



Reaching the Maximum Level of Self-Sufficiency

HRA Collaborates in Citywide Initiative to Enhance Prisoner Discharge Planning

HRA has had a long working relationship with the NYC and State correctional departments who have the primary responsibility for prisoner discharge planning. However, efforts to make coordinated changes that would help those leaving incarceration achieve improved outcomes in their lives were stepped up when the New York City Discharge Planning Collaboration was formed in 2002 by Department of Correction Commissioner Martin Horn, and then-Homeless Services Commissioner now Deputy Mayor, Linda Gibbs.

HRA is working with NYC Department of Correction's (DOC) discharge planners on assisting prisoners in applying for Medicaid and food stamps as they near discharge. Currently Medicaid applications are available and qualified candidates receive Medicaid cards upon release. The goal is to have both regular food access and medical benefits available on the first day of release.

One group being focused on is those who recycle between jail and the shelter. HRA has been instrumental in improving discharge planning for individuals with substance abuse issues and in providing stabilization services, including supportive housing, for individuals with severe mental health problems that have proven successful in preventing these individuals from recidivism.

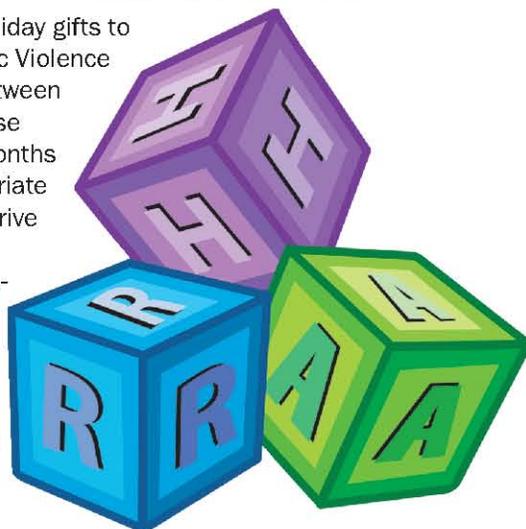
The collaboration is intent on impacting incarcerated youth from ages 18 to 24 through focused re-entry services. The needs of youthful ex-offenders are being discussed from many perspectives in order to support them through education, employment opportunities and counseling in building productive lives upon their release.

A central part of HRA's role is to train planners to educate inmates on the importance of child support to their children and to themselves, and on how to navigate the child support process. OCSE conducts workshops addressing the concerns of both custodial and of non-custodial parents (NCPs). One goal of the workshops is to enable NCPs to better manage their cases so that arrears do not accumulate. At the same time, HRA has proposed legislation to reduce child support during incarceration so as not to serve as a disincentive to transitioning into the mainstream.

MAKE A CHILD HAPPY

For 19 years now, HRA has contributed holiday gifts to children through HRA's HASA and Domestic Violence programs. This year's drive takes place between November 30th and December 20th. Please donate a toy or gift for children from six months to 18 years old. For information on appropriate donations and on gift collection, contact Drive Chairperson Myrna Payne at the Office of Community & Constituent Affairs, 212-331-3431.

Last year, over 3,000 gifts were collected and distributed through the Drive. Please help make the holidays happier for a child once again.



HRA Program Updates

NYC Food Stamp Bonus Award Allocated to EFAP

HRA will allocate \$1 million dollar bonus funding awarded by the USDA for improvement in the administration of the Food Stamp Program in 2007 to increase funding for soup kitchens and pantries through the Emergency Food Assistance Program. The funds will help the more than 500 food pantries and soup kitchens in New York City cope with a shortage of food caused by an increase in food prices.

Washington Heights Model Job Center and Food Stamp Office Opens

On November 13th, the Dyckman Job Center and Washington Heights Food Stamp Center moved to a new building at 4055 Tenth Avenue to open as the Washington Heights Model Job Center and Food Stamp Office. Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, City Council Member Miguel Martinez and Community Board 12 have expressed gratification to HRA for successfully negotiating a new location to maintain services for Washington Heights residents within their neighborhood. Clients and staff are pleased with their new workplace and process.

HRA Testimony on Hunger & Health Insurance

In November, Commissioner Doar testified before the City Council on the accomplishments and initiatives of HRA's food assistance programs. OCHIA's Executive Deputy Commissioner Marjorie Cadogan testified on strategies being employed to increase access to public health insurance. Find their testimony on HRA's Intranet on the homepage of the Office of Legislative Affairs.

HRA Perspective Monthly Bulletin

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Event Calendar

December PAI Lunch and Learn Works-hop

Thursday, December 20, 2007, HRA headquarters, 180 Water Street, 12th Floor Café. Two sessions, 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM. The Fire Department of the City of New York will provide mobile CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) one-hour training of "core" skills. Limited to 20 people per session.

FIA/ PAI Award Ceremony

Thursday, December 6, 2007 At the 7th Annual PAI Award Ceremony, which took place at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, FIA celebrated the values

of PAI and honored this year's award-winning teams and individuals. Find out about the 2007 PAI award winners and their accomplishments and see photos of the celebration on HRA's Intranet site.



HRA Blood Drive

Donate blood at the following location in December:

Friday, December 14, 2007, Investigation Revenue & Enforcement Administration (IREA)/Bureau of Eligibility Verification, 253 Schermerhorn Street, 7th Floor Conference Room, Brooklyn, from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Crystal Griffin-Scott at (718) 923-7939.

HRA Holiday Celebrations

Begin the holiday season by celebrating with your colleagues. December 11-13 has been designated for holiday celebrations at HRA. If you are not sure which date your location has selected, speak with your supervisor. Happy holidays and new year to one and all.

Work Advantage Job Fair—A Major Success

More than 1800 men and women living in New York City shelters attended the Work Advantage Job Fair on November 15th at the Jacob Javits Center. The fair was organized by HRA's FIA Employment Services (ES) with its partners the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and Arbor Career Center. It was a major success for HRA that broke new ground on three fronts: in bringing job applicants to employers with orientation and hands-on training in high-growth industries; in attracting employers committed to participating in career advancement; and, in expertly organizing the physical space and arranging hosting services conducive to individual interviews.



The 84 participating employers drawn from a broad spectrum of business services were welcomed at a breakfast by Commissioner Doar, DHS Commissioner Robert Hess and FIA Executive Deputy Commissioner Seth Diamond.

Commissioner Doar praised the efforts of shelter job seekers to obtain employment and the network of supports implemented to assist them. The participants arrived dressed in professional attire and eager to get work, filling ES staff, who escorted them onto the floor, with a sense of pride.



Surveys collected by Arbor Career Center confirm the strong positive responses of employers, and of the participants, who were impressed by the range of employers represented, the one-on-one attention, and the number of interviews they saw being granted.

A number of pre-hire applications were completed and numerous interviews were scheduled. Job placements resulting from the Javits Job Fair are expected to contribute

importantly to the 4,000 job placements for shelter residents accomplished so far in 2007 by HRA-led interdisciplinary employment teams.

CMC Honors HRA with Special Award

The Combined Municipal Campaign (CMC), the collective charitable fundraising campaign of NYC employees, honored HRA with a Special Recognition Award. At the 2007-2008 Campaign Kickoff & Recognition Ceremony held on October 31st, HRA was acknowledged for leadership, support and for the highest dollar increase for an agency of our size in 2007/2008.



The CMC has been in existence for 24 years and HRA has participated from the start. In 1999/2000, our agency also received an award for Highest Non-Uniformed Total Gift.

Currently CMC supports over 950 charitable organizations. When employees join the campaign, they can choose those charities they wish their donation to support.

The 2008 Combined Municipal Campaign will begin on January 2nd. Shortly you will be receiving a booklet with information. Please take advantage of the opportunity to make a charitable donation to help people in need in the most cost-effective way in partnership with your fellow workers.