



DARIUS WILLIAMS

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At-Risk Youth Counselor - Substance Abuse & Gang Violence

Breaking the “Chains” of Violence, from the West-Side Streets of Detroit to Michigan State Prison and the Online Classroom – Helping the Children of Detroit Regain Humanity and Personal Sense of Self-Worth

Unique Value Proposition Based on Redemption

🔗 Surrendered personal youth to gang violence and substance abuse. Sentenced to 15 years in prison; faced depression, fear, and violence as young man with no direction or hope.

🔗 Emerged from hopelessness and “broke” personal chains of addiction and violence. Earned GED, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in psychology and counseling from prison.

🔗 Counseled 100s of inmates in group settings to help overcome abuse and societal neglect while reducing recidivism and building foundational skills for successful reentry into society.

Sociocultural Diversity & Youth Counseling Areas of Professional Focus

Assessment & Evaluation ♦ Education & Counseling ♦ Progress Evaluation ♦ Administration & Recordkeeping ♦ Active Listening ♦ Interviewing ♦ Scheduling & Coordinating ♦ Diversity & Inclusion ♦ Psychological Principles & Theories ♦ Crime Prevention ♦ Juvenile Delinquency ♦ Child Advocate ♦ Empathy ♦ Social Services ♦ Mental Health ♦ Prison/Inmate Counseling

Related Experience

Michigan State Prison, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, Jackson, MI

2010 to 2020

Volunteer Counselor / Intern / Inmate

Sentenced to 15 years in state institution and released after serving 10 years based on good behavior and contributions to evidence-based cognitive development, violence prevention, and substance abuse treatment in inmate population. Worked to reduce recidivism and develop life skills across diverse and multicultural population.

- ▶ Earned Bachelor of Science in Psychology with focus on Applied Behavior Analysis and Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling after completing GED as an inmate.
- ▶ Volunteered in group counseling environment, working directly with mental health and violence prevention counseling staff to address depression, stress, and ongoing substance abuse issues impacting inmates.
- ▶ Completed 24-month informal internship with prison counseling staff.
 - Updated patient database of 20K+ records during migration to cloud-based record system.
 - Moderated weekly substance abuse prevention group sessions for 20+ young inmates.
 - Launched new stress management group and led biweekly meetings for 10+ inmates.

“Darius saved my life. He helped me overcome addiction and believe in my own value for the first time.” – Ben C., inmate

Education

Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling ♦ Walden University (online)

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis ♦ Capella University (online)

ABOUT THIS PROJECT:

This client was a member of the Playboy Gangster Crips, a violent gang in Detroit's west side. He has never held a job and did not finish high school. He was convicted in 2010 on drug and gang-related charges and sentenced to 15 years at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson, MI.

He started his sentence with a drug addiction and anger management problem. After a particularly violent encounter with a rival gang member in the prison yard, he spent two weeks recovering in the medical ward and inadvertently detoxed from a slew of narcotics. This is where he met a prison counselor who changed the course of his life.

The counselor encouraged him to walk away from the drugs and violence. He helped my client earn his GED from prison and showed him that people can find redemption and "break" the chains of gang violence and drug addiction, the theme of the resume.

My client earned a bachelor's and master's degree from prison through a grant for reformed inmates. He also attended daily counseling sessions and through his mentor, found that he had a talent for helping other inmates because he was able to see the world through their eyes.

The challenge on his resume was that he did everything from prison and served a very lengthy sentence which indicates the extent of his crimes. Rather than attempt to hide this, we embraced it. His unique value proposition is that he owns his past and leverages it to help people overcome similar challenges.

He has no professional experience other than street crime. I highlighted his experience as an informal intern and volunteer in the prison, where he moderated group counseling sessions and built an understanding of patient recordkeeping by helping to update patient records when they transitioned to a digital system. This was the only exposure he has had to the field beyond his education. I highlighted a quote from an inmate he helped to show that his work has impact.

Now that he is out of prison, and has been sober for over 9 years, he is trying to find a youth counseling position in his community so that he can help other young men avoid the life he led.