



# Shreveport DRC Update



JULY 2020

## WELCOME



**Justin Jones**  
Program Manager

This quarter, the Shreveport DRC adapted our operations in response to the COVID-19 crisis so we could continue programming remotely. This way, participants have continued to receive needed services and maintain accountability via check-ins with staff. On May 18, we resumed in-person classes, and now participants report to the DRC regularly, though some continue to attend groups, classes and individual therapy sessions telephonically. Our staff are working hard to keep all our participants engaged, especially those unable to physically report to the DRC.

To promote safety now that the center has reopened, we turned our former lobby into a group room so participants and staff can stay socially distanced while still meeting in-person. Although it has been a challenge to adapt to these new guidelines, our Shreveport DRC staff are dedicated to keeping everyone safe and healthy, and our participants on track with their reentry journeys! Thank you for reading our July update, and please stay safe!

## SPOTLIGHT ON... REBECCA H.

When Rebecca H. arrived at the Shreveport DRC program in late January, she took to it immediately. According to Rebecca, one of the most impressive things for her was seeing Case Managers who cared so much about participants and wanted them to succeed in the program. Rebecca also loved the classes at the DRC, where she learned how to rewire her thought process and practice prosocial behaviors. She also enjoyed learning about her fellow participants during group activities and discussions.

Now that she has completed the program, Rebecca said her advice to other participants is to come in with an open mind. "This really does help," she said. "When you start working and listening to what the staff has to say, it can be so beneficial. They can help you get a job, housing, food, whatever you need."



## 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*