



Pennsylvania Update

SUMMER 2021

WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer 2021 issue of the Pennsylvania Update, a publication of GEO Reentry Service Centers (RSC) throughout the state. I'm glad to share with you stories of RSC staff and reentrants continuing to work toward changing lives. This issue also features celebrating second chances, continued service to our communities, and a selection of positive program outcomes. Thanks for your support and at any time, let me know if you have questions.

Regards, John Hogan, Area Manager, Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA ERIE OUTPATIENT RSC

We Still Believe in Second Chances

Just like the rest of the world, Erie Outpatient RSC in Philadelphia made changes in facility operation during the last year. Reentrants no longer came into the office for treatment. Instead, staff learned how to navigate Microsoft Teams to facilitate groups sessions. Furthermore, reentrants learned how to use this virtual means of communication.

There were no large groups in the office, and reentrants could be in the office only one at a time. Staff and reentrants wore masks and practiced social distancing, and individual session sessions were held over the phone. Some days seemed longer than in the past because reentrants were not in the facility. The pre-COVID excitement and laughter were missing in the office.

How do we bring back some excitement? While brainstorming ideas, the staff recalled how reentrants enjoy getting t-shirts. It was a quick and easy way to see reentrants and share laughter and fun even though it was only one reentrant at a time.

While 2020-2021 threw a curve ball, it didn't stop the belief in second chances. Without a doubt, that did not change. Reentrants deserve a second chance and were reminded of it in a unique way.



LUZERNE COUNTY RSC

Luzerne Casual Day

The staff at Luzerne County RSC had a busy March. In addition to programming designed to address criminogenic risks and needs and reduce recidivism, the staff provided reentrants with events to help establish a positive reentry experience. Each month, the RSC creates a diversity learning experience, and March was deemed Irish Heritage Month. Decorations, posters, maps, and history lessons were posted throughout the facility and a St. Patrick's Day celebration was enjoyed by staff and reentrants.



In addition, to exemplify a commitment to community involvement, the Luzerne RSC participated in the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's annual C.A.S.U.A.L. (Colon cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives) Day on March 31. Staff supported the organization by wearing T-shirts and face masks with the C.A.S.U.A.L. logo to support awareness of screening and early detection. The RSC has participated in this event for several years.

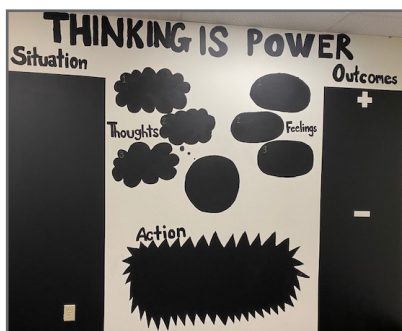
"Our goal is to introduce participants to the tools for living a productive life," said Stacey Velez, Luzerne County RSC Program Manager. "In addition to delivering behavior change programming, the community support we provide helps reentrants enlarge their world and understand the importance of positive behavior and right action."

LANCASTER AND BERKS COUNTY RSCs

Reaching Out During Challenging Times

By Karen Collins

Together, the Lancaster and Berks County RSCs celebrated Second Chance Month in April to highlight how reentry services work and demonstrate to reentrants that new beginnings are possible by using the tools offered at the facility. Staff from the RSCs combined forces to create exercises and projects to exemplify the cognitive behavioral change programming provides.



RSC staff created a Behavior Chain chalkboard wall designed to help reentrants understand the cognitive-behavioral link. The chalkboard utilizes a process created by the University of Cincinnati, based on Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Substance Use. The activity requires choosing a situation that could be a pre-cursor to negative behavior and options for making another choice toward a positive outcome. This was used for team building at the RSCs, serving not only reentrants, but increasing staff understanding of the behavior change process and providing a chance for staff unity.

T-shirts for staff were created by Berks RSC Counselors Ms. Hammell and Ms. Martinez complete with "The best gift in life is a second chance," emblazoned on front and Phoenix-like wings on the back.

Second Chance month was an uplifting celebration for RSC staff. Remarkable staff members went above and beyond to impress upon reentrants that this is the time to invest in themselves, and better days may lie ahead with the tools provided by the RSC.

CAMBRIA COUNTY RSC

Humane Society of Cambria County Donation

Over the past few months, the Cambria County RSC has been collecting items and monetary donations for the Humane Society of Cambria County. Reentrants and RSC staff raised \$165.00 toward an adoption fee at the humane society. Food items for dogs and cats, blankets, and other supplies were also collected. Members of the Cambria team presented the donations to the humane society. This is the third donation made by Cambria County RSC reentrants and staff.



DAUPHIN COUNTY RSC

Celebrating Second Chance Month

Dauphin County RSC proudly shared its support for Second Chance Month, wearing custom designed t-shirts created by Program Manager Jacqueline Schap and her staff. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed April as Second Chance month, to help eliminate barriers to employment and securing housing for reentrants in the state. The t-shirts were worn by staff and reentrants throughout the month to raise awareness and demonstrate support for second chances.

"We are committed to delivering evidence-based reentry programming to help reentrants transitioning to the community with workforce development, and other tools they need to establish a successful start," said Jacqueline Schap, Dauphin County RSC Program Manager.

The back of the t-shirts feature a favorite quote of the RSC: "I may have failed in the past. I am not a failure, for I will succeed today."

Staff and reentrants took pride in the opportunity to support Second Chance month and the mission of the RSC in helping individuals make a productive return to society. The RSC focuses on workforce development, provides Moral Reconation Therapy® (MRT), life skills, and services based on Cognitive Behavioral Treatment to equip reentrants with a new and positive beginning upon program completion.

In 2020, the RSC had an 85% employment rate for reentrants, representing an increase over 2019 despite the COVID pandemic.



LYCOMING COUNTY RSC

Lycoming Reentry Services Relaunches Reentry Coalition with In-Prison Reentry Program

The Lycoming County RSC, in collaboration with Lycoming County government, has relaunched the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition as part of a newly established In-Prison Reentry Program.

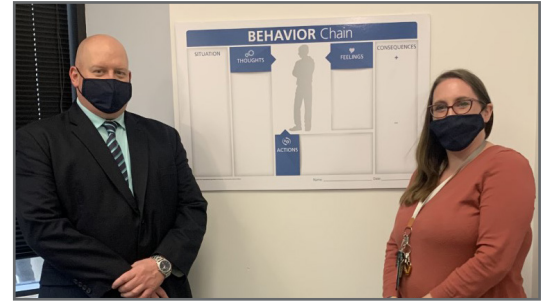
Samantha Koch, Transitional Case Manager at the RSC, serves as the Reentry Coordinator for Lycoming County. Ms. Koch works with reentrants at both the Lycoming County Prison and the Lycoming County Pre-Release Center, to establish support upon release from incarceration as part of the In-Prison Reentry Program.

Reentrants receive assistance arranging appointments and referrals for basic needs, fulfilling court ordered requirements, and completing interventions targeting high-risk criminogenic needs based on LSI-R intake assessment scores.

Additionally, a Transitional Action Plan (TAP) is created for reentrants of the In-Prison Reentry Program to guide them when released. In-Prison Counselors refer currently incarcerated individuals to Ms. Koch who assists in providing resources to provide a smoother transition back into the community. Ms. Koch also provides treatment to reentrants who are referred to the program in addition to coordinating services upon release.

While Ms. Koch is the lead as the Reentry Coordinator, Program Manager Michael Boughton has organized a relaunch of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition. The first meeting of the newly reestablished coalition was held virtually in March. The initial relaunch reviewed the coalition's mission and goal. Presentations from essential members of Lycoming County government were also made during the meeting.

The Reentry Coalition will meet quarterly as members of the community, county government, and RSC continue to coordinate reentry services for individuals released from incarceration.



BERKS COUNTY RSC

New Location

By Karen Collins

Berks County RSC is settling into its new home in the heart of downtown Reading. The facility's move comes just in time to accommodate reentrants who are returning to in-person visits after a limited schedule during the pandemic.

The Berks County RSC features a behavior change model which includes Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions, Batterer's Intervention, Workforce Development, and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment for individuals referred from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.



A hybrid model of service delivery has been successfully utilized since the onset of the pandemic. The hybrid model consists of in-person and virtual services, which allow for ease of access for those who work, are in school, or have family commitments.

Kim Reichenbach, Program Manager at Berks County RSC, is pleased to relocate to the new location, in a historic county building, once used as a jail. Opening the RSC in that building is in many ways symbolic of change.

"With the opening of the new Berks RSC, we are reminded of the change in approach for those who will reenter society, and the importance of the cognitive behavioral change programming we provide," said Ms. Reichenbach. "We are committed to providing evidence-based reentry programming that addresses the challenges reentrants face in the transition back to their community."

The RSC provides comprehensive reentry services, including Cognitive Behavioral Treatment, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Workforce Development, Life Skills, and Batterer's Intervention among others. The Berks County RSC also works in conjunction with GEO Reentry's ADAPPT residential reentry center in Reading providing the State Drug Treatment Program (SDTP) for those identified with charges related to drug use.

The new RSC has two group rooms, counselor's offices, a check-in lobby, and computer lab. It is accessible to public transportation.

An Open House is planned for June 24, 2021.

PENNSYLVANIA RSC OUTCOMES - 2020

SERVICES ATTENDANCE

Below is a breakdown of Service Attendance for the **Cambria County RSC** population.

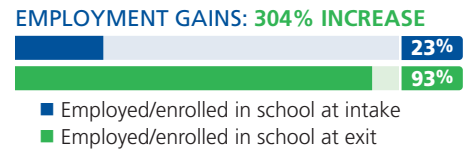


Below is a breakdown of Service Attendance for the **Erie Outpatient** population.



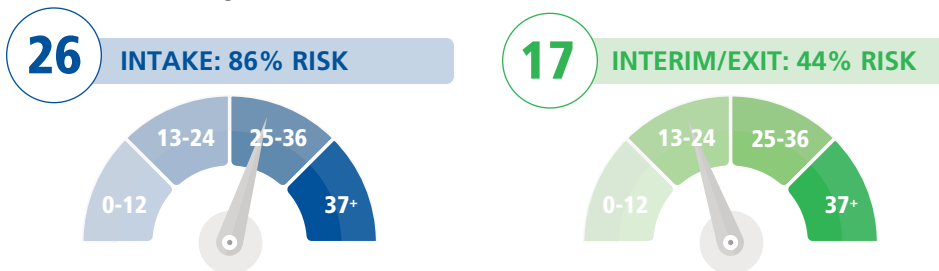
EMPLOYMENT GAINS

A goal of the RSCs is to assist participants with securing employment and/or enrollment in school. Below are the employment results for the **Lancaster County RSC** population.

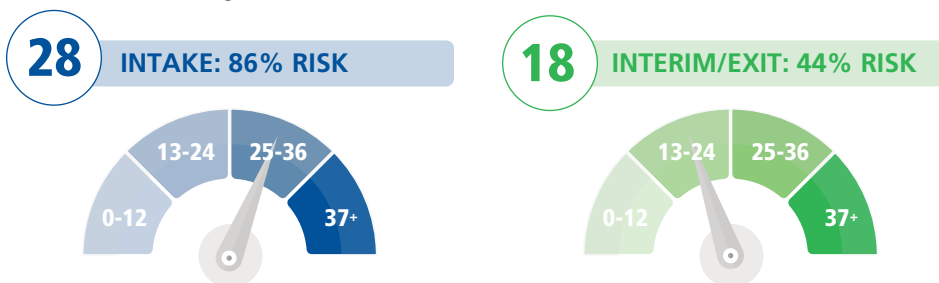


LSI-R RISK REDUCTION ASSESSMENT SCORES

In 2020, the **Dauphin County RSC** helped participants cut their risk of recidivism nearly in half from 86% to 44% on average.¹



In 2020, the **Luzerne County RSC** helped participants cut their risk of recidivism nearly in half from 86% to 44% on average.¹



¹ Andrews, D.A., Ph.D, Bonta, J.L., Ph.D. (2003). "Level of Service Inventory-Revised, U.S. Norms Manual Supplement"

DISCHARGE RESULTS

Below is a breakdown of Discharge Results for the **Lycoming County RSC** population.



Below is a breakdown of Discharge Results for the **Berks County RSC** population.



- Successful/Neutral: Includes successful and completion discharges, agency-ordered terminations, external transfers, and any participant deaths
- Unsuccessful: Includes absconds, jail termination, and unsuccessful discharges

PENNSYLVANIA REENTRY SERVICE CENTERS

RSC - Berks County	11 North 5th Street, 3rd Floor	Reading, PA 19601	T: 484.525.5869	
RSC - Cambria County	499 Manor Drive	Ebensburg, PA 15931	T: 814.471.1801	F: 814.472.4699
RSC - Dauphin County	2020 Greenwood Street	Harrisburg, PA 17104	T: 717.514.2239	F: 717.561-9620
RSC - Lancaster County	439 East 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 - 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.