



**Eric Gonzalez**  
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***IN MEMORIAM***  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY KENNETH P. THOMPSON**  
**(1966-2016)**

**Kings County Re-Entry Task Force**  
**Bi-Monthly Meeting of June 7, 2017 – Minutes**

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Wednesday, June 7, 2017	
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	12:40 pm – 2:30 pm	
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Office of the Kings County District Attorney 350 Jay Street, 19 <sup>th</sup> Floor – Bob Kaye Room, Brooklyn, NY 11201	
<b>Attendees:</b>  (From Attendance Sheet signatures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMERICA WORKS OF NY: A. Cisse, M. Reichert, A. Smitherman</li> <li>BLACK VETERANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: R. Cutting, D. Robinson</li> <li>BRONX DEFENDERS: S. Hamilton</li> <li>BROWNSVILLE THINK-TANK MATTERS, INC.: R. Robertson</li> <li>THE BURNING HOUSE PROJECT, INC.: M. Blackman</li> <li>CENTER FOR APPELLATE LITIGATION: S. Karlin, S. Shafi</li> <li>CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE / PROJECT CONNECT: C. Okorie [SEE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH]</li> <li>COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY: C. Jesse</li> <li>COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD 16: G. Morgan</li> <li>CROWN HEIGHTS SCIENCE YOUTH: K. Pollock</li> <li>EASTER SEALS: S. Scriven</li> <li>FAMILIES, FATHERS AND CHILDREN, INC: E. Edelman, J. Palmaro</li> <li>FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS: J. Martinez</li> <li>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (BROOKLYN HEIGHTS): D. Ehlke, J. Ehlke [SEE CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE]</li> <li>GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS: S. Ervin, L. Hayes</li> <li>HEALTHCARE CHOICES: P. Ammendola, J. Vazquez</li> <li>D. Hylton</li> <li>LSA RECOVERY, INC.: E. Jorge</li> <li>E. Lorde</li> <li>MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE OASIS BEACON: W. Boone, M. Terry</li> <li>NEW BEGINNINGS OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR WOMEN: A. Taylor</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">KINGS COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE</div> <p><b>KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE</b> Renee T. Gregory, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant District Attorney Christopher Owens, Co-Chair Designate Director, The Re-Entry Bureau Norma Fernandes, Case Manager</p> <p><b>NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (DOCCS)</b> Lewis Squillaciotti, Co-Chair Designate Audrey Thompson, Parole Services Program Specialist</p> <p><b>NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES</b> Margaret Chretien</p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY</div> <p><b><u>ComALERT</u></b> Maria Abadia, Program Administrator Kelly Burns, Case Manager</p> <p><b><u>Office of Public Engagement</u></b> Justine Tomon, Executive Assistant Shelton Jones, Deputy Director</p>

<p><b>NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION:</b> D. Barometre (Queensboro)</p> <p><b>NYS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – ACCES-VR:</b> W. Hersh</p> <p><b>THE OSBORNE ASSOCIATION:</b> S. Rivas</p> <p><b>PRISON WRITES:</b> J. Hall, J. Joseph</p> <p><b>PROJECT CONNECT:</b> D. Grimes [SEE CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE]</p> <p><b>QUEENS COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE:</b> H. Lila</p> <p><b>REFOUNDRY:</b> D. Nurse</p> <p><b>SHILOH CONSULTING LLC:</b> N. Johnson</p> <p><b>STRONG HOUSE LLC:</b> J. Smith</p> <p><b>VIP COMMUNITY SERVICES:</b> R. Eason-Muhammad, J. Reed</p>	
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ITEM		DESCRIPTION AND ACTION ITEMS
1	<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Christopher R. Owens, KCRTF Co-Chair designate, at 12:40 pm.
2	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<p>Mr. Owens acknowledged Dr. Seward’s absence due to medical leave and shared her best wishes.</p> <p>Mr. Owens stated that clients are being recruited as well as the development of case conferences. The Re-entry Bureau is enduring staff changes and it is hoped they will be resolved within the next few weeks. Mr. Owens stressed that all questions regarding re-entry are appropriate, whether specific to the KCRTF’s work or not.</p> <p>Mr. Owens introduced the KCRTF Co-Chair, DOCCS Brooklyn Bureau Chief Squillacioti. Mr. Squillacioti highlighted the fact that enthusiastic participation is beneficial to everyone’s interests, particularly those of the clients and he expressed thanks to those in attendance for the enduring and strong support of the KCRTF’s work. He also noted that there are some needs that can be addressed more thoroughly, particularly mental health needs.</p> <p>Ms. Audrey Thompson discussed the substance of the pre-release meetings that have been developing. Every attempt is being made to identify needs in advance of release and have a plan ready for implementation. There are logistical issues that remain but everything is improving. She thanked those in attendance for their input and ongoing participation.</p> <p>Mr. Owens mentioned the need to keep the mailing list data current and asked everyone to sign-in and also notify him of organization or other contact data modifications.</p>
3	<b>Presentati on of Meeting Minutes</b>	Mr. Owens briefly discussed the contents of the minutes. He apologized for their tardiness.
4	<b>Introduct ions</b>	<p>Those in attendance introduced themselves, their organizations (if applicable), and their interest in the KCRTF. Participants spoke in greater detail regarding the work of their organizations, success stories, and any concerns. Mr. Owens mentioned that providers can contact the KCRTF for meetings to share their services in more detail. The KCRTF hopes to meet with all providers at some point to become familiar with services.</p> <p>Mr. Owens asked Mr. Hubert Lila, the Coordinator for the new Queens County Re-entry Task Force, to speak briefly about their launch and their progress. Mr. Lila discussed the recent activities of the new QCRTF and highlighted the seriousness of housing as an issue for clients. He extended an invitation to those present to participate in the QCRTF as well.</p> <p><i>Highlights: Mr. Nurse announced that he has been out of incarceration for a year (after 20 years), is working with Refoundry (focusing on entrepreneurship), and has been accepted to graduate school at Columbia to pursue his MSW. He stressed that people need lots of help to generate goals and stick with them. Mr. Reed from VIP Community Services stated that he has been home for seven years and is serving as a mentor and a motivator to others, as well as the owner of two businesses.</i></p> <p>Mr. Owens stated that our society’s social disease is the pathology that creates recurring criminal behavior across lives and across generations, and our challenges are many to interject ourselves and our work to break the negative cycles and fight the disease.</p>
5	<b>Coordina</b>	Mr. Owens stated that, in addition to intakes, the two CBI programs are also being offered: <i>Thinking For A</i>

	<b>tor's Report</b>	<i>Change and Ready Set Work!</i> Referrals are common, so let's get to know each other better. Mr. Owens stressed the "relationship" aspect of the work – "if we have a relationship, we expect a good response for our clients when we call."
6	<b>Reports / Concerns</b>	Tabled.
7	<b>Guest Presentations</b> <i>(Please note that the excerpts presented hear were transcribed from an audio recording and may contain errors. Please bring any issues to our attention.)</i>	<p>There was no presentation by Ms. Stacey Dorsey, who was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Laverne Hayes made a presentation regarding the work of the Gay Men's Health Crisis. The bulk of GMHC services involve LGBTQ community members. There are a number of clients who were incarcerated. A variety of services are offered that assist with employment, socialization, nutrition, women's programs, substance abuse services and youth programs.</p> <p>Ms. Sandra Ervin discussed GMHC outreach. She oversees staff members that engage in street-based door-to-door outreach. In general, outreach generates between 27 and 40 clients per month. Recent State cuts impact on the services and the outreach to clients. Keeping clients in care and in compliance with good health practices is the mission. To do that, all barriers are explored – including things as simple as the provision of Metrocards.</p> <p>Ms. Hayes discussed housing and the MRT housing program work done by GMHC. Care Managers work individually with clients to ensure that there is ongoing contact to assess their situations, and there are updates to parole officers.</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A:</b></p> <p>Estimate around 18% of the served population has been criminal justice involved and usually incarcerated. Maybe 70% men. There are additional individuals who have not yet been convicted.</p> <p>Funding streams vary. AIDS Institute, government, private funding (Elton John), corporate funding (pharmaceuticals).</p> <p>Only one location (33<sup>rd</sup> Street) for services and one for testing site, but service is for all five boroughs.</p> <p>No Care Managers specifically dedicated to formerly incarcerated individuals. Any unique situations applying to formerly incarcerated individuals? Not really. Patient-centered approach allows for guidance and maximizes patient choices. Referrals are common if expertise is not on-site.</p> <p>Housing is the biggest issue for all clients. High rents and discrimination are significant factors.</p> <p>GMHC will be opening a medical clinic.</p>
7	<b>New Business / Events</b>	<p>Mr. Palmaro mentioned a book by author Susan Benson regarding re-entry that he heard about on NPR.</p> <p>Ms. Martinez announced an August health fair and encouraged providers to speak with her.</p> <p>Mr. Blackman stated that his experience kicking drugs may be of interest to providers.</p> <p>Mr. Robertson announced "Peace Week" activities, including a Father's Day 5K march.</p>
8	<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

## NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017

2017 KCRTF meetings are proposed for 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm on these first Wednesdays

### October 4th and December 6th

Please mark your calendars. Locations may vary.

*Corrections to these Minutes should be emailed to [OwensC1@BrooklynDA.org](mailto:OwensC1@BrooklynDA.org)  
Information pertaining to events should also be emailed*