

ERIE OUTPATIENT RSC

Moral Reconciliation Therapy® (MRT) is a cognitive-behavioral treatment strategy designed to enhance self-image, promote growth of a positive and productive identity, and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning. This is one of the many evidenced-based practices utilized at the Erie Outpatient RSC.

MRT Step 6: Helping Others and Step 9: Commitment to Change

played a significant role for participants of the Batterers Intervention Group. These participants went above and beyond to create a project that proved to be beneficial and enjoyable for the youth in their communities.

Using his vehicle, participant Edward Gosner collected old and rusted bicycle parts that were disposed of and abandoned under bridges and around dumpsters in the community. He brought the broken pieces to the program where other participants, led by group member Ernest Jerry, would buy new tires, paint, chains, and other bicycle parts to make the old pieces new and improved. Mr. Jerry would line the bikes on the street and any child in the neighborhood needing a bicycle was more than welcome to take any one at no charge.



It is worth mentioning that the participants did not do this for recognition. This awesome project was only discovered by overhearing them discussing details of getting the broken bikes to the area in which they were to be transformed for the children in the neighborhood. This is an ongoing project the men in the group are committed to doing as long as they can find the broken pieces and make them whole again. This is truly saying something!

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Sink or Swim...

On August 10, the Cambria County RSC was faced with an unlikely situation when a water line break caused flooding throughout the facility that necessitated finding a temporary location in order to keep the program open. Luckily, a large meeting room in the rear of the building had not been damaged and the RSC received permission to set up operations. The program transitioned to the temporary location without having to suspend operations.

The Cambria team gathered equipment to set up and maintain a fully operational RSC, allowing the opportunity to continue providing programming for participants. This adverse situation became a teaching and growing moment. The Cambria team was successful during this transition thanks to having the right team in place with the willingness to go above and beyond.



PENNSYLVANIA REENTRY SERVICE CENTERS

RSC - Berks County	400 Washington Street, Suite 1202	Reading, PA 19601	T: 610.478.8800	F: 610.478.8800
RSC - Cambria County	499 Manor Drive	Ebensburg, PA 15931	T: 814.471.1801	F: 814.472.4699
RSC - Dauphin County	2151 Greenwood Street	Harrisburg, PA 17104	T: 717-561-9600	F: 717-561-9620
RSC - Franklin County	550 W Loudon Street	Chambersburg, PA 17201	T: 717.263.0450	F: 727.263.3016
RSC - Lancaster County	439 E King Street	Lancaster, PA 17601	T: 717.391.8202	F: 717.291.8206
RSC - Luzerne County	125 N Wilkes-Barre Blvd, Suite 4	Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	T: 570.208.4858	F: 570.208.4874
RSC - Lycoming County	330 Pine Street	Williamsport, PA 17701	T: 570.323.1274	F: 570.323.1659
RSC - York County	1 E Market Street, Suite 301-204	York, PA 17401	T: 717-848-4448	F: 717-848-5448
RSC - Philadelphia Erie	3768 L Street	Philadelphia, PA 19124	T: 215.744.9601	F: 215.743.7230

If you have questions about any of the information contained in this newsletter, please contact the facility staff.



Pennsylvania Update

FALL 2019

WELCOME

Welcome to the Fall 2019 issue of the *Pennsylvania Update*, a publication of GEO Reentry Service Centers (RSC) throughout the state. In this issue you learn how RSC participants are making positive contributions to their communities. This issue also features celebrations of the success of reentrants as well as anniversaries of our facilities and introduces outstanding GEO Reentry Services employees.

Thanks for your support and at any time, let me know if you have questions.

Regards, John Hogan, Area Manager, Pennsylvania

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Employee Spotlight: Desiree Tucker, Case Manager

Ms. Desiree Tucker started with GEO Reentry Services in April 2019. Her dedication and passion for helping reentrants successfully reenter society after prison is coupled with an ability to quickly engage, and keep them engaged, in the Day Reporting program. Ms. Tucker has the unique ability to establish strong relationships with participants in a short amount of time and is quick to lend a hand to anyone in need. She has brought fresh ideas on engagement and accountability for our participants and piloted the utilization of technology by sending participants their daily schedules via text message to assist them with remembering services.



L to R: Ms. Desiree Tucker and Ms. Aqila Webb

Employee Spotlight: Aqila Webb, Job Developer

Ms. Aqila Webb transferred to the Dauphin County RSC in October 2018 from Bo Robinson Center in Trenton, NJ. She started as a Client Services Specialist and was promoted to Job Developer in May 2019. She is often the first person participants see upon reporting to the RSC. She credits her success with having the ability to quickly build a trusting relationship with participants and maintain that relationship through their completion of the program. In her short time as Job Developer, Ms. Webb has held multiple job fairs on site, partnered with a community agency to assist with GED and vocational certifications, and implemented a formal mock interview process to assist participants with becoming more comfortable in interviews.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Luzerne County Knows How to Celebrate Small Wins



In August 2019, the Luzerne County RSC and Electronic Monitoring staff were treated with ice cream twice, honoring their hard work to maintain the highest quality services available. On August 6, Program Manager Stacey Velez provided each staff member with a frozen treat when an enterprising ice cream truck happened to come through the RSC parking lot. On August 20, landlord Joe Bennet brought over a cooler full of ice cream to thank GEO Reentry Services for being such good tenants for the last nine years. Reentry staff teach participants to appropriately reward themselves for jobs well done, and it was nice to model this skill in such a tasty fashion.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Reentry Service Center Celebrates Tenth Transition Ceremony and Five Year Anniversary

The Lycoming County RSC held its tenth Transition Ceremony on Friday, September 6, at the Community Theatre League. Following the ceremony, a celebration of the RSC’s fifth anniversary was held at the facility.

The ceremony began with opening remarks by Program Manager Michael Boughton. Among the guest speakers were President Judge Nancy Butts, Adult Probation Office Deputy Chief John Stahl, Commissioner Tony Mussare, and Commissioner Jack McKernan.

Several graduates also spoke at the event. Mr. Bruce Drum and Ms. Dalasia Williams told how they initially didn’t think the program was for them, but soon realized it was something they never knew they always needed. Ms. Coleen Slocum spoke about trying every other program available and finding herself unsuccessful. She told the audience the RSC was the first place offering a program that focused on the self, rather than the drug.

After the ceremony, everyone was welcomed back to the RSC in the Executive Plaza to continue the celebration with a ceremony recognizing the RSC’s five year anniversary. Program Manager Michael Boughton thanked partners from Lycoming County who help make the program a continued success by presenting each representative with a plaque. Among those recognized were Lycoming County Courts, Lycoming County Adult Probation Office, Lycoming County Prison, and Lycoming County Commissioners. Graduate Dalasia Williams also presented a painting she created as a symbol of positive change through adversity.



GEO Lycoming County Reentry Staff & Alumni Participate in Running Over Addiction 5K Event



The Lycoming County RSC staff participated in the Lycoming County *Running Over Addiction* 5K event on September 21. This was the first year the Lycoming County RSC not only participated in the event, but was also an event sponsor.

Alumna Heather Steinbacher volunteered her time to work at the RSC information table at the event. Information on the RSC was available to inform residents of Lycoming County of services provided.

The *Running Over Addiction* event is hosted by West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission (WBDA) to help raise awareness and funds. WBDA provides services to those living in Lycoming and Clinton counties. At the Commission, treatment and prevention services are available to residents in the community fighting addiction.

Lycoming RSC staff members walked and ran the 5K race and had the opportunity to speak with members of both the community and other treatment agencies that were present.

YORK COUNTY

Employee Spotlight: Ms. Williams, Job Developer

The York County RSC welcomes Ms. Roxanne Williams, Job Developer, to the team! Ms. Williams hit the ground running by adding to the existing community resources available to reentrants in York.

Her first course of action included reaching out to PeopleReady and getting each of her participants certified, on-site, as flaggers. This partnership allows her to assist RSC Workforce Development participants in continuing to build their resumes and gain important work skills.

Once participants obtain employment, Ms. Williams shifts her focus to employment maintenance, helping participants deal with issues and barriers on the job. This is done through role play, in both group and individual settings. “Since middle school through high school graduation, I had the same principal,” said Ms. Williams. “Every day after the morning announcements, she would end it by saying ‘Make it a great day, or not. The choice is yours!’ It has been ingrained in me that we all have a choice. It’s my honor to steer our participants toward the choice of positive and successful reentry.”



LANCASTER COUNTY

Successful Reentrants Contribute to the GEO Community



Every fall, the Lancaster RSC staff have the arduous job of managing falling autumn foliage that litters the entrance of the facility. This year, several of the RSC’s current and former Day Reporting program reentrants volunteered to help by sweeping, raking, and bagging the leaves and debris.

Marquan Boyer, Oscar Schafer, and Troy Skelly volunteered their time and skills in true MRT fashion and did so without expectation of reciprocity or return. Although each reentrant is in a different stage of the reentry journey, each one recognizes the importance of a positive, pro-social support network, structured time, and helping others.

Mr. Shafer graduated the Day Reporting program over a year ago and still returns to the RSC almost daily to utilize the computer lab, work on goals, and engage with the staff.

After an initial struggle in the program, Mr. Boyer recently celebrated five months of sobriety, new employment, and is looking to rent his own apartment!

Mr. Skelly has aspirations of returning to his home state of Delaware and has shown high motivations for treatment since his first day in the program!

By contributing to the RSC fall clean up, each of these reentrants have positively role-modeled for others and helped improved the outside aesthetics of the facility!