



Shreveport DRC Update

APRIL 2020

WELCOME



Justin Jones
Program Manager

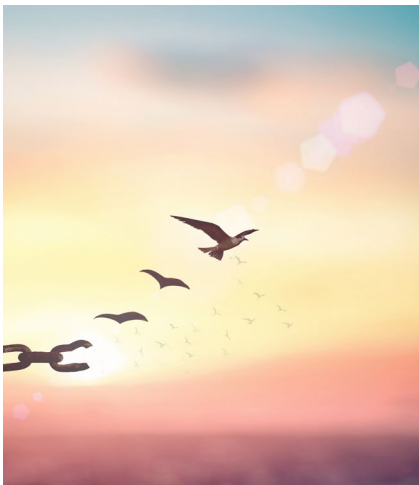
This quarter began with the global crisis of COVID-19, which, unfortunately, meant that the Shreveport DRC had to postpone all scheduled events until further notice, including upcoming graduations. In adhering to the governor's stay-at-home order, the DRC has since done everything possible to continue services for participants. We have made several changes to operations in order to protect everyone's health and safety, including adjusted hours of operation, and, while our case managers continue to work from the office, they conduct individual case management meetings with participants over the phone. Participants are required to call in and report every day, Monday through Friday, and case managers assign them homework to do. While in the past, individual case management meetings have typically taken place every two weeks, the frequency has ramped up to once a week just to maintain a better level of contact with participants; we know that for some of them, that regular contact may be the most stable factor in their lives right now. As the pandemic goes on, the Shreveport DRC will continue to provide the highest level of service to all our participants, while following guidelines from the CDC and local government officials. Thank you for reading our April update, and please stay safe!

SPOTLIGHT ON... PAMELA P.

After being referred to the program by her probation officer, Pamela P. started at the Shreveport DRC in August 2019. Initially, she was not feeling good about attending the program, but she decided to commit to it and do her best. "I wasn't too happy at first, but now I've accepted it," Pamela said. During her time at the DRC, anger management and employment skills were the most helpful classes she took. Pamela is also grateful that the DRC helped her gain access to health care at the Shreveport Mental Health clinic. Now she is on medication for her anxiety and says she is doing better. Currently working at City Tele Coin in the commissary, Pamela is currently in the midst of completing Step 11 of the program. Pamela offered some words of advice for other participants who want to get the most out of the program: "Tell you case worker the truth."



DID YOU KNOW?



By Wendy Dressler, GEO Care Research Analyst

Criminal justice researchers have spent decades asking: Why do offenders stop offending? At GEO Reentry we ask: How can we successfully assist citizens to reintegrate back to the community? **Desistance theory** attempts to explain both questions, arguing that with the proper tools, an offender can become a reformed person. The "desister" must choose to initiate change and be motivated by something in his or her life. The individual must state that they want to "stop offending," and they "feel like they can stop offending." Researchers* identified three types of offenders: 1) Confident, the individual wants to stop offending, feels that they can stop offending, and their supervising officer agrees; 2) Optimistic, the individual wants to stop offending, feels they can, but their supervising officer disagrees; and Pessimistic, the individual does not want to stop offending. Desistance from crime is a gradual process of change and is evident by a reduction in offense severity and frequency. Therefore, it is crucial to reward individuals for every small step they make toward change. *Burnett, R. (1992). *The Dynamics of Recidivism*, Centre for Criminological Research, University of Oxford, England.