



# Harvey DRC Update



FEBRUARY 2021

## WELCOME



**Tyria Higgins**  
Program Manager

This quarter, Harvey DRC staff worked hard to continue delivering evidence-based treatment services to our program participants to help them stay focused on their reentry journeys. We hosted a virtual transition celebration for graduating participants in December, and each week, classes and group sessions successfully continue on a partly virtual, partly in-person basis. To continue rewarding participants for their progress, we also recently invented a new rewards system called "Participant of the Week." Each week, Harvey DRC staff members vote on a participant who has demonstrated good attendance and has not received any sanctions to receive a prize.

As the Harvey DRC prepares to implement more in-person services in the months ahead, we will continue to provide the highest level of service to participants while following guidelines from the CDC and local officials. Thank you for reading our February update, and please stay safe!

## SPOTLIGHT ON... JOE Z.

Participant Joe Z. had been incarcerated for 31 years before beginning the DRC program in July and is now graduated with a full-time job. However, when he first arrived, he did not feel prepared to trust anyone. "But as I got to know the staff there, I saw they were actually trying to help me, and my whole perception changed," he said. Joe said he is most grateful to the DRC's Employment Coordinator, Mr. Louis Lawes, who worked with him to put a resume together, refine it and seek out job opportunities. Now, he is employed by a major corporation working on a rig on the river. Joe's advice to others who might be skeptical about the program is to trust the DRC staff. "It might not be easy from the get-go," he said, "but have confidence because they really mean to help. When I got out of prison, I needed someone to help, support and guide me, and they helped me readjust to society."



## 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*