



Forum participants discuss the needs of youth returning to the community during breakout session at Medgar Evers College.

Department of Juvenile Justice Sponsors Forum on Needs of New York City Youth Returning to the Community from Detention

On Thursday, July 12th, the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice and the Mayor’s Center for Economic Opportunity sponsored an innovative forum to explore the needs of youth returning to the community from detention. Titled “Inside/Outside: Building Blocks to Economic Independence”, the event featured a panel of experts on juvenile issues and drew more than 100 professionals from state and local governments, youth advocacy and interest groups, academia and more.

The forum was held in the Founders Auditorium at prestigious Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. The program opened with remarks from Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Linda Gibbs, and Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions at Medgar Evers College, Divine Pryor.

Panel presentations were made on several issue areas, including reentry, education, workforce, girls and parental engagement. Panel experts consisted of Mishi Faruqee of the Correctional Association of New York, Anthony Tassi, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Adult Education, Suzanne Lynn, Deputy Commissioner for Community Development at DYCD, Linda Lausell Bryant, Executive Director of Inwood House, and Marilyn Farmer from DJJ. Presentations were moderated by Assistant Commissioner for Program Services Nina Aledort.

Reverend Alfonso Wyatt, Vice President of the Fund for the City of New York, issued a call to action for those active in New York’s communities and diverse neighborhoods, after which breakout sessions were held. All forum attendees were encouraged to participate in the sessions to identify key strategies to effectively reconnect youth exiting detention to the educational and workforce mainstream.

Mishi Faruqee, Director of the Juvenile Justice Project for the Correctional Association of New York said, “The forum generated thoughtful discussions on how to create programming to help young people coming home from detention overcome poverty. It was wonderful to see so many people – from DJJ, other city and state agencies, and community groups – participate in this critical dialogue.”

DJJ Director of Strategic Planning Sarah Graizbord said, “DJJ is grateful to all stakeholders and community partners who provided insight and ideas during the forum. The work of all forum participants on key issues such as educational attainment, workforce development, and family engagement is invaluable as we build programming that strives to connect youth to educational pathways and gain economic independence.”

Inside/Outside is part of Mayor Bloomberg’s continuing effort to tackle poverty and create meaningful opportunity for all New Yorkers.

