



Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit
September 28-30, 2011
Chicago, IL

Upper Manhattan Reentry Task Force

Program Start Date: 2007

Website: <http://rethinkingreentry.blogspot.com/>

Evaluation/Research:

http://www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/Reentry_Evaluation.pdf

http://www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/UMRTF_Needs_Assessment.pdf

<http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/pio/annualreport/2009-crimestat-report.pdf>

Information: In October of 2007, the Center for Court Innovation, in partnership with the New York City's Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator, convened the Upper Manhattan Reentry Task Force, based at the Harlem Community Justice Center. Located in an old magistrate's courthouse in the heart of East Harlem, the Harlem Community Justice Center ("the Justice Center") is a community-based court and resource center that works to solve neighborhood problems in East and Central Harlem, including juvenile delinquency, deteriorating housing, substance abuse, and the challenges presented by ex-offenders returning from incarceration. As a multi-jurisdictional civil and family court, Harlem is unique among community courts, which are largely based on a criminal court model. This collaboration of state and city government agencies, community based organizations, and academic partners has two goals: reducing recidivism among individuals reentering the community from prison and improving public safety.

Towards these ends, the Task Force is working to enhance coordination between local precincts and parole, promote the community's understanding of reentry, achieve access to a living wage, social services, and housing for reentrants, develop social capital for reentrants through civic engagement, and encourage a more effective discharge planning process. The Task Force, in partnership with the NY State Division of Parole, has also initiated a pilot Case management Collaborative designed to promote law-abiding behavior and reduce returns to prison through treatment, employment, and supervision

Among the many non-traditional services the Justice Center has assembled under one roof are: programs to help local landlords and tenants resolve conflicts and access financial support outside the courtroom, as well as resources to keep landlords and tenants informed about their rights and responsibilities; programs for at-risk youth, including a youth court, a youth community service corps, tutoring and mentor programs, initiatives to engage all aspects of the community—schools, businesses, faith-based organizations, and service providers—in preventing delinquency and substance abuse among neighborhood youth; and reentry programs for both juvenile and adult offenders returning to the community.