

Renewal, Inc.

Psychology Practicum Photo Tour

What is Renewal?



Renewal is a community based correctional facility for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

There are two main building for reentrants (those who are in the program). There is the 704 building and the 339 building.

Some of the services include a work release program, a drug and alcohol detox program, as well as a mental health program.

Mission & Vision of Renewal

Renewal, Inc. is proud of its growing position in the field of drug and alcohol addiction rehabilitation.

Helping people rebuild their lives is our future and the core of our mission and vision, all guiding how Renewal, Inc. approaches its programs and services, and the operations that support them.

Renewal 704 Building



Renewal has several locations in Pittsburgh.

Pictured here is the 704 Second Ave location. This is where the mental health as well as detox floors are located for the facility.

There are also two work release floors here.

Renewal 339 Building



This is the 339 Boulevard of the Allies location for Renewal.

This is where those who are in the work release program stay. Those awaiting for their home plans to be accepted stay here as well.

Daily Responsibilities



The basic daily responsibilities of a Treatment Aide at Renewal include:

- Perform headcounts and do security rounds.
 - Pictured is the Pipe and Pipe docks that document the rounds taken.
- Filling out the Department of Corrections Log.
- Transporting the floor to meals.
- Providing support/aid to those in the program.
- Occasionally sitting in on counseling sessions.
- Collecting urine samples.
- Assisting in the Security Bubble.
 - Pat downs, alcolyzer readings, as well as checking reentrants in and out of the building occurs here.
 - Due to short staffing almost everyone in the building will work in this area.

Checking into the building



When arriving at the building everyone must pass through the metal detector.

Some reentrants, depending on their criminal charges, may have an ankle monitor, so these individuals will need to be wanded down as well.

The reentrants also have to be patted down and their belongings have to be searched.



Giving an Acoholyzer



The reentrants are also required to blow into an alcoholyzer upon returning to the building.

If the reentrant has a positive reading then they are required to give a urine sample and wait downstairs until they can blow a .000 reading.

Personal Safety



While working at Renewal, staff are not allowed to carry weapons of any kind in or on the property.

In order to ensure the safety of the staff as well as the reentrants, staff are given duress tags to carry.

If there is a medical emergency then the blue button is pressed.

If there is an altercation between reentrants, or a reentrant is becoming hostile towards a member of staff, the red arrow is pressed.

The duress tag will notify everyone in the building of what type of incident is happening and the location will appear on the gray screen.

Rules of Renewal

RULES OF CONDUCT

During your treatment you will live as part of a community, both in and out of the Center. Your behavior is the result of choices that you alone make; therefore, you alone, are responsible for the consequences that result from your behavior. You are expected to stop and think before speaking and acting in ways that contribute to situations of conflict. The staff is here to assist and help you, but will not tolerate inappropriate, disruptive or abusive behavior. The Center is your home for the duration of your treatment and is to be treated with care. The rules of conduct are very basic:

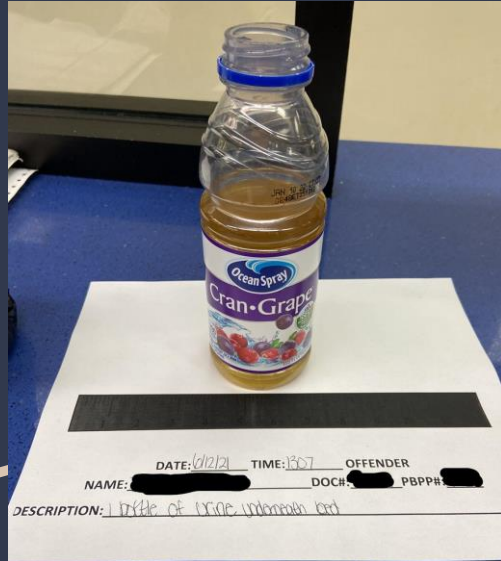
- You will remain drug and alcohol free.
- You are expected to treat the staff and your fellow reentrant with respect.
- Reentrants are not permitted on the elevator without an authorized pass from the clinical supervisor or physician.
- Reentrants are not permitted to supervise other reentrant under any circumstances.
- You are not permitted to lie down or sleep in your bed during the day unless you have special permission from your therapist, i.e. due to illness. Lying down is permitted after the evening group. On those evenings when there is not an evening group; you are permitted to lie down after evening details are completed.
- You are not permitted to signal out the windows or any part of the building. Bedroom window blinds must be down at all times.
- Smoking is prohibited. If a reentrant is suspected of being in possession of tobacco, lighters or matches they are subject to being searched on the spot. Including strip searches. The smoking ban includes during outings and activities outside the Center. Violating the smoking policy will result in mandatory attendance at all smoking cessation groups.
- Reentrants are not permitted to make any major alterations to their appearance during their stay at Renewal Inc. (i.e. tattoos, hair color, hair style, etc.)
- All electrical devices must be approved by maintenance. Any electrical devices not approved by the staff will be considered contraband and subject to confiscation.
- Reentrants are not to approach staff in the hallways, common areas or any area that is not confidential to discuss case issues. This is considered interfering with staff in the performance of their duties.
- A Reentrant who are found to be manipulating staff or other reentrants will be subject to discipline.
- Any time a staff member is engaged in addressing a reentrant; other reentrants are not to become part of that interaction. If a reentrant intervenes while a staff member is addressing another reentrant or dispersing their duties (i.e. supervising cleaning, dispensing medication, logging in our out, etc.); this will be considered a major program violation and subject to sanctions.
- Reentrants are not permitted to lend or borrow money or personal belongings from other reentrant or staff.

Room Checks

While conducting security rounds on the floors, Treatment Aides are to also ensure that beds are made, the rooms are clean, as well as be on the lookout for contraband.



Contraband Found in Rooms



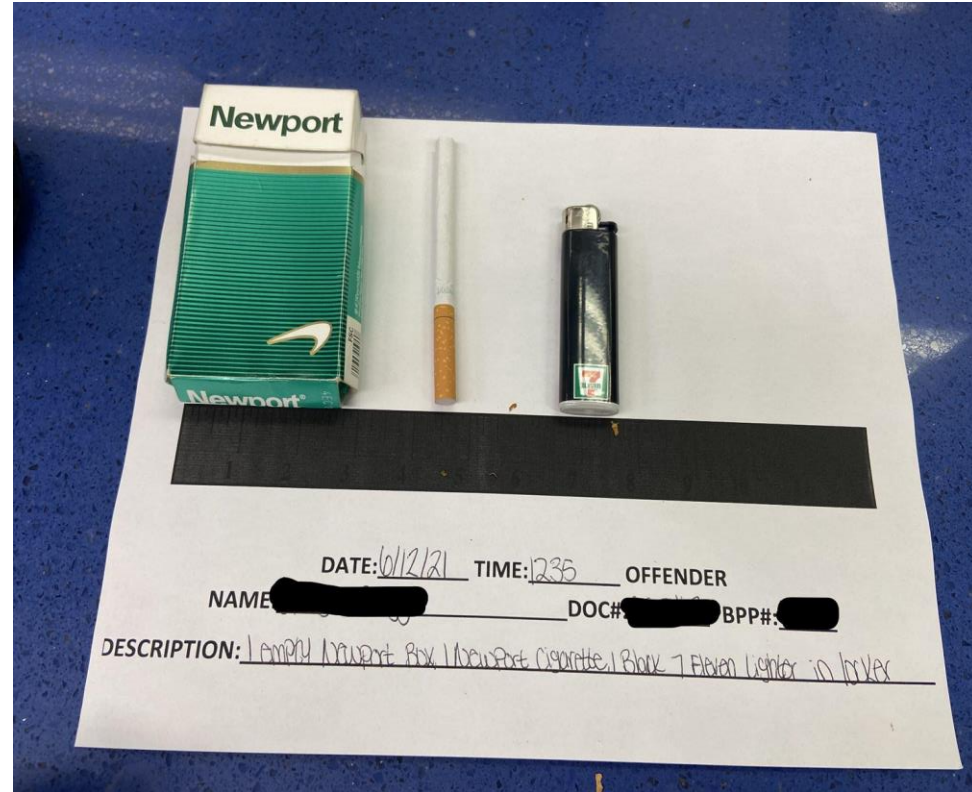
Random room and facility searches are conducted on each floor every month.

When contraband is found it is disposed of, documented as either an infraction with an evidence board, if it is more serious, or as a write up in the computer program, RTS, if it is not as serious.

A non-serious example of contraband would be having an apple or food from the cafeteria, these items would simply be thrown in the trash.

On this day, three individuals had what was considered serious contraband.

Contraband Found in Rooms



Contraband Found in Rooms



K-9 Unit



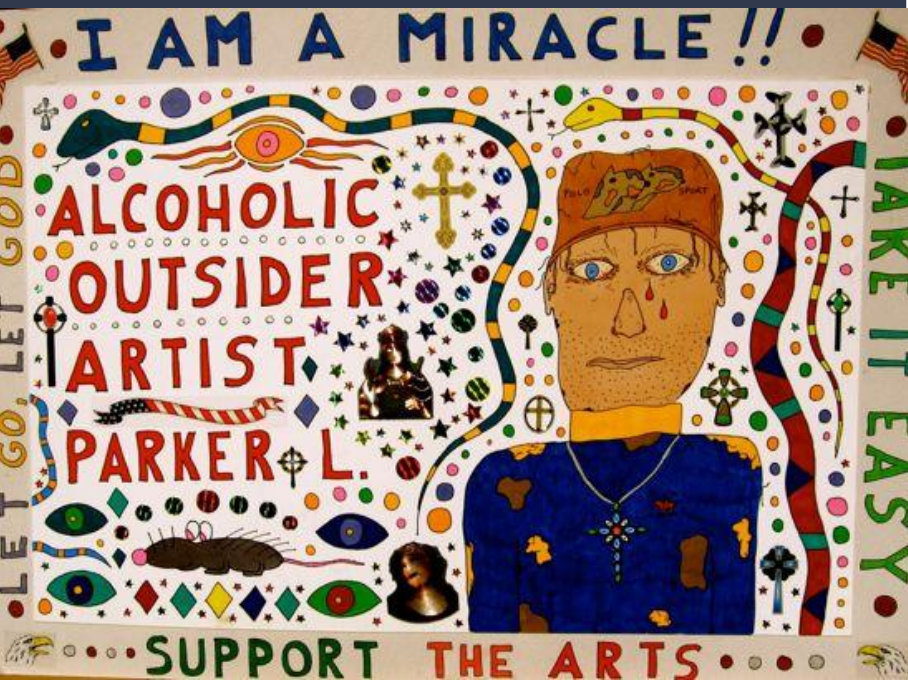
Periodically the K-9 unit will come to the building to search for drugs.

Again, this is randomly done so that reentrants do not know when it is going to happen.

When the dogs come, the building is placed on lockdown, so no one is able to leave the building or floor that they are on.

Besides being random done, if there is suspicion that drugs are being brought onto a floor then the dogs will also come.

The therapeutic side of Renewal



In almost every group room in the building there is a mural, painting, or quote on the wall to remind reentrants to stay focused on their recovery.

The group rooms are where group counseling sessions occur and where reentrants are able to watch tv, read books, or play card games.

Art Therapy

There are numerous different forms of therapy and counseling provided to reentrants.

One of which is art therapy.

Many reentrants in the program use their creative talents as a form of recovery.



SONGS ABOUT ADDICTION & RECOVERY

2018 - 2019

This year and last year have delivered blistering, raw and emotional musical accounts of addiction and recovery, such as:



Underoath – “On My Teeth”

A characteristically heavy and deeply resonant comeback piece after nine years of absence from the scene, “On My Teeth” is a true return to form. The song is a direct reminder of how even the seemingly positive influences in our lives can derail our ultimate wellness.



Lil Peep – “Cry Alone”

Released posthumously after Little Peep’s death from drug overdose in 2017, “Cry Alone” paints the portrait of a conflicted protagonist over on the decline who is in the unenviable position of fearing yet embracing substance abuse.



The 1975 – “It’s Not Living (If It’s Not With You)”

This sardonic and deeply confessional account of heroin addiction is a reminder that each and every one of us can be ensnared by this disease, but that we can also make it out the other end and live to tell the tale. It’s an almost hymn-like pop composition that perfectly belies the message of bittersweet rebirth.



J. Cole – “Once an Addict”

This hip-hop powerhouse features a laid-back and dreamlike musical arrangement over which J. Cole delivers a terse and nightmarish message about the permanence of addiction. “Once an Addict” pulls no punches in discussing what addiction does to families and the most vulnerable parties of all: children.



Mac Miller – “Come Back to Earth”

This prophetic and jarring portrait of accountability takes on a whole new meaning on the heels of Miller’s death late last year. “Come Back to Earth” is a too-close-to-home window into isolation and the things we tell ourselves when we think there’s no way back.



Jeff Tweedy – “I Know What It’s Like”

Delivered through Tweedy’s signature folk aesthetic, “I Know What It’s Like” is one piece of a puzzle of self-realization that sees life through the eyes of an experienced and scarred person in recovery.



Disturbed – “A Reason to Fight”

A song that’s every bit as high-stakes as its title would have you believe. “A Reason to Fight” starts with a palpable tension and never lets up. The song reminds us all that even in the face of the bleakest and most desperate addiction, there’s a way back to recovery and our old lives.



Angaleena Presley – “Pain Pills”

Breakout country artist Angaleena Presley takes us through the emotional pitfalls of painkiller addiction in this uncomfortable yet deeply powerful piece.



Richard Swift – “Dirty Jim”

Swift’s alcohol addiction ultimately led to his demise, but not before he was able to leave this deeply resonant letter of apology and cautionary tale to his family and his fans.



Calvin Harris and Rag’n’Bone Man – “Giant”

This explosive and dynamic track mixes elements of EDM, orchestral instrumentation and vocal chants to deliver something truly special. The common lyrical thread is one of self-awareness in the face of substance abuse and ultimate recovery.

Music Therapy

Music therapy is also a major hit with the reentrants.

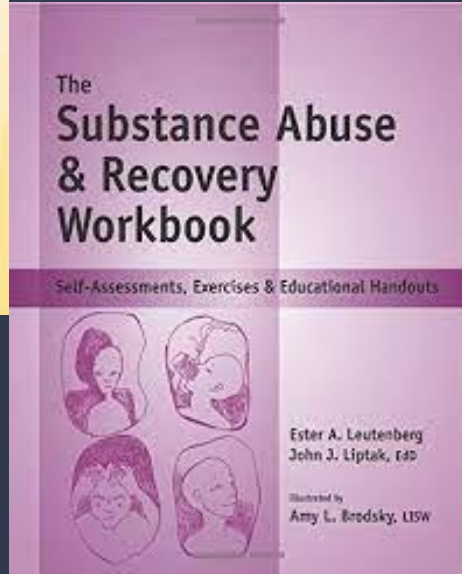
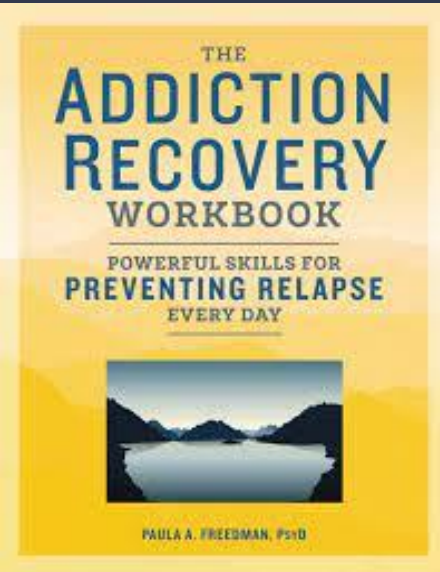
Many of them would share songs that aided them in their recovery or songs that motivated them to get and stay clean.

Workbooks

Reentrants also complete workbooks while in the program.

Their counselors will assign different pages for them to complete on their own every week.

As a Treatment Aide, we are responsible for helping reentrants finish their work if they are having issues with the assignment.



Peer Run Groups



On the weekends there are no counselors or therapy sessions run.

Some floors opt to run their own group sessions.

If a floor chooses to have a session, there will be a sign in sheet with the names of those in attendance, the date and time the group occurred, who witnessed the group being run, and a brief summary of what occurred will be documented.

Those that run and participate in the group are often given extra points for the week.

Also, coffee is provided for those attending the meetings.

Overall Experience

While working at Renewal there were some highlights like getting an inside look into both the correctional field as well as drug and alcohol counseling.

The facility is in need of numerous changes, therefore, it was very challenging to work there.

This environment was not the right fit for me, however, I really enjoyed the insight that I gained from working at this facility with this demographic.

Sadly, I would ***not*** recommend this program to anyone seeking aid in addiction nor recommend anyone to work here.

I feel that this location doesn't provide the proper aid to those seeking treatment, instead, I feel that they are treated as though they are still in prison.

As for the employees, in my opinion, they are not given the proper training to be able to aid those in the program and I also believe that they are placed in unsafe working conditions.