCCS for the session, including the regular report day, and assigned participants are more likely to attend (no reasons to not attend) and have fewer incidents. In some cases, T4C participation allows some clients to complete their anger management requirements. Good behavior / compliance can lead to reduced supervision requirements by DOCCS, which is not announced in advance. Mr. Jefferson, who is formerly incarcerated, is an asset as a group leader through role modeling – you, too, can get your act together, it’s never too old to change, and DOCCS staff gets a</p>

		<p>different perspective on folks coming out as they get to work with a success story regularly.</p> <p>RSW! is offered in collaboraton with NYS Education Department’s ACCESS-VR. The goal is to have more groups more often to ensure adequate enrollment and attendance at sessions (less than 5 participants is a problem). RSW! should be provided after T4C, not before.</p> <p>COMMITTEE UPDATES</p> <p>Case Conference Committee. Changes will be taking place. Ms. Yon will now be the primary DOCCS representative participating in the KCRTF/DOCCS case conferences.</p> <p><i>Public Education Committee.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REPHIDIM/FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROWN HEIGHTS – Focusing on families of the incarcerated and the formerly incarcerated to assist with making change and increasing comfort. <p>Rev. Odom spoke. First meeting included testimony from a son who had been away for decades and whose mother stood by him and maintained contact. Other topics were addressed. Next meeting is Thursday, October 6th. Goal is to minimize shame and stigma and tear down barriers. Dr. Seward expanded on the topics and congratulated Rev. Odom and Rev. Bloodsaw for launching the project and getting people to open up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEBSITE – Dr. Seward introduced Mr. Owens as the presenter. <p>Remarks by Christopher Owens:</p> <p>Mr. Owens stated that, in May, 2014, two months after he had started with the DA’s office, the KCRTF was a small gathering of some 15 people. The participation has expanded tremendously since then. Owens stated that his role has been more technical – trying to get things to run better and communicating better with all of the re-entry stakeholders. A web presence is a critical component to serving as the “hub” for servicing formerly-incarcerated individuals and their families. Owens stated that competition between organizations for “clients” is pointless as the need exceeds the capacity of the organizations. “There’s plenty to go around. Let us be your hub.”</p> <p>Mr. Owens then reviewed the web pages within the www.brooklynda.org website and the information contained thereon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First page presents contact information for the KCRTF and an explanation of what the KCRTF is and its basic process. http://www.brooklynda.org/reentry/ ○ Second page presents the KCRTF participants and their attendance at meetings, in addition to links to organizational websites. http://www.brooklynda.org/reentry-task-force-participants/ ○ Third page presents meetings and events as well as KCRTF meetings. Shared information will be posted. http://www.brooklynda.org/reentry-meetings-and-events/ ○ Fourth page has news and media stories relevant to re-entry or to task force participants. http://www.brooklynda.org/reentry-news-and-media/ ○ Fifth page is not yet developed due to limited content. It will contain many websites and other information. http://www.brooklynda.org/reentry-resources/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Owens acknowledged that some inspiration came from the Bronx Re-Entry Working Group and their website. • Restrictions as to how information should be used publicly can be communicated to us.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Robertson pointed out that the phrase “returning citizens” is now being used, rather than “ex-offenders” or “formerly incarcerated” as a way of restoring humanity to those individuals. Mr. Owens stated that we need to know about those language nuances and determine how to proceed. He stated that choice of language does matter. 2017 RE-ENTRY CONFERENCE <p>Dr. Seward set forth the vision for a re-entry conference in Brooklyn for Spring, 2017 hosted by the KCRTF. She articulated the need for some funding but she stressed that community resources can keep costs low. Furthermore, A planning committee will be formed to put together the ideas, the details and the budget.</p>
6	Fiscal Report	Not Applicable.
7	Reports / Concerns	There were no reports or concerns raised.
8	Guest Presentations	<p>Dr. Seward introduced the guest presentations with the theme “Everything is Re-Entry” – a holistic approach is needed to re-entry. Relationships within the KCRTF can evolve into unanticipated opportunities and benefits, which is how Dr. Seward met the presenters at a social action retreat (in the woods, by a lake, with a bonfire – with Jason watching). During this retreat, Dr. Seward was further inspired by theater as one medium for recruiting interested individuals to become involved with re-entry (the KCRTF has already sponsored the production “Here To Be Seen” in November, 2015), and she was thinking about organizations led by younger people who could connect with the children of incarcerated and/or formerly-incarcerated individuals.</p> <p>THOMAS ANGEL “AROCKS” PORTER, FOUNDER, H.O.L.L.A.! https://www.facebook.com/HowOurLivesLinkAltogether</p> <p>Father was incarcerated for 32 years, starting before he was born. Porter ended up also going to prison at age 21 for the next 8.5 years – leaving behind a two year-old son. Porter always had a positive vision for his future life, so he wrote to his son and sent pictures and got involved with programs to prepare himself for when he would be released. He focused on education as the key to progress. HOLLA was formed by a group of men looking to set up an option for exposing participants to education and opportunities. Been home for six years after finding a job within one week of release. He has worked with various programs as a volunteer helping to address issues with young people who have yet to go to prison, as well as folks who are coming out. He also has been involved with the CUNY Fatherhood Academy, based out of LaGuardia Community College.</p> <p>JENNA WORSHAM & LUCYTHURBER - RATTLESTICK PLAYWRIGHTS THEATER: MIDDLE VOICE APPRENTICE PROGRAM – THE JAMES BALDWIN PROJECT http://www.rattlestick.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Jenna Worsham (worsham.jenna@gmail.com) <p>Founded by the Rattlestick Playwrights Theater (RPT) in 2012, Middle Voice (MV) was founded as an apprentice program for young theater artists with the goal of getting them to “embrace risks and encourage ensemble” – an outgrowth of the Occupy Wall Street movement. MV started performing original works and using writings of author James Baldwin to start conversations about different issues between individuals who might not otherwise interact. The MV works in schools and prisons.</p> <p>The Baldwin Project is now being presented throughout the New York metropolitan area as well as in Virginia (Washington & Lee University). Thurber took her experience growing up in poverty combined with the writings of James Baldwin and has created this project. Thurber’s family environment was “at risk” and was “her normal.” She teaches at The New School and also at an after-school program in NYC public schools. The Project has three parts: A community or group is chosen by the MV, a group of writings is selected and presented to the community members to encourage direct interactions, work is created by the interactors for presentation to the MV staff and then larger audiences at the Rattlestick</p>

		Playwrights Theater. “What is YOUR normal?” All aspects of your life are a certain way. Another group of people will have a totally different “normal” – and dialogue needs to happen to ensure that everyone has a voice and an opportunity to be heard.
9	New Business / Events	<p>Fri, October 21st, 10 am – 11:30 am NETWORKING BREAKFAST: NEW DIRECTIONS OUTPATIENT ALCOHOLISM & SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM 500 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn RSVP to Betsy Zapata 718-398-0800 / bzapata@newdirectionsclinic.com</p> <p>Mon, October 24th, 6 pm – 8 pm HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION: CELEBRATING OUR PAST WHILE BUILDING TOWARDS OUR FUTURE Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office / The Dominican Bar Association / The Puerto Rican Bar Association St. Ann & The Holy Trinity Church Hall, 157 Montague Street, Brooklyn RSVP to communityaffairs@brooklynda.org / 718-250-2243</p> <p>Wed, October 26, 5 pm – 9 pm NYCHA FAMILY RE-ENTRY PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams / Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna / Vera Institute of Justice / Brownsville Think Tank Matters / Red Hook Initiative / Rebuilding Together. New York City / Opportunities For A Better Tomorrow RSVP to 718-802-3531</p> <p>Sat, October 29th, 3 pm – 5 pm HALLOWEEN PARTY Sponsored by Families, Fathers & Children, Inc., at St. Monica Hall, 47 Sterling Place, Brooklyn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- - - - -</p> <p>ICL (Institute for Community Living) HEALTH CARE CHOICES distributed information www.ICLhcc.org / 718-234-0073</p> <p>THE OSBORNE ASSOCIATION distributed information for <i>Working Parents: Parenting, Re-entry and Employment Training and Placement</i> www.osborneny.org / 718-637-6588 / Matthew Burstein</p> <p>RESEARCH PROJECT – NYU SILVER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK “... looking at the prison health care experiences of formerly incarcerated adults living with mental illness. If you have a mental illness and have been out of prison for less than three years, please call.” Paid interview plus train fare. Contact Dr. Stacey Barrenger, AM / 212-998-5945 / sb4705@nyu.edu</p>
10	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.
		<p>NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016</p> <p>2017 KCRTF meetings are proposed for 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm on these first Wednesdays</p> <p>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 these Minutes should be emailed</i> <i>no later than October 28th to: OwensC1@BrooklynDA.org</i></p>