

Daia

My name is Daia. I came in BTC around the end of March of 2006. I was mandated 12 to 18 months. I had an outpatient first. I kind of messed that up within two weeks. I went into an inpatient program May 18th of 2006. When I first got the inpatient program, I was happy cause I'm like, alright, I ain't have to go to jail, and I ain't gonna have no felony. But, then when I got to the inpatient program I was like, oh no. I probably should have went to jail because it was crazy in there. I guess cause I never really been away from home. It was just like a scary situation, but you make the best of it because you basically was mandated. And you asked for the program, so I did my 10 months in the program in Queens. It was an alright experience. I met a lot of cool people. I kind of got to be on a different side of the fence from hustling and selling drugs and all that... to the people who was actually doing drugs, and you kind of get a look into their personal life., the things that they went through and what made them turn to drugs. So, it kind of gives you a different look on what you doing. It kind of makes you more aware, and you kind of feel a certain kind of away about what you was doing...so like my time in the program. And, I met my counselor which was a big inspiration, and she was a real push for me. Cause at some points I get bored., and your going to get bored, because it's basically the same everyday. But, she was that push behind me...that just kept on going. She inspired me to just do whatever I wanted to do, as far as my goals in life.

So, I started a turn around in the program for me because, at first, I was real fall back. I didn't really do nothing. I didn't really talk, but once I got with my counselor, I could see that see was a counselor that really cared...that really wanted you to make it and succeed in whatever you want to do. And, she was supportive of it. So,, I took that and ran with it because it was an opportunity. Probably about six months in the program I decided I was going back to college. So, I went back to college, summer school, to be a mortician...mortuary science. So, I told my counselor what my plan was and what I wanted to do and, being in the program, you could take all the city tests for free. So, I took advantage of that. I took a lot of city tests, and I applied for a lot of city. I went back to school.

So, right now it's June 2007, and it's 13-14 months later. I think I'm a more positive person. Well, I know I am. I kind of got a little more straight forward in my life with things that I want to do. So I'm back in school. The school semester just ended. I go back to school in the fall...finish. Got three more classes left, and I'm just working toward a positive future But, for anybody that's just coming in BTC, and this is your first time ever being away from home. And, being your first time being in a program, or anything like that I mean it's alright. You gotta make the best of it. You gotta make it fun, and along the way pick up a few things. But, I say take advantage of it. You got Vesid, and you could get your GED...get some trades and stuff.

But, for anybody coming in the first couple of weeks are gonna be a little hard, probably the first month. After that, it's a piece of cake. It's just like you gotta make the best of your situation and have fun with it. And, stay out of trouble. Don't get high. The number one thing: don't get high. My 14 months in treatment ... 13 months in treatment...I never got high. I never relapsed...nothing. So, that's my number one advice...just do what you gotta do. Do what the courts asks you to do, .and do what your program asks you. Don't get high, because that ain't gonna do nothing but stagnate you.