<u>Re-entry</u> <u>Task Force Members</u>

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc. NYS Department of Community Supervision (Parole) Niagara County Probation Department Division of Criminal Justice Services NYS Department of Corrections Niagara County Department of Social Services Niagara County Probation TASC Niagara County Department of Mental Health Family and Children's Service of Niagara, Inc.

Niagara Falls Housing Authority

Niagara Falls Police Department

Niagara Falls Arts and Cultural Center

Niagara County Community College

Northpointe Council, Inc.

Niagara County Employment & Training 1 Stop Center

Niagara County District Attorney's Office

Niagara County Sheriff's Department

Child Advocacy Center

Niagara County Sheriffs Department Victims Assistance

Lockport Police Department

Beacon Center

Highland Community Revitalization Committee

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs





NIAGARA COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE



"RE-ENTRY IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH INCARCERATED PERSONS RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY WITH ALL NECESSARY RESOURCES ENABLING THEM TO REINTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY AS LAW ABIDING CITIZENS."

> John Cicchetti Niagara County Probation Director Re-entry Task Force Chair 716-438-4055

> > Eric Boerdner Community Missions, Inc. Re-entry Coordinator 716-285-3403 Ext. 2258

Vision and Mission

Our Vision is to....

help build a safer community as a result of the successful transition of individuals who leave prison and return to our community each year.

Our Mission is to...

- help bridge gaps within the system and aid in better communication and coordination between community agencies.
- enhance public safety and knowledge.
- aid returning offenders in living a healthy, law abiding life.

What is Re-entry?

Offender Re-entry is the reintegration of offenders into the community following their release from prison.

An offender re-entering the community is faced with the challenging issues: lack of housing, lack of vocational and job related training, no work history, and for some substance abuse problems, as well as mental health issues. Re-entry is a process that takes full participation by the individual to take the necessary steps toward rehabilitation through the assistance of the community, the criminal justice system, human service stakeholders, and through family and friends.

Role of Task Force

- Assess the current re-entry system and re-structure it accordingly to better aid the returning offender using feedback from the community, law enforcement and human service providers.
- Coordinate services which may include housing, employment, education, substance abuse, physical and mental health, and where possible family reunification as individually needed for offenders.
- Educate the community about re-entry and why it is so important in our community.
- Help break community barriers in order to better serve both the reentry population and the community as a coordinated whole.



<u>Importance of the</u> <u>Re-entry Task Force</u>

A task force is necessary to address the specific needs of offenders returning to Niagara County from New York State prisons each year.

It is recognized that there are systematic problems associated with re-entry and the burden it puts on the individual, Division of Parole, Department of Corrections, Law Enforcement, Human Service Agencies, and the Community. Our task force will work to:

- enhance public knowledge about Reentry
- enhance public safety
- help address employment barriers
- help address mental health issues
- work to remove housing barriers in the community
- create and implement a plan that will offer assistance to offenders who are returning to the community

The goal of the task force is to aid the offender in forming a successful partnership with the community and the community stake holders to achieve public safety and law abiding citizens.