



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 April 6, 2016 – Minutes

Meeting Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2016	
Meeting Time:	12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	
Meeting Location:	Office of the Kings County District Attorney 350 Jay Street, 19th Floor – Bob Kaye Room, Brooklyn, NY 11201	
Attendees: (From Attendance Sheet signatures)	<p>BROOKLYN HOUSE: Shermaine Pilgram</p> <p>BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES: Wesley Caines, Olivia Merchant</p> <p>CENTER FOR APPELLATE LITIGATION: Susannah Karlin</p> <p>COG BC (NYPD): Rev. Mary Washington</p> <p>CSEDNY: Michele Nelson</p> <p>CUNY FATHERHOOD: Johnny Lozada</p> <p>DEFY VENTURES: David Robinson</p> <p>DOE FUND: James Washington, Charles Bryant</p> <p>EAC Program (NYC TASC): Amanda Arcuri</p> <p>EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH: Andre Palmer</p> <p>FAMILIES FATHERS & CHILDREN: Ellen Edelman</p> <p>FEDCAP: Carlene Scheel</p> <p>FERRARI DRIVING SCHOOL: Elsie Santamaria</p> <p>FORTUNE SOCIETY: Ann Travers</p> <p>HOUSING WORKS: Dee Baker</p> <p>KREDIT KONCEPTS: Quincy Luzunaris, Jeffrey Broome</p> <p>NEW BEGINNING OUTREACH PROGRAM: Karsa Taylor</p> <p>NYC DOH-OMH: Julia Phillips</p> <p>NYC EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COALITION: Annie Garneva, Mary Ellen Clark</p> <p>OASAS (NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE): Sharon Davis</p> <p>OSBORNE: Jenny Santiago, Andre Ward</p> <p>PRISON WRITES: Jessica Hall</p> <p>ST. PAUL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH: Lesley F. Shannon</p> <p>STRIVE INTERNATIONAL: Afi Turner</p> <p>UNIVERSAL CHURCH: Marva Harris</p> <p>U.S. PROBATION DEPARTMENT: Charnie Perez</p> <p>VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE: John Bae</p>	<p>KINGS COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE</p> <p>KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 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 Andrea Johnson, Case Manager</p> <p>NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (DOCCS) Michelle A. Yon</p> <p>NYS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (DCJS) Margaret Chretien</p> <p>KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY</p> <p><u>Executive</u> Melinda Alexis-Hayes, Special Counsel for Public Engagement</p> <p><u>The Re-Entry Bureau</u> Anne Broomfield, ADA for Compliance</p> <p><u>ComALERT</u> Maria Abadia, Program Administrator, ComALERT/GRASP Marybeth Melendez, Case Manager Micaja Verna, Intern</p> <p><u>Bureau of Youth Diversion</u> Tammy Eggleston, Program Administrator, Project Re-Direct Allison Ottley, LCSW, Project Re-Direct / YCP Tyrone Larkins, Case Manager, Project Re-Direct</p> <p><u>Office of Public Engagement</u> Justine Tollman</p>

ITEM #	ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND ACTION ITEMS
1	Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Christopher R. Owens, KCRTF Co-Chair designate, at 1:00pm.
2	Opening remarks	The Chair presented the Agenda for April 6, 2016.
3	Presentation of meeting minutes: February 4, 2016	The Chair requested that attendees review the Minutes from the February 4, 2016 KCRTF Bi-Monthly Meeting, and contact the Co-Chairs if there were any comments or concerns that required corrections.
4	Introductions	<p>The Chair introduced Dr. Vanda Seward, Coordinator of the Kings County Re-Entry Taskforce. The Chair also acknowledged the presence of KCDA staff members, including Maria Abadia, Program Administrator of ComALERT and GRASP.</p> <p>Those in attendance then introduced themselves and their organizations, if applicable.</p> <p>The Chair then mentioned GRASP's new program affiliation with ComALERT.</p>
5	Coordinator's Report	<p>Coordinator's Report</p> <p>a. Update on CBI programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Seward discussed <i>Thinking 4 Change</i>, the 13 week cognitive behavioral intervention program which is implemented on-site at the main Brooklyn DOCCS office. One benefit for the parolee of completing the program is that his/her supervision level may be modified (the frequency with which they must report to Parole.) T4C also meets the anger management requirement for some parolees. • Dr. Seward also discussed <i>Ready Set Work!</i> -- a cognitive behavioral intervention program implemented on-site at 210 Joralemon Street. The program is a 20-hour workshop, which helps individuals prepare for and find employment. Dr. Seward noted that many clients are also serviced through ACCES-VR, vocational training offered by the NYS Department of Education. <p>b. KCRTF Committee updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. Dr. Seward stated that a high level of coordination exists between DOCCS and the KCRTF staff, ensuring that high risk parolees are referred to the KCRTF or sometimes mandated. • PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE. The public education committee recently participated at the orientation for ACCES-VR at the Queensboro Correctional Facility. Many Brooklyn parole violators are being housed at this DOCCS facility. The KCRTF will now be partnering with ACCES-VR once each month to facilitate orientations at Queensboro. The hope is to recruit, on a pre-release basis, individuals residing in Brooklyn by exposing them to the services offered by ACCES-VR and the KCRTF. <p>Dr. Seward stated that the KCRTF continues its efforts to create better re-entry programming and better educate the Brooklyn community as a whole regarding re-entry issues. One upcoming event will be a forum co-sponsored by the District Attorney's office and the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights (Rev. Darryl Bloodsaw), designed to provide community education regarding challenges faced by the families of incarcerated individuals both during and after the incarceration period.</p> <p>The Chair mentioned that the NYC Human Rights Commission will be holding a conference this Spring, but no date has been set as of this meeting.</p>

		An attendee mentioned that April 24 -30 has been designated as National Re-Entry Week nationally , and wanted to know if the KCRTF was scheduling any special activities during that time. Dr. Seward stated that while there was nothing specific on the calendar at this time, the communities or organizations interested in having some sort of activity should let the KCRTF know.
6	Fiscal Report	Dr. Seward spoke about the “Snapshot Report” – a report detailing the KCRTF’s progress during the Fiscal Year. Since July 1, 2015, eight months have passed -- or 75% of the Fiscal Year. Of the contractually required milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client intake percentage is currently at 69%. • The 45-day client engagement level is at 91%. • The CBI engagement level is at 112%. The combined completion rate of both CBI programs, <i>Thinking 4 Change</i> and <i>Ready Set Work!</i> is currently 95%.
7	Reports / Concerns	There were no new reports or concerns.
8	Guest Presentations	KREDIT CONCEPTS (KKO) Mr. Jeffrey Broome (Co-Founder): KREDIT KONCEPTS (KK) is a credit company that works with individuals to improve their credit score and assist them in gaining financial leverage. In an effort to give back they have begun working with formerly incarcerated individuals and also veterans through their program R.A.R.E. Mr. Broome then introduced their non-profit, R.A.R.E. Through this program, Kredit Koncepts will be targeting returning citizens. They will be looking for sponsorships to aid them in funding the program. They will also be going on college tours to help educate the youth on financial stability through a stable credit score. Mr. Quincy Luzunaris (Co-Founder, CEO) Mr. Luzunaris detailed that the Freedom Five-Hundred program will be aiding 100 returning citizens from each New York City five boroughs. By reducing recidivism through financial stability Kredit Koncepts estimates they are saving about 4 million dollars a year in taxes. Mr. Luzunaris then stressed that the goal of the program is to help the incarcerated as they are preparing to be released. Upon their release they will be in a position to find housing, a job and start the rest of their life stable and confident. Mr. Luzunaris detailed that it costs them \$200 per year for each one of their participants in the program and KKO is able to match the donation of any entity. Upon entry into the program clients for the first six months are educated on the current stance of their credit and pulling themselves out of debt. The next six months are spent building their credit up to a good credit score. Mr. Luzunaris then introduced two successful former participants in the Freedom Five-Hundred program and they spoke about their progression through Kredit Koncepts. <i>A copy of the Kredit Koncepts Powerpoint Presentation is included in these minutes as ATTACHMENT 1.</i>
9	New Business	There was no new business.
10	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.
		2016 KCRTF meetings are proposed for 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm on these Wednesdays - June 1, August 3, October 5, December 7. Locations may vary.