

Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division
Chief's Report to the Community Advisory Board
December 7, 2006

Highlights

- **Women's Unit:** As part of a recent organizational change, PRRS created a fourth unit to serve female offenders. Led by Unit Manager Stephanie Hall, the changes will allow PRRS to improve services to this population.
- **PRRS Programs:** As part of a recent organizational change, PRRS has created a program unit within the Classification and Assessment section of the Division. Led by Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun, the unit will focus on developing and implementing specific reentry programs that are not available in the community. They are currently working to develop a cognitive skills program.
- **PRRS Operating Full Capacity:** To address the recent increase in the DOCR's average daily population (ADP), PRRS had redoubled its efforts to serve all eligible applicants. Since September, the ADP of PRRS has been over 170. Some additional bed capacity was developed at PRC which now stands at 177.
- **Work Release Legislative Amendment (Bill 34-06):** On October 3, the County Council approved the legislative amendment to allow PRRS to consider inmates who are within one-year of release for placement in the program. The legislation was submitted by the Council's Public Safety Committee on September 19 and it will take effect in January.
- **Recidivism Methodology Study:** The DOCR Recidivism Methodology Study is in progress and will be presented to the County Council in January 2007. A preliminary briefing was provided in November to Chief Analyst Linda McMillan.
- **Faith-based Mentoring Program:** The Archdiocese of Washington has hired a full-time coordinator in Montgomery County for its "Welcome Home" program that seeks to match returning prisoners with mentors. This coordinator, Mary Elizabeth Mulholland is a member of the Sisters of Mercy religious order, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and has worked for a number of social justice organizations and schools. She will have her main office at the Pre-Release Center.

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- **Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards** – Representatives from this state accreditation agency visited the Pre-Release Center on September 27th and determined that PRRS was in 100% compliance with all state correctional standards.
- **NIC Workforce Specialist:** The National Institute of Corrections, with the support of Montgomery County, selected Work Release Coordinator Patricia Taylor to serve as a national workforce correctional trainer for a special two-year assignment. In her new role, Patricia will provide workforce training to correctional agencies across the country while maintaining her employment status with the county.

Other Program Developments

- **PRRS Organizational Changes:** In January, several organizational changes will take place to improve services to residents and to increase building security. Most of the senior managers will manage new units. Unit Manager (U/M) Stephanie Hall will manage Unit I (the women's unit) as well as home confinement and front desk operations. U/M Jane Sachs will manage Unit II. U/M Marsha Engel will remain at Unit III and U/M Jim Shannon will manage Unit IV. Support Services Manager Eleanor Walker will focus on building and operational infrastructure issues, and Assessment and Screening Manager Teresa Still will assume oversight of program development, internship program, staff training, and disciplinary hearings. Several case managers, resident supervisors, and a work release coordinator have been reassigned to new units and functions.
- **Home Confinement Incentives:** In an effort to encourage residents to participate in home confinement, PRRS reduced fees have been reduced from 20% gross salary to 10% gross salary for the residents. Additionally, those participating in HC will also received special program time that can reduce the length of their incarceration.
- **Building Control Technology:** PRRS has invested in several projects to improve security and building control. Two sections of a six foot black aluminum fence were installed to deter individuals from the community from walking on PRC grounds: one section runs from the PRC to the nearby business complex on Nebel Street; the second section run from PRC to the back of the Amtrak fence which is adjacent to the parking lot. Additionally, the PRRS has contracted for the installation of 31 surveillance cameras and recording systems at the PRC. Finally, PRRS has arranged for the installation of electronic door locks and swipe access cards to be used on entrance doors which are locked between 9pm and 6am.
- **Net Annual Work Hour Study:** The DOCR has contracted with an NIC-approved consultant to begin a staffing analysis for PRRS operations. The project follows a very successful study that was conducted in detention services that documented the need for additional officers to properly staff the facilities.

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Event/Activity Chronology

- **Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (December 6):** A 10-member delegation from one of the largest local correctional agencies in the country visited PRRS. With 19,000 individuals in custody, the LA Sheriff's Department is exploring building several new pre-release facilities and chose to visit the PRC as one of several sites from across the country. They also toured the jail facility.
- **Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources (December 5):** Three representatives from the OAR of Fairfax County, an organization that provides jail-based programs and transitional assistance services for court-involved individual visited PRRS. They have received a \$500K federal grant to develop a Delancey-Street reentry program, and were interested in using PRRS as a programmatic model.
- **University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) Field Instruction Meeting (December 4):** Instructors and administrators from UMBC attended a meeting at PRC to review the progress of students in the school of social work who have internships at PRRS.
- **Disability Rights Audit (December 1):** As part of a larger study of government buildings in Montgomery County, the U.S. Department of Justice's Disability Rights Section toured PRC and examined the accommodations that we have made for residents who may be physically impaired. The representatives provided us with several useful suggestions and will issue a larger report to the county in several months.
- **Montgomery County Drug Court (November 29):** PRRS staff attended the second graduation ceremony of the drug court presided over by Judge Rupp. PRRS has worked closely with the drug court over the past two years.
- **Montgomery College (November 16):** PRRS hosted an evening tour of students from a criminal justice class. Students had an opportunity to tour PRC, speak to a panel of residents, and discuss correctional work with PRRS staff.
- **Baltimore Pre-Release Unit – Women (November 15):** Senior Manager Jim Shannon arranged a visit for interns and staff to the women's facility in Baltimore and received an overview of their facility's program structure and policies.
- **Galaudet University (November 11):** PRRS hosted a tour of students in an honors program in public policy from this university.
- **Office of Community Outreach (November 9):** PRRS staff met with Joe Heiney-Gonzalez, Office of Community Outreach, to explore how the program can provide better outreach to community organizations that serve Latino residents.

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- **Congressional Staff Visit (November 6):** The Council of State Government arranged for staff members from two prominent senators who have been involved in the national reentry legislation called the Second Chance Act, to visit the PRRS Division. The visitors, Jane Treet from Senator Coburn's office (R-OK) and Lisa Owing from Senator Spector's office (R-PA) toured the center and spoke with newly arrived residents. Jessica Nichol, from the Council of State Governments, arranged the visits with the goal of emphasizing the importance and great challenges of this work that would be furthered with the passage of the federal legislation.
- **Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Annual Workforce Breakfast (October 31):** PRRS Work Release Coordinators represented the agency at this morning event. These staff work with the business community to develop opportunities for residents and clients in the PRRS programs.
- **Urban Institute's Advisory Group for the Jail Reentry Initiative (October 27):** The National Advisory Group of the Jail Reentry Roundtable (JRR) convened at PRC to follow-up the June conference. As products of this initiative, the JRR will publish a monograph of the proceedings of the conference, the conference papers on jail reentry topics, a scan of best practices in jail reentry, and a jail reentry training curriculum.
- **HHS Co-Occurring Disorder Steering Committee Meeting (October 26):** PRRS staff represented the DOCR at this meeting which was held at headquarters of Threshold Services. The committee oversees HHS services to county residents with this condition.
- **Federal Bureau of Prison Monitoring Visit (October 25):** Contract Oversight Specialist Bill Cimino conducted a quarterly monitoring visit and found the PRRS in compliance with federal contractual guidelines.
- **National Fatherhood Initiative (October 24):** PRRS staff met with the corrections program manager for this national non-profit agency based in Gaithersburg. They provide a curriculum for fatherhood programming in several correctional systems across the country and are interested in partnering with PRRS to pilot a curriculum for jail inmates.
- **Rockville Housing Enterprises (October 24):** Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas arranged a meeting at PRC between Mr. David Jefferson, Executive Director of Rockville Housing Enterprises, and senior PRRS managers. Rockville Housing Enterprises is a developer of mixed-income housing. RHE is involved with HUD housing programs and Section 8 housing, and is potential resource for our residents.
- **DOCR Picnic (October 15):** The PRRS Division planned the Department's Annual staff picnic this year. The picnic, held on a beautiful fall day on Sunday, October 15 at the Ridge Road Recreational Park, and was attended by between 200-300 staff and their families.

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- **University of Maryland University College (October 12):** PRRS provided an evening tour to students from a criminal justice class of UMUC and arranged for them to speak with several current residents and staff members.
- **International Community Correctional Association (October 8-11):** Unit Manager Jane Sachs led a PRRS delegation of case managers and community release coordinators to this conference in Norfolk Virginia. ICCA has championed evidenced-based practices in correctional programming for over two decades.
- **Justice Research and Statistics Association 2006 National Conference (October 11-14, 2006):** Assessment and Accreditation Services Manager Teresa Still attended the Justice Research and Statistics Association 2006 National Conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference offered workshops on basic research evaluation methods, data collection, cost-benefit analysis, recidivism, and more.
- **National Community Correction Commission Meeting (September 29):** PRRS hosted a National Community Correction Commission meeting at the Pre-Release Center. The focus of the meeting was on the PRRS program and the senior managers provided a program overview and tour.
- **Minnesota Annual Community Correctional Act (CCA) Conference (September 25 – 28, 2006):** Stefan LoBuglio spoke to community correction practitioners in Minnesota about the Jail Reentry Roundtable, which is a project of the Urban Institute, John Jay College, and the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. Minnesota was one of the first states to adopt the Community Correction Act (CCA) in the 1970s and has been pioneer in community corrections. Stefan spent several days touring different programs.
- **Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (September 27):** See above.
- **Montgomery County ACCESS Program Tours (September 13):** PRRS Case managers visited the county's HHS program that treats individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems. As part of our community engagement strategy, PRRS refers appropriate program participants to this service. Additionally, case managers met with different government and non-profit agency representatives on housing, substance abuse, coaching, and community safety programs over the past several months.

Upcoming Events

- **Grand Jury –** The Department will be present a presentation to the Grand Jury on December 14th. The Grand Jury will be touring the different Department Divisions on January 9, 2007.
- **National Association of Counties (January 2007):** PRRS staff will participate on a panel about jail reentry at the Winter Retreat of the Public Safety Committee

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- **Maryland Division of Correction (March 2007):** PRRS will participate in reentry workshops at correctional conference organized by the state's correctional agency.
- **American Jail Association (April, 2007):** PRRS will host a 3-day training program on jail reentry sponsored by the AJA. The training will include tours of the PRC and MCCF.
- **American Probation and Parole Association (July, 2007):** PRRS staff will participate with the Urban Institute and John Jay College to hold a workshop at this national conference for parole and probation on the Jail Reentry Roundtable.
- **American Correctional Association (August 11-16):** The MC DOCR will present a major workshop at the annual conference of the ACA on jail reentry.

Escapes/Court Dispositions since September 14, 2006:

Total Escapes (January 2006 to December 7, 2006) -- 14 (only one fugitive still at large since December 2, 2005; all the rest apprehended)

- **November 16, 2006:** James Chase escaped from the Pre-Release Center on September 7, 2006 and received a one year sentence consecutive to his current sentence. He was also convicted of assault on a Correctional Officer and received a 1-year sentence.
- **November 15th:** Steven Wilt escaped from Home Confinement on July 17, 2006 and received a four month sentence on escape.
- **October 27:** Corey Dunbar failed to return to PRC from a church pass on July 16, 2006 and received a four month sentence.
- **October 2, 2006:** Robert McVay turned himself into the Rockville Police after escaping from Home Confinement. He was unaccountable for 16 hours and is awaiting sentencing.
- **September 19th:** Michael King escaped June 8, 2006, after failing to return from the Office of Vital Statistics in Washington, D.C. and received a six month sentence for escape.
- **September 18th:** Pierre Goode was charged with escape on June 13, 2006 and received a a six months sentence.
- **September 15th:** Elwood Marten escaped from PRC after an altercation with staff on July 9, 2006 and was sentenced to 120 days consecutive for Escape by Judge Weinstein.