



# Covington DRC Update



JULY 2021

## WELCOME



The Covington DRC is coming back stronger than ever! We recently welcomed back a limited number of participants to our facility to receive our evidence-based reentry programming in-person. Additionally, we continue to offer classes virtually. Our staff has also been working with Jennifer Rodriguez from the Louisiana Workforce Commission to help our participants obtain gainful employment. In July, we helped seven participants secure jobs with pay rates from \$10 to \$17 per hour.

Despite a recent lightning strike that temporarily disrupted some of our technology, DRC staff have continued to work hard to facilitate classes, engage with participants, and continue our mission of helping participants reenter society with dignity and the tools to achieve successful, productive futures. Thanks for reading our July update, and please stay safe!

Annette Ellis  
Program Manager

## SPOTLIGHT ON... PARTICIPANT CLYTUS A.

Congratulations to participant Clytus A., who recently completed the DRC program! When he came to the center, he had just been released from incarceration and was functionally illiterate. He needed support and encouragement from our staff to help him get back on his feet and restart life on the outside. Since joining us, Clytus has worked very hard to achieve success. During his time in the program, he completed every class required and has been living in a stable situation for two years. He has also learned to be a confident, able reader! We truly appreciate his hard work and perseverance.



## DID YOU KNOW?



In evidence-based practice, **providing feedback** builds accountability and maintains integrity, ultimately improving outcomes. Research indicates that a ratio of four instances of positive reinforcement for every one instance of negative reinforcement is optimal for promoting lasting behavior change. This does not mean that swift and real responses to negative and unacceptable behavior should not happen; offenders with self-control problems usually respond well to reasonable and consistent structure and boundaries. People generally comply in the direction of more rewards and less punishment, and this extrinsic motivation can be helpful for beginning the process of behavior change.

*By Wendy Dressler, GEO Care Research Analyst*