



Baton Rouge DRC Update



FEBRUARY 2021

WELCOME



Torrey Williams
Program Manager

As the Baton Rouge DRC continues delivering our evidence-based treatment services to program participants, we have also continued to adapt to new realities as they arise. Since participant employment rates have been steadily increasing, we have begun offering afterhours classes for participants with jobs. Our team wants to ensure that we are serving all our participants as efficiently as possible so they can remain employed while making progress toward their reentry goals. Our new afterhours sessions for MRT curriculum and cognitive behavioral treatment are virtual and take place from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. every Monday through Thursday. This quarter, the DRC has also continued to expand the material resources we offer our participants, including in our donation room, where participants can come to grab any clothing items they need. We have also added a new toy section so participants who have demonstrated good behavior can take home a reward for their children. Thank you for reading our February update, and please stay safe!

SPOTLIGHT ON... MAURICE K.

When participant Maurice K. began attending the DRC program in October 2020, his first impression was that it was a great opportunity to further his education. His goal is to get his GED, so he is currently taking HiSET classes to earn his high school equivalency degree. Maurice said he expects to be able to take the test this spring. Currently, he attends in-person classes while holding down a full-time job at Amazon. To anyone who is skeptical about the program, Maurice said his advice is to just give it a chance. "Everyone who worked there was pretty cool and if we needed anything, they were there to assist us." Once he gets his GED, Maurice said he is looking forward to obtaining access to better job opportunities. One day, he hopes to open his own business in carpentry or real estate which will be family-oriented so he can involve his kids.



DID YOU KNOW?



When given access to job resources and skills training, individuals who are released to community supervision gain the power to find stable work, make a steady income and develop a sense of purpose. To help program participants successfully reintegrate into the community, GEO Reentry Services' **Employment Assistance** program offers a continuum of job development, placement, and retention services that connect individuals with job providers and related resources. Our centers offer access to computer-based career skills programming, run on-site employment readiness group sessions and host regular job and resource fairs, while collaborating with local organizations to facilitate participant job searches and placement. Employment specialists on staff offer career recommendations and work with participants to create step-by-step employment plans. Participants may also be referred to a Workforce Development program, where they gain access

to labor market information, learn new strategies for managing personal barriers to employment, and undergo vocational assessments to pinpoint their challenges and affinities. We also assist participants secure proper work identification, attire and transportation, while providing instruction for job searching, resume writing, on-the-job habits, general business etiquette, time management and more.

By Kasia Kijanczuk, M.S., Research Manager for GEO Continuum of Care