



Covington DRC Update



JULY 2020

WELCOME



Annette Ellis
Program Manager

While the Covington DRC does not have a possible reopening date at this time, our employees are back in the office full-time and participants are attending classes virtually until further notice. To help us provide these telephonic and digital classes and groups, Case Manager Guillermo Pina has assisted with the implementation of Microsoft Teams so participants can communicate and attend classes, ensuring that each virtual class is held as scheduled, and that all Case Managers are comfortable facilitating remotely. In recent weeks, Pina has also collaborated with Jennifer Rodriguez, our Workforce Commission Case Manager, in her role as virtual Co-Facilitator for employment readiness training. Rodriguez, who joined the Covington DRC several months ago, is also responsible for helping DRC participants in writing resumes, obtaining state IDs, completing employment applications and securing gainful employment. In other employee news, due to his commitment, dedication and hard work, our DRC van driver Michael Moore has been promoted to a new role as Case Manager. This quarter, I just want to offer a special thank-you to our staff for everything you do on a daily basis to help participants reach their potential, especially during these difficult times. Thanks for reading our July update, and please stay safe!

SPOTLIGHT ON... MATTHEW L.

Since Matthew L.'s probation officer referred him to the Covington DRC earlier this year, he has been very committed to attending all of his classes, including telephonic and virtual groups in the months since the COVID-19 pandemic began. "The DRC is a really good program," said Matthew. "I think the courses that were most helpful to me were job preparedness, MRT and Life in Balance." The DRC does a lot for people in addition to providing classes, Matthew added, including using resources in the community to make a difference in participants' lives. "The DRC has a lot of resources there for counseling and jobs, and during COVID, the staff brought participants food that had been donated by Target. The DRC gets a lot of donations that they give out to participants," said Matthew. "They help you in a lot of ways. I'm glad to be in the program. They make a difference all the way through."



DID YOU KNOW?



Individuals released to community supervision benefit from a measure of assistance to successfully transition back into community life. To help, GEO Reentry Services developed the **Community Connections** program, which connects parolees with valuable local resources and service providers. Through the program, GEO Reentry centers collaborate with local representatives from social services, governmental agencies, faith-based organizations, community groups and the business community to share helpful information with program participants. Often, Community Connections involves regular presentations for participants at the centers on topics such as employment, vocational training, education, family services, food and clothing, housing, mental health, identification, substance abuse, support groups, legal assistance, mentoring and more. Community Connections has achieved significant results, reminding program participants that there is a safety net available to them and a community that wants them to succeed and become contributing citizens.

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