



This newsletter shares information, policy and program updates and best practice information to 20 County Re-entry Task Forces and community stakeholders.

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- Nassau
- Niagara
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- Onondaga
- Orange
- Queens
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- Ulster
- Westchester

County Re-entry Task Force Services — In Action

For the second year in a row, Orange County Re-Entry Task Force Coordinator Denise Johnson worked with Andrew Allen, from the Middletown Rotary Club, and Sherri Tironi, from YMCA of Middletown, to distribute four bags of winter coats of various sizes to justice involved individuals, their families, and others in the community.



The Suffolk County Re-entry Task Force and Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta provided at least 10 winter coats, as well as gloves, hats, and various outerwear to Task Force recently released participants.



OPCA delivers Interactive Journaling Training

Twenty community corrections professionals attended training for Interactive Journaling on December 19 and 20. Upon completion, graduates are trained to facilitate Interactive Journaling groups and individual sessions. Interactive journaling is an evidence-based, cognitive behavioral intervention that aims to help participants move through the stages of change.

Cara House – Schenectady County

The Cara House, which will be a major resource for those struggling with homelessness, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023. The Cara House, located at 917 State St., Schenectady, will provide 26 permanent supportive housing units, 10 of which will be dedicated for chronically homeless individuals. Sixteen emergency shelter beds will be provided to members of the re-entry population who are unhoused.

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For more information on any of the topics mentioned within, to report any difficulties you may have experienced receiving this email, or if you have any information you would like included in the next issue, please contact [Melinda Vick](#).

Past issues of *New York Re-Entry Today* are available on the [DCJS website](#). Bookmark the link!

Rossana Rosado
Commissioner

Melinda Vick
Interim Editor



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

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov

Spotlight: Kings County Re-Entry Task Force

The Kings County Re-entry Task Force held a graduation on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, for participants who successfully completed the **Ready, Set, Work!** employment readiness training. Congratulations to the five graduates and best of luck to each of them!



OPCA Staff Retirement

On January 2, 2024, DCJS Deputy Commissioner and Director Robert Maccarone retired from the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. Assemblyman David Weprin presented Deputy Commissioner and Director Maccarone with a proclamation and Acting NYS DOCCS Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III presented him a plaque on December 05, 2023. After a 47-year career between Westchester County and New York State service, we wish him all the best in his retirement.



Governor Announcements:

Governor Kathy Hochul signed the Clean Slate Act (S.7551A/A.1029C), which seals certain criminal records and allows individuals to seek employment, education, and obtain housing opportunities so they can improve their lives. The law, enacted on November 16, 2023, will allow for records to be sealed following the release from incarceration, provided those individuals have maintained a clean record and are no longer on probation or parole supervision. The law still provides access to otherwise sealed records for certain necessary and relevant purposes. Read more [here](#).

Client Testimonial – New York County Re-Entry Task Force

Kasim C. was released after serving over 40-years in state incarceration. Since his release, he has displayed a determined effort to successfully reintegrate back into society. He has completed a cognitive behavioral intervention - employment program and is an active participant in Interactive Journaling groups. He is enrolled in a Social Services 101 course to eventually become a peer counselor and has secured housing at the Fortune Society transitional housing program. The Task Force assisted Kasim with obtaining his personal documents, such as identification, birth certificate and social security card, and helped him find a primary care physician. The Task Force coordinator noted, "His attitude is one of gratitude. He has shown true efforts towards redemption and positive determination."