



“...Re-entry reform is a priority for my administration. We must help individuals who have served their time to move past their mistakes.”

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
September 14, 2016

This newsletter shares news, policy and program updates and best practice information to 19 County Re-entry Task Forces (CRTFs) and community stakeholders.

Funded by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the Task Forces are located in the following counties:

- Albany
- Bronx
- Broome
- Dutchess
- Erie
- Kings
- Manhattan
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Niagara
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Orange
- Rensselaer
- Rockland
- Schenectady
- Suffolk
- Ulster
- Westchester

Governor Commends SUNY’s ‘Ban the Box’ Initiative

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo commended the state University of New York Board of Trustees’ recent vote to ‘ban the box’ from its general application and for revising its policy that required student applicants to declare prior felony convictions.

Starting in 2018, students will only be asked to disclose felony convictions after they are admitted and only when seeking campus housing, participation in clinical or field experiences, internships or study abroad programs. Disclosures will not be used to revoke admission.

This initiative removes a sizeable barrier to education in New York State. Governor Cuomo commended the Trustees for removing this considerable barrier to education often experienced by justice-involved individuals. The change also falls within the Governor’s re-entry reform initiatives.

“I directed SUNY leadership to carefully examine this issue, because re-entry reform is a priority for my administration,” Governor Cuomo said. “We must help individuals who have served their time to move past their mistakes. Research shows that a majority of candidates who are asked to disclose prior felony convictions on SUNY admissions applications do not complete the process. This has a particularly negative impact on applicants of color as a result of racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Higher education represents an important stepping stone toward personal and professional fulfillment. Every New Yorker deserves a fair and equal chance to achieve their goals.”

Youth Pardon Program

Governor Cuomo is offering executive pardons to New Yorkers convicted of non-violent crimes at the ages 16 and 17 who haven’t been convicted of another offense with 10 years of their original offense. If all eligibility requirements are met by the applicant, a recommendation for a pardon will be made to the Governor. The state Office of Court Administration will restrict access to the criminal history of anyone receiving a pardon. Private employers, landlords, or other companies will be unable to access criminal history information. [Visit this link](#) for eligibility information.

CRTF Meeting Dates

September 2016

Sept. 9: Oneida
Sept. 12: Monroe
Sept. 21: Schenectady
Ulster
Broome
Sept. 22: Onondaga
Orange
Sept. 26: Bronx
Manhattan
Sept. 28: Rockland
Sept. 29: Westchester

October 2016

Oct. 5: Kings
Oct. 6: Suffolk
Oct. 7: Albany
Oct. 12: Erie
Niagara
Oct. 19: Broome
Oct. 20: Dutchess
Nassau
Oct. 27: Rensselaer

New York Re-entry Today is published by the DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA).

Michael C. Green
*Executive Deputy
Commissioner*

Robert M. Maccarone
*Deputy Commissioner and
Director*

Margaret Chrétien
Editor, Senior Policy Analyst



80 South Swan Street
Albany, New York 12210
Phone: 518-485-2393
Fax: 518-485-5140

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov

CRTFs Special Condition

Community Supervision executives at the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) have agreed to include a special condition that appropriate individuals (moderate-to-high risk and in need of services) returning from state prison participate in a County Re-entry Task Force (CRTF) as a condition of parole supervision effective September 1. New parolees referred to DCJS-sponsored CRTF programs will have the [attached special condition](#) imposed. Parolees are expected to comply with all referrals made by CRTFs, including participants' enrollments and completions of cognitive-behavioral interventions and *Ready, Set, Work!* groups.

Broome CRTF Collaborates to offer Re-entry Continuing Ed Training

On October 7, the state University of New York at Binghamton's Social Work Department will offer a two-credit continuing education program, *Employment Stigma and the Re-entry Process for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals: Implications for Communities, Program Intervention and Policy Change*. The training program will focus on equipping those who work with the formerly incarcerated with skills and intervention strategies to counter and ameliorate stigmas that interfere with community re-integration efforts. Broome CRTF Coordinator Jeff Pryor and Center for Employment Opportunities' Katie Blaine join university faculty to offer this timely and important continuing education class. [Visit this link](#) for more information.

DCJS Certifies 2016 OWDS Graduates

In September, the state Office of Probation and Corrections Alternatives graduated its 10th Offender Workforce Development Specialist class with 28 newly-certified facilitators qualified to run *RSW!* groups. Secretary of State Rossana Rosado commended the graduates on their hard-earned accomplishment and expertise to help those in need of job readiness and placement assistance. Now, a total of 259 certified facilitators are qualified to run groups for justice-involved persons.

Around the Task Forces

Congratulations to DOCCS co-chairs Bill McCartney (Suffolk), Janice Smith (Broome) and Bill Fortune (Monroe) as they retire from State service. Manhattan co-chair Chris Watler has joined the Center for Employment Opportunities and Jillian Shagon is stepping in as interim county co-chair. Best wishes to Doshine Jenkins who is moving from Oneida County and welcome to Karen Gallagher as the newly-appointed CRTF coordinator. Jason Barnum is the Monroe CRTF coordinator, replacing Ann Graham who was promoted within her organization. Dawn Anderson is now the DOCCS co-chair for the Monroe CRTF. Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore, was appointed by Governor Cuomo as chief judge of the State's Unified Court System and James McCarty is now Acting District Attorney and county co-chair. Louise Taylor was appointed as Suffolk CRTF coordinator while Vanessa Pugh is now county co-chair, replacing Kat Daniels who has returned to California. Irwin Davies was promoted as parole regional director for Queens and Long Island, and Martin Arroyo is replacing him as the Nassau CRTF DOCCS co-chair.