

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available at <http://www.pacounties.org/ProgramServices/Pages/Criminal-Justice.aspx>

Name/County Nominator C. David Pedri, Esq.
Address 200 North River Street
City, State, Zip Code Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
Title Luzerne County Manager
Contact Phone 570-825-1635

PARTNER INFORMATION

Name of nominee John Hogan, Stacey Velez & Staff, The GEO Group, Inc.
Title of nominee Area Manager & Program Manager

NARRATIVE

Enter narrative that explains the following:

Contributions – Discuss the contributions the nominee has made to improving county corrections or juvenile justice re-entry services at the local, regional, or state level

Communities are frequently concerned about the costs associated with recidivism and how offenders reentering the community may affect public safety. The Luzerne County Reentry Service Center (RSC) addresses these concerns by offering tools that help offenders reintegrate into society successfully, helping them become contributing members of their communities while being supervised and supported.

Individuals placed in Reentry Services programs are provided with the tools, knowledge, and resources which have been empirically proven to reduce the likelihood they will return to the criminal justice system.

The philosophy of the GEO Luzerne County RSC focuses on treating all participants with respect and dignity while modeling healthy and positive social behaviors. The RSC staff strives to provide a high degree of discipline combined with intensive treatment programs to encourage prosocial behavior, healthy coping skills, and rational thinking.

Our goal is to assist participants in making permanent behavior changes that will help them achieve a crime-free life and a positive future.

Upon entering the RSC, participants can expect these events that offer comprehensive services in Three Categories: Accountability, Self Sufficiency & Behavior Change

- Six day per week check in with breathalyzer
- Random Urinalysis
- Screenings and Assessments that focus on risk of recidivating, substance misuse, Stage of Change and mental health.
- Weekly Case Management meetings to address individual targeting of risk/need concerns through development and implementation of an attainable treatment plan.
- Attendance in targeted services to include Orientation, Licensed Intensive Outpatient & Outpatient Substance Abuse programming, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Life skills, GED prep & onsite testing, Parenting, Anger Management, Batters Intervention, Employment Readiness, Aftercare planning etc.
- A Contingency Management program of awards and affirmations for compliance and redirection and accountability for noncompliance.
- Alumni group participation for voluntary continued connection to RSC and planning of community events.
- Community Connection involvement for participants to find more ways to be a positive force by utilizing resources available to them.

GEO Reentry Service, Luzerne County has multiple contracts with Luzerne County:

1. Nonresidential Reentry Service Center Programming since 2010
2. Electronic Monitoring Office Operations (20 Years of Service in 2018)
3. Luzerne County Correctional Facility In Prison Substance Abuse programming
4. Department of Corrections (Day Reporting, Alcohol & Drug, Batters Intervention, Workforce Development, and Cognitive Behavioral Intervention lots of service)

Electronic Monitoring offers products and services for community corrections professionals. Radio Frequency (RF) monitoring units for home confinement utilizes landlines or cell towers. Transdermal Alcohol Detector (TAD) and Mobile Breathalyzer (SL 2) units monitor consumption of alcohol. GPS units track offender travels. This is all done through a total access system which gives officers the tools to quickly and efficiently mine agency monitoring data to identify offender patterns and pinpoint risky behavior.

Luzerne County Correctional Facility In-Prison Substance Abuse programming offers Cognitive Behavioral Substance Abuse groups, Individual Case Management and offender release goal planning for step down into Reentry programming. Corrections Counselors, Treatment Coordinator, Institutional Parole Agents and the GEO Program Manager meet monthly to identify inmates at 45 days before minimum to ensure timely release into the RSC.

Luzerne County CJAB committee has been integral in assisting GEO by promoting open forum discussions with County Management, the Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Judges,

District Magisterial Judges, Probation Department, Law Enforcement, etc. with the understanding of the need for intense supervision and targeted intervention to promote prosocial living of the high risk offender.

2018 shows a 20% decrease in average daily jail population compared to the year before the RSC program was implemented (2009).

Promotion of best practices – Explain how the nominee has knowingly or unknowingly promoted the goals of the best practices program

GEO Reentry Service Center (RSC), Luzerne County, by adopting an evidenced based practice (EBP) approach, has restructured the way in which we approach- correctional institutions, in probation and parole, in our community based service agencies, and among judges, prosecutors and others, so that organizational structures and cultures enable rather than hinder the implementation of programs and services that are known to work in reducing criminal behavior.

The Core elements of EBP through the Risk, Needs, Responsivity principles (RNR model) have been implemented with fidelity which promotes the greatest impact of recidivism received.

The risk principle indicates that people have a higher or lower probability of future criminal behavior based upon a vetted assessment of risk factors. Understanding an individual's risk level is important to determining how to reduce their risk.

Criminogenic needs are dynamic risk factors that lead to re-offense. Appropriately addressed, the likelihood of future behavior can be reduced.

Certain conditions, if not attended to, can inhibit an individual's ability to successfully engage in risk-reducing interventions.

Luzerne County RSC has shown program fidelity by ensuring a steadfast and dedicated commitment to change by managers and treatment staff. They are open to doing things differently, even when change causes discomfort. They live and teach the motto "practice makes permanent" and they commit themselves to professional expertise in a way that has a positive impact.

They use the Principles of Effective Intervention in the following ways:

Assessing Actuarial Risk/Needs using the Level of Service Inventory Revised (LSI-R). See attached Intermediate Outcomes report.

Enhance Intrinsic Motivation-all staff are trained in Motivational Interviewing techniques to elicit and strengthen motivation for change.

Target Intervention: to get the best results, it is important that we focus on helping them change the aspects of their lives, which have been proven to impact risk of recidivism. These factors will be different

for each participant, which is why the assessment (and ongoing assessment) is so critical. We use a Behavior Change Plan (Treatment Plan) to develop an individualized blueprint for targeting dynamic criminogenic risks and needs.

Skill Train with directed practice: Match the offender traits with the right intervention. We accomplished this by paying attention to the individual's criminogenic needs, level of overall risk, motivation to change, responses to types of interventions, learning styles, and the right dosage/intensity. The facilitator teaches skill, models the behavior and cements the skill through behavioral practice.

Increase positive reinforcement: Contingency Management programs to reinforce positive behavior, a simple "thank you for coming", a piece of candy for showing up early, token economy system to win tier prizes, etc. and Behavioral restructuring programs for behavioral accountability; stack the chairs after group for coming in late, assist other participants/staff with strategic initiatives to improve personal situation and or programming, etc.

Engage ongoing support in natural communities: Outside local agencies are introduced to participants while in programming. Such programs as Luzerne County Community College to include their Dental Hygiene program, Office of Vocational Rehab, Consumer Credit Counseling, to name a few.

Measure relevant processes and practices: Weekly, monthly and yearly key performance indicators and Intermediate outcomes are measured and reviewed for improvements. These include program attendance, group attendance, Individual case management sessions, toxicology outcomes, risk reduction scores etc. (see outcome report). In 2014, Luzerne County RSC underwent a Core Correctional Practice audit through John Jay College School of Criminal Justice. They received an audit score of Effective. Only 20% of programs receive this score.

Provide Measurement of Feedback: Quarterly participant surveys are completed and reviewed. Program adjustments are made based off participant findings.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Please include any supporting documentation to demonstrate the impact of the project in cost or population outcomes, or other data to demonstrate the considerations utilized in determining the scope or design of the project. Scoring will be based on factors including the entrant's description of the problem, the soundness of the approach, and success in meeting goals and objectives. Award submissions will receive consideration for outcomes or best practices supported by data. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION SHOULD BE COPIED AND PASTED DIRECTLY INTO THE FORM USING THE BOX BELOW.**



GEO Luzerne County Reentry Services

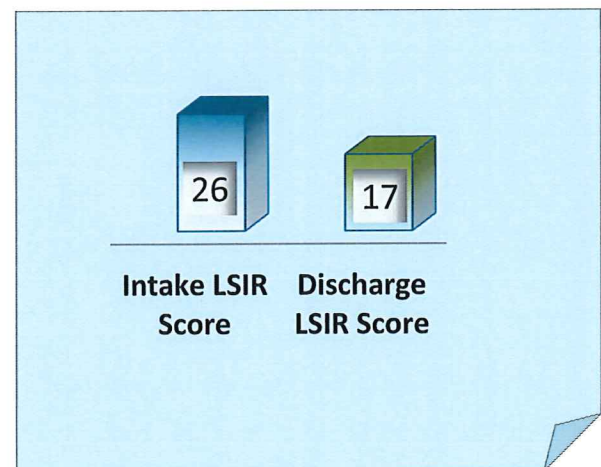
Program Summary

GEO Reentry Services provides comprehensive treatment programs in a non-residential setting tailored to meet individual participant's risks and needs. At the foundation of GEO Reentry's treatment is evidence-based programming designed to address criminogenic needs as identified through the assessment process. The non-residential reentry model includes the following: Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT), substance abuse treatment, life skills training, anger management skills, and family relationship reconciliation. Programming is delivered through group and individual sessions.

The following reflects 2018 program data for the Luzerne County Reentry Service Center (RSC) in Pennsylvania.

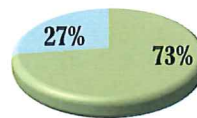
Risk Reduction

The average LSI-R score at intake was 26 and the average LSI-R score at discharge was 17, resulting in a -9 points change score. 37.4% was the average reduction for participants from medium-high at intake to low-medium when re-assessed at six months.

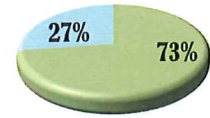


64 participants successfully graduated from the GEO Luzerne County Reentry Services Center Program in 2018.

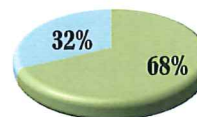
Annual Group Service Attendance



MRT



Life Skills



Employment



Drug & Alcohol

Annual Program Attendance

In 2018, the annual program attendance total was 107,429 which is a 93.2% percentage rate.

The following percentages represent annual group service attendance: 73% attended MRT, 73% attended Life Skills, 68% attended Employment, and 77.5% attended Drug & Alcohol groups.

In 2018...

4,576 Drug Screens

Administered

23,588 Breathalyzers

Administered

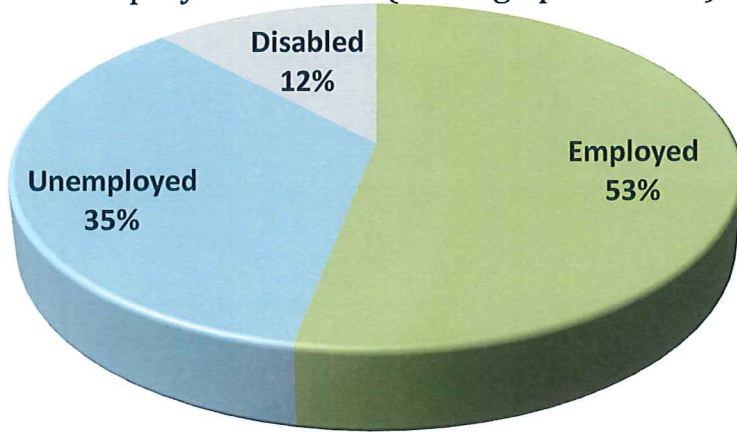
Program Statistics and Referrals

442

Graduates

Since inception in
2010

Employment Rates (Average per month)

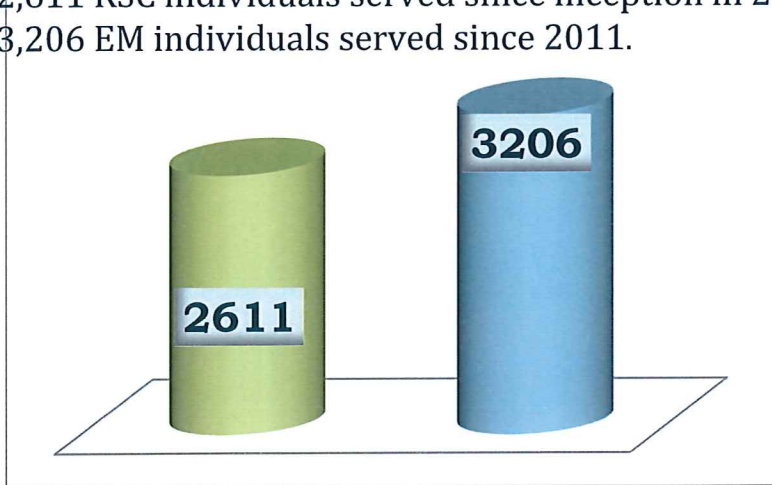


15,901 Miles

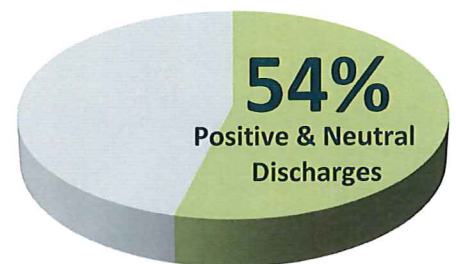
Participation Transportation Miles Provided in 2018

Participants Served

2,611 RSC individuals served since inception in 2010 and 3,206 EM individuals served since 2011.

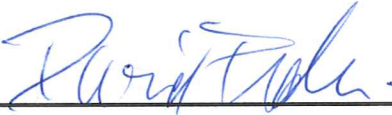


Annual Discharge Results



Each application must be submitted with the signature of the nominating party.

Signatures can be entered electronically, or submitted via fax using a separate form. To sign, right-click on the signature line, select "Signature Setup" from the drop down, and follow the prompts. If submitting signatures on a separate form, enter "FAXING" on the signature line.

X 

C. David Pedri, Esq
Luzerne County Manager

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY – To submit the entry, save a copy of this completed form after all information, including signatures and supporting materials have been added. When saving the form, please assure that the document name includes the county name, the type of project and the year – (i.e. FranklinReentryAward2019). Address an email to bpenyak@pacounties.org and attach the award submission.