

Center for Life
Supportive Services for Returning Citizens and Veterans

Daniel J. Orens
Foundation, Inc.
Inspiration from Beyond

The Daniel J. Orens Foundation, Inc. (<https://danieljorens.org/>) is a 501(c) 3 organization operating in the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Florida. Its mission is to encourage awareness of the growing substance abuse epidemic, to de-stigmatize it, and to develop and implement evidence based models to combat it. The non-profit's work is centered around substance abuse prevention, education, workforce development, intervention and treatment. The primary initiative DJOF uses to fulfill its mission is the **Daniel J. Orens Center for Life (DJOC)**.

DJOC is a collaborative effort of organizations and their associates, all with track records of delivering evidence-based services to veterans and returning citizens recovering from substance abuse disorders and other challenges related to incarceration, military service or substance abuse rehabilitation. The combined services the collaborative delivers in a single location include IOP (Intensive Outpatient Therapy), resources for returning citizens to productively transition back into society, life skills and workforce readiness training, vocational training, internships, comprehensive case management, mentoring and housing counseling. The partners aligned services avoid duplication of effort while at the same time meeting the test of best practices for effective solutions to challenges faced by veterans and returning citizens. The Center - located in a 3,000 square foot facility at 3900 Ford Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - is convenient and easily accessible by public transportation and has free parking.



The Need and Description of the Target Population

The current target populations are men and women who participate in the New Leash on Life program and who upon release may have untreated substance use disorders. The larger percentage of participants return to the City of Philadelphia - the 5th largest city in the country with the 4th ranked highest opioid death rate. A study by the 4th Federal Reserve district reports the death rate from opioid addiction in Pennsylvania is 10.5 per 100,000 people. Responses to the crisis must focus on strategies to address both the direct and indirect causes such as lack of economic opportunities, and health and education changes within the addiction community.



In May 2018, Jim Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia released a comprehensive report resulting from a task force of over 100 professionals in which the President of the DJOF, Jonathan Orens participated. The task force's findings indicate that drug overdoses and overdoses involving opioids are now a leading cause of death in the City of Philadelphia; destroying family units, relationships and quality of life. The Drug Enforcement Agency suggests that opioid sales

in Philadelphia more than doubled between 2000 and 2012 despite the attention that the opioid epidemic has garnered over the last several years. The task force estimates that between 100,000 and 200,000 people in Philadelphia receive more than one prescription for an opioid pain medication each year. Although many prescriptions are medically warranted, the exposure is dangerous because of the probability of addiction from long-term opioid use. Of the 70,000 plus individuals in Philadelphia addicted to heroin, four out of five made the transition from using opioid for pain. During 2016, 14,000 people were treated for opioid use disorder in Philadelphia.

Of the 3,172 people who died of an unintentional drug overdose during 2010-15, 25% were incarcerated in the Philadelphia Department of Prisons at least once during the same time frame. Completed research by the Philadelphia Reentry Coalition in March 2018 reflects that of the approximately 25,000 returning citizens coming back to Philadelphia, 66% were African American, 85% were male, and the majority were under 40 years old. The opioid use disorder challenges of the returning citizen are further complicated by the fact that an average of 70% of them are high school dropouts, 50% are less likely to find employment than the general population even if the returning citizen has similar experience or skills, and only 12.5% of employers say they would hire or even accept an application from a returning citizen with criminal background. Additional challenges complicated by substance use include inadequate financial and emotional support from family members and fewer housing options because of criminal records.

Overall Collaborative Services

A participant's first step is an onsite. A significant component of the assessment is the development of a treatment and life plan designed around the individual's needs, created by the participant with assistance from the Case Management team.

Intensive Outpatient Therapy (IOP) appointments and services begin immediately when individuals graduate from The New Leash on Life USA program. Returning citizens are scheduled for assessments within 24 hours, or 72 hours respectively depending on need. Assessments are conducted Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM and in the evenings or weekends as scheduled by a qualified assessor. The assessment includes an evidence-based adult assessment form, the Mentally Ill Drug and Alcohol Screening (MIDAS) form, and the Mental Health Screening Form (MHSF).



The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) is the empirically validated actuarial-based Risk and Needs Assessment (RNA) tool used by both the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (correctional agency) and the DJOC Intensive Outpatient Therapy (IOP) partner APP Foundation *Melvin Stokes*, MHS, CAC/CCS, LPC, LCADC. LSI-R is used pre-and post-release to assess the offender's level of risk to recidivate and to identify the criminogenic needs of the inmate. LSI-R is not designed to determine if a returning citizen will or will not recidivate, but rather the probability of the occurrence. Assessment data helps inform level of supervision, level of case management, the necessity of referral to additional resources, and recommended frequency for meeting with their probation officer, as well as types of therapy best suited to the individual's needs, employment training, job retention strategies, and appropriate family re-engagement approaches. LSI-R was recently validated by the University of Utah College of Social Work as an effective predictor of recidivism in general and targeted prison populations.



Based on initial and ongoing assessments, IOP staff will coordinate a plan with the DJOC collaborative partner - New Leash Reentry's Case Manager. The purpose is to continue to work with returning citizens supporting a range of vocational/employment, educational, housing and other therapeutic and socialization activities. Basic life skills training include money management, job readiness and interviews, decision making skills, punctuality, dress, independent living, and responsible relationships. Personal responsibility training includes rent obligations, child support, court costs, family responsibility and reunification, and health care needs.



Norberto "Rob" Rosa
New Leash On Life USA

Participants who are in need of housing are referred to PARR on site at the Daniel J. Orens Center to identify certified Recovery Housing in the Philadelphia area and vicinity.

Services to Veterans and Returning Citizens



- Group meetings and case management
 - Entrepreneurship training and computer lab workshops
 - Preparing for job interview and employment success
 - Intensive Outpatient Therapy (IOP)
 - Clothing closet for interview clothing
 - Resume building and online job searches
 - Mentoring, family connectivity/ family engagement
 - Referrals to mental health and addiction recovery services
- Referral for housing placement / emergency shelter
 - Education for relapse prevention / intervention
 - Referrals to and arrangement for health services using the HRSA funded health centers
 - Workforce development

Donations or contributions may be made out to the **Daniel J. Orens Foundation, Inc.** Please reference the DJOC on the memo. Checks may be mailed to 2200 Arch St. Unit 1212, Philadelphia PA 19103. On line donations may be made at www.danieljorens.org.

The Daniel J. Orens Foundation, Inc. (EIN 81-5047791) is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non profit corporation. No goods or services were received for this donation. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free [800-435-7352](tel:800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Collaborative Partners

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A Wealth of Women
www.awealthofwomen.org and
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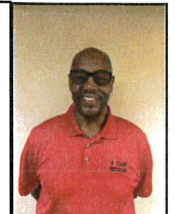
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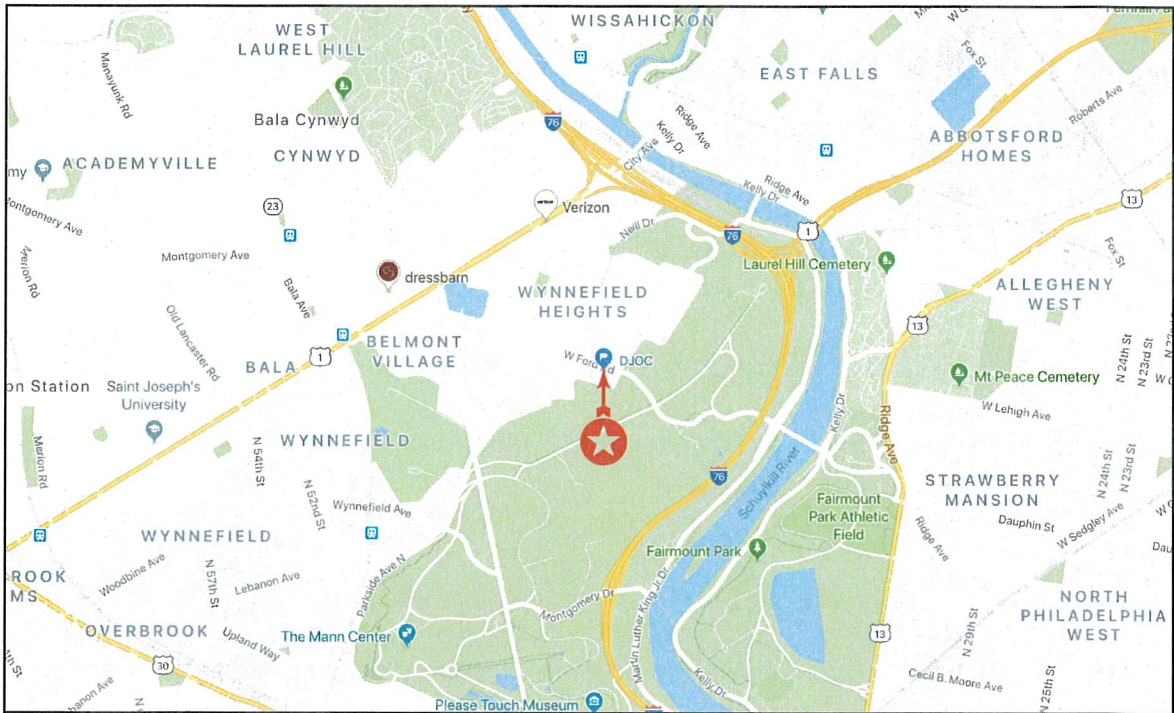


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