

**Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
Office of Transitional Services
Local Law 103 of 2016 Report
October 31, 2021**

I. Introduction and Reporting

This report, submitted by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) to City Council in compliance with Local Law 103 of 2016, serves as an annual progress report, biennial report, and four-year projection for reentry services in New York City. The narrative report and data are reflective of re-entry expansion within city programming.

In 2020, the consolidation of post-release reentry service contracts from DOC to MOCJ resulted in a \$10M addition to MOCJ reentry programming and the release of an RFP for \$19,399,429 in FY21. The new contracts were awarded in January of 2021 with the contract term to serve from FY21 (July 1, 2020) through the end of FY23 (June 30, 2023). In the original Jails to Jobs model, the prior "re-entry network" consisted of 8 re-entry providers which has now grown to 10 non-profit city providers in which MOCJ has coined the CJRN (Criminal Justice Re-entry Network).

II. Populations Served

A. Demographics

With the expansion of funding, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice was able to complete 2,430 intakes through the end of October 2021 with 88% being male re-entry participants and 12% being female re-entry participants. 669 individuals recorded an age of 40 or older, 384 recorded that they were between the ages of 30-39, 320 recorded that they were between the ages of 16-24 and 204 individuals recorded that they were between the ages of 25-29. There was a total of 62 individuals who engaged with re-entry providers who did not disclose their age at the time of engagement.

B. Prior Criminal Justice Involvement

At the time of engagement there were 39% of individuals who stated that they had a current stay in NYC jail. A total of 35% of intakes recorded that they had a recent stay in NYS prison. 24% of individuals chose not to disclose while 3% of individuals had other detention stays either inside NYC jurisdiction or outside of the state's limitations.

At the point of intake 34% of individuals reported they did not have a current parole mandate while 33% recorded that they did, 33% of individuals chose not to disclose their current parole status with service providers.

While on the other hand, 57% of individuals reported no involvement with probation while 35% chose not to disclose their current probationary status with 8% confirming an active stay with DOP (Department of Probation)

C. Behavioral Health/Substance Use Needs

Re-entry participants who reported having mental health (MH) concerns resulted in 22% requesting MH resources. While 45% of recorded not seeking services and 33% chose not to disclose whether they were seeking or needed MH services/referrals.

For those who reported having or needing services to address substance use, 28% of re-entry participants confirmed that they were in search of substance use services. 40% reported that there were no referrals or services needed for substance use, while 33% chose not to disclose if they were seeking such services.

III. Types of Programs

A. CJRN

In April 2018, the City launched Jails to Jobs (J2J), a citywide reentry initiative focused on providing paid transitional employment, job training, access to higher education, and supportive services to approximately 5,000 justice system-involved individuals. The program was created to help prevent recidivism and ensure that people leaving jail have opportunities to embark on a productive and stable future. With this initiative, the City built a system tailored to individuals' vocational, educational, and therapeutic needs. The launch of an RFP for transitional services in fiscal year 2020 has allowed MOCJ to award and contract with 10 nonprofit service providers.

This new network is inclusive of wrap-around services for folks who are in custody as well as being released into the community. Our providers Bronx Connect, Exodus Transitional Community, FedCap, Fortune Society, Housing Works, Osborne Association, Center for Court Innovation (Staten Island Justice Center), Women's Prison Association, Youth Justice Network, and Center for Community Alternatives all provide discharge planning inside of Rikers Island in addition to in community planning for justice impacted individuals.

With the creation of the CJRN, it also created an offramp of expedited services for those seeking community stabilization upon release. With a focus on rehabilitation through case management support and an expansion of employment opportunities, individuals who are engaged with our providers receive an extensive service plan through clinical support, onsite planning, and in community referrals. The core focus is aimed at addressing vital needs such as, but not limited to, mental health, substance abuse treatment, housing assistance, legal services, and benefits assistance.

B. John Jay College- Institute for Justice and Opportunity (IJO)

The John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity (IJO) was spawned in 2017 with the direct intention of offering educational, career readiness, and reentry support tailored for justice-impacted individuals. Using a holistic, trauma-informed approach IJO assists folks with long term success through programs focused on digital literacy,

leadership training, student success initiative programming, pathways to receiving a GED, and employment opportunities.

With a program expansion in 2018 to include the Peer Navigator Certificate in Human Services, which allows folks to receive necessary credits from an approved college curriculum that is geared toward providing services for justice impacted New Yorkers through individuals with lived experience. The peer navigator network has been another holistic expansion to the employment opportunities offered to justice impacted New Yorkers.

C. Geographic Areas Served

Re-entry services were able to engage and enroll participants from across the five boroughs. 426 individuals recorded that they resided in the borough of the Bronx, 406 residing in the borough of Manhattan, 354, residing in Queens, 329 residing in the borough of Brooklyn, 34 residing in Staten Island at the point of engagement with our service providers. There were also 90 individuals who recorded a residence outside of city limits but received services within the city.

D. Outreach Efforts

According to tracked data from J2J and the MOCJ CJRN, providers recorded over 4,500 outreach attempts to justice impacted New Yorkers. 1,400 of those attempts resulted in participants having an intake scheduled with a re-entry provider. Over 40 individuals were screened for the NYCHA Family Reentry Program and just under 18 individuals referred/engaged with the program.

There were 693 trainings which included over 5,000 hours of training and enrichment services dispersed amongst re-entry participants. MOCJ recorded that there were 528 job placements in specific fields such as Building/Facilities Management, Social Services, Food Service, transportation, and Construction.

IV. Four-year Plan

A. Recommendations

In FY21 MOCJ released a new RFP for re-entry services that has plans to address some of the major concerns for individuals returning home from prison and or jail within NYC/NYS jurisdiction. This request for proposal will implement a suite of services that will address identified needs and challenges.

MOCJ recommends that services are tailored to address substance use, mental health, educational, and vocational needs of individuals leaving the justice system. MOCJ also recommends the development of services tailored for specialized populations while being inclusive of all demographics. MOCJ recommends refining the City's approach to discharge, to effectively bridge the gap from custody to community. The presence of

community-based organizations inside detention facilities will best streamline vital services, allowing MOCJ to assess and alter services according to the needs of re-entering individuals. MOCJ plans to monitor the success of the awardees under this new request for proposal and adjust accordingly to best serve justice impacted citizens of NYC.

B. Obstacles

MOCJ understands that this new proposal will be the first of its kind for NYC and understands there will be obstacles that lie ahead. For instance, the cohesion of the selected organizations, DOC and DOCCS, will be one hurdle as we brace for change and impact. Understanding protocol and best practices as parties align themselves with the same goal at hand, which is providing stability to those leaving detention will be a learning curve and an evolving dilemma as the jail/prison population evolves.

Tailoring services to the population will be an obstacle, although with this new proposal MOCJ attempts to encompass an array of services that address all needs of individuals who are impacted by the justice system. We will plan to closely monitor the change in prison. Post the -Covid-19 pandemic NYC is still adjusting to new practices inside of Rikers Island. MOCJ will work closely with our agency partners at DOC to incorporate those practices and implement into service delivery.