



State of New York | Executive Chamber
David A. Paterson | Governor

For Immediate Release: September 10, 2008

Contact: Errol Cockfield | errol.cockfield@chamber.state.ny.us | 212.681.4640 | 518.474.8418
OCFS Contact: Edward Borges | edward.borges@ocfs.state.ny.us | 518.473.7793

**GOVERNOR PATERSON ANNOUNCES TASK FORCE ON TRANSFORMING NEW
YORK'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Names Panel of National, State and Local Experts to Task Force

Group Will Develop Strategic Blueprint to Address Alternatives to Incarceration,
Community Re-Entry and Disproportionate Minority Representation

Governor David A. Paterson today announced the creation of the Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice to examine ways to improve New York's juvenile justice system. The Task Force will develop and design a strategic blueprint for transforming the system, including examining alternatives to institutional placement, ways to assist children's re-entry into the community, and redefining the conditions of confinement for juveniles across the State.

Additionally, the Task Force will study ways to improve treatment for juveniles in the areas of mental health and substance abuse, and will address the disproportionate number of minority youth in the system. New York's juvenile justice system currently serves nearly 1,900 children at an approximate annual cost of up to \$200,000 per child. More than three-quarters of those children are African-American or Latino.

"It is imperative that our State seek alternatives to a costly system that is not serving New York's children, families and communities well," said Governor Paterson. "With 80 percent of the children in New York's custody released and rearrested within three years, reform of New York's juvenile justice system will not only provide those children with necessary services for success, but will translate into safer communities across the State."

Governor Paterson named a panel of national, state and local experts to the Task Force from a variety of fields including law enforcement, academia, government and community-based organizations. The Task Force will be chaired by CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice President, Jeremy Travis.

New York State Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq. will oversee the Task Force, and The Vera Institute of Justice, a Manhattan-based not-for-profit research center specializing in criminal justice issues, will be responsible for the Task Force's day-to-day operations.

Commissioner Carrión said: "I am extremely grateful to Governor Paterson for his leadership and continuing support for the transformation of juvenile justice into a program that provides our most

vulnerable children with the help that they truly need.”

Jeremy Travis, CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice President and Chairman of the Task Force, said: “Governor Paterson and I are both committed to ensuring the safety of our State's families and children. I am confident that this task force will enable us to develop a more comprehensive and less punitive approach to the placement of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system.”

Appointees to the Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice include:

Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College and Chairman of the Task Force

Leslie Abbey, Executive Director, Family Court Legal, NYC Administration for Children Services

Kenneth Brynien, President, Public Employees Federation

Joyce Burrell, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Juvenile Justice, Office of Children and Family Services

John Coppola, Executive Director, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers

Juan Cartagena, General Counsel, Community Service Society

John E. Carter, Esq., Director, Law Guardian Program for 3rd Department of Appellate Division

Ailin Chen, Senior Policy Associate, Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, Citizens Committee for Children of New York

Joseph Cocozza, Director, National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

Michael A. Corriero, Judge/Executive Director, Big Brothers & Big Sisters

Jeff Fagin, Professor, Columbia University School of Law

Mishi Faruquee, Director of Juvenile Justice, Children's Defense Fund

Robert Gangi, Executive Director, Correctional Association of New York

Elizabeth Glazer, Chair, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

Michael Greene, District Attorney, Monroe County

Neil Hernandez, Commissioner, New York City Department of Juvenile Justice

Marty Horn, Commissioner, New York City Department of Probation & Corrections

Debbie Lashley, Executive Deputy, Office of Kings County District Attorney

Donna Lawrence, Executive Director, Reggio Foundation

Ron Mincy, Professor, Columbia University School of Social Work

Honorable Jane Pearl, Supervising Judge for Family Court, New York County

Rosanna Rosado, Publisher, El Diario La Prensa

Ellen Schall, Dean, New York University's Robert Wagner School of Public Service

Charles L. Schillaci, Commissioner, Seneca County Department of Social Service

Alfred Siegal, Assistant Executive Director, Center for Court Innovation

Tamara Steckler, Attorney-in-Charge, Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice

Euphemia Strauchn, Executive Director, Families on the Move NYC

Eric Warner, General Counsel, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Marsha Weissman, Executive Director, Center for Community Alternatives

Meredith Wiley, Executive Director, Fight Crime Invest in Kids

Mary Winters, Commissioner, Onondaga Department of Probation

Alfonso Wyatt, Vice President, Fund for the City of New York

Assemblyman William Scarborough, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Children & Family Services, said: “Every young person deserves an opportunity to learn from past mistakes in an environment that allows them to excel academically and socially in order to become productive adults in society. I look forward to working with members of the Task Force to find ways toward transforming our juvenile justice system to one that is more community-based and youth development focused.”

Senator Carl Kruger, Chair of the Senate Social Services, Children and Families Committee, said: “It is clear that the current juvenile justice system isn't working, since more than 80 percent of the

youth in the care and custody of OCFS re-offend after release within three years. I am pleased with Governor Paterson's willingness to examine our juvenile justice system in the hope of creating a balanced approach to juvenile delinquency – one that includes successful and cost-effective community-based solutions – that addresses both the welfare of the child and the interests of protecting public safety.”

Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Ranking Member on the Senate Social Services, Children and Families Committee, said: “I applaud Governor Paterson and Commissioner Carrión for taking this action to reform New York's juvenile justice system. I welcome the direction the Commissioner is taking to ‘right-size’ the system, and I will continue to support her work in every way that I can.”

The Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice will hold its first meeting on Friday, September 26, 2008 at CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

###

Additional news available at www.ny.gov/governor/press

High resolution images available at www.ny.gov/governor/mediainages | password: paterson
New York State | Executive Chamber | press.office@chamber.state.ny.us | 212.681.4640 |
518.474.8418