

## Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division

### Chief's Report to Community Advisory Board

December 8, 2005

#### Notable Activities

- **Jail Reentry Roundtable Advisory Board Meeting (12/13/06)**—The PRC will host a national meeting of the advisory board of the Jail Reentry Roundtable. Chaired by MC DOCR Director Arthur Wallenstein, the board will oversee the planning of a national conference on jail reentry scheduled for the Spring of 2006. The Urban Institute has been funded by USDOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance to plan this event in partnership with the MCDOCR and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NY.
- **American Correctional Association Audit (12/5 & 6)** – PRRS requested this follow-up audit to the one performed in September. The Division demonstrated its compliance with some of the issues discovered in the earlier audit and will be seeking re-accreditation before the ACA board at the Annual ACA Winter Conference in Nashville on 1/28/06. The State Commission on Correctional Standards will conduct an audit of PRC on 1/12-14/06.
- **Chinese Warden's Delegation Visit (11/21/05)** – Eighteen wardens and two senior correctional managers visited and toured MCCF and the Pre-Release Center for an entire day as part of a University of Maryland's program to expose them to community corrections. Two interpreters were used.
- **Maryland State House Judiciary Committee Visit (11/15/05)** -- Twenty members of the House Judiciary Committee and some staff toured the PRC. They met with senior staff, visited the living units, and met with residents in a private session. Given the interest in Prisoner Reentry at the state level, the Committee was interested seeing our program as a model for other locations in the state.
- **Second Chance Act Congressional Hearings (11/3/05)** -- DOCR Director Arthur Wallenstein presented testimony before a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee on Capital Hill in the support of the Second Chance Act. This bill speaks to prisoner reentry and was initially drafted by some of the Senate and House members. Mr. Wallenstein focused on the need for prison reentry assistance and the role of county government and cited the work of PRRS.
- **Reentry State Symposium (10/24/05)** – DOCR supported this symposium that was held in the Senate Office Building in Annapolis and sponsored by the Maryland Department of Correction. Staff from PRRS and MCCF participated, set-up an informational booth, and listened to speakers including the Governor and Jeremy Travis, former NIJ Director, who helped put reentry on the public agenda.

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- **Grand Jury Tour (9/27/05)** –The County Grand Jury toured the Pre-Release Center, MCDC, and MCCF and had an opportunity to ask senior managers at all of the facilities questions about the operations of corrections in Montgomery County.
- **Welcome Home Initiative of the Archdiocese of Washington (9/24/05)** – The PRC Chief Administrator and a Senior Manager participated in the kickoff meeting of this exciting new reentry program that will be piloted in Wash., D.C. by the Archdiocese.

### Significant Program Developments

- **Female Resident Living Unit (11/5/05)** – PRC's 32-bed Unit 1 now houses all female residents at PRC. This change will provide a safer and more accountable environment for female residents and will require no immediate change in staff and resources. It also signals a larger programmatic shift towards more gender-specific treatment for female residents.
- **Career Development Resource Center (11/28/05)** – PRRS' Work Release Coordinators have planned and implemented a beautiful new on-site Career Development Resource Center under the leadership of Unit Manager Jane Sachs. The newly renovated Center is equipped with ten computers that allow residents limited access to approved sites on the internet for job search purposes, and will also contain phones and fax machines. It will work in close coordination with One-Stop Career centers in the county and at MCCF.
- **Victim Services (October)** – The PRRS Division learned in October that the victim's notification system called VINE was failing to notify registered victims about the transfer of inmates from the detention facilities to PRRS. Further investigation found that the information that was provided to them was inaccurate and of limited use. With the assistance of the DOCR director and DOCR's Record's Manager, Carl Furr, PRRS was able to work directly with the vendor who supports VINE and record new messages that provided victim's with the PRC's telephone number that same day. Also, the vendor began a notification process of those individuals that should have been notified weeks and months earlier. Currently, PRC is fielding several calls from victims each week.
- **New Telephone System (11/1/05)**–PRC's 30 year telephone system was replaced with a new system that connects us to the county's telecommunication network and that has features that will enhance staff productivity (direct dial, voice mail), improved community service (professional recorded greeting and menu options) and resident accountability (caller Id). The new general number at PRC is 240/773-4200.
- **Management Information System (11/1-3)** -- PRRS staff participated in planning efforts for the DOCR's new MIS called CRIMS. During these meetings, consultants hired by the department to develop the specifications for the system met with staff in PRRS different functions to document the business operations that need to be addresses by CRIMS
- **Weekly Inspection Tours** – PRRS instituted a program of weekly inspection tours of the entire facility (inside and out) are conducted on Thursday mornings by all Managers and Stefan LoBuglio. All areas are check and any deficiencies are noted. These weekly inspections ensure that areas in need of repair are accomplished quickly.
- **St. James Aftercare Ministry (10/10/05)**—Community Release Coordinator Carla Johnson and Stefan LoBuglio spoke to an evening meeting of this group and presented an overview of the PRRS. This group provides mentors to individuals both at MCCF and PRC.

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- **Health and Human Services Meetings (11/8, 11/9, 12/1/05)**—PRRS Chief and staff held multiple meetings with senior managers at HHS to discuss substance abuse and mental services that may be available to participants in PRRS through the County ACCESS program. Further, the Chief met with Don Martin who oversees a number of programs including the HHS drug testing laboratory that PRRS uses in conjunction with its urine analysis program.
- **ICCA Conference (11/14-18)** – PRRS staff Tina Michaels and Pat Braun attended the annual conference of the International Community Corrections Association, and brought back materials on evidence-based best practices. Tina and Pat are leading a review of PRRS programs and case management services, and the conference confirmed some of the changes that have been put into place with our program.
- **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition (fall)** - Executive Director Norma Jennings and her staff met with PRRS staff to discuss a new initiative to identify housing options for soon-to-be released female residents who have children. The PRRS is supporting SSIHC's efforts to seek an exemption from HOC regulations that prohibit individuals with criminal history with certain categories of housing assistance.
- **Drug Court and Pre-Trial Cases**—The PRRS has entered into partnership with the Drug Court and the DOCR's Pre-Trial Supervision Division to help manage specific cases. In the case of Drug Court, the PRC has housed seven individual participants who were in non-compliance with drug court program requirements and who were sentenced to PRC as part of a half-way back sanction. With regard to Pre-Trial, the one case that was transferred to PRC required only day reporting monitoring and case management and involved no residential services.
- **Electronic Monitoring**—PRRS and Pre-Trial are concluding a joint RFP that will standardize the electronic equipment used within the DOCR and which will allow each agency to deploy more GPS electronic monitoring equipment. At PRC, all sex offenders will ultimately be placed on GPS.
- **Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner**—The PRRS is now concluding an RFP process to contract for a full-time psychiatric nurse practitioner who can help the PRC better manage residents with mental health issues.

#### **Public Safety and Security:**

- **Montgomery County Police Roll Call Briefings (10/24,26)** --PRRS staff provided a brief overview of the PRC and home confinement programs to approximately 80 police officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District in Bethesda at three roll call trainings in the course of two days (6:00am, 8:30pm, 3:30pm). Police from this district are the first responders to PRC in the case of an emergency, and these briefings were aimed to further cooperation and coordination between the departments. The idea for these briefings came out of earlier meetings between MCP Commander Wayne Jerman and Community Affairs Officer Denise Gill and PRRS staff.
- **Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Meeting (11/22)** Captain John Dimitriadis, a Lieutenant, and 8 Master Fire Fighters from the Rockville Fire Station 23 visited and toured the Pre-Release facility to discuss improved coordination in cases of fire or building emergencies.

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- **Control Policies** – PRRS implemented new policies with regard to key, tool, chemical (caustic and flammable) controls all aimed at improving the safety of the facility.
- **Escapes**
  - PRC has had seven escapes since the beginning of the year
    - i. 2/22/05, Mark Turner. Cut off his ankle transmitter and left home. Turned himself in the next day. Received a 10 month sentence.
    - ii. 4/4/05, Remoan Simpson. Fled from work after his unaccountability was discovered by staff. Turned himself in the same day. Received a 6 month sentence.
    - iii. 4/5/05, Ana Meade Walked off from the Unit 2 patio. Currently a fugitive.
    - iv. 4/24/05, Joseph Rico. Never returned from work. Turned himself in the same day after the escape warrant was filed. Received a 60 day sentence.
    - v. 6/21/05, Lloyd Brown. Never returned from a community pass. Apprehended the next day at a Gaithersburg barber shop. Case is currently in adjudication.
    - vi. 11/18/05, Joseph McLaughlin. Never went to work after an AM court hearing and did not return to PRC. Apprehended in Suburban Hospital after overdosing on cocaine and heroin. Currently at MCCF. No court dates have been scheduled at this point.
    - vii. 12/2/05: Gerardo Torres escaped and remains at large. He had a morning job interview at a construction site and did not return to PRC. An escape warrant was issued.
  - Escape Sentencing
    - i. 11/23/05: Michelle Thornton escaped from a D.C. halfway house while in PRC custody on November 2, 2004 and was picked up in Washington, D. C. August 19, 2005. She was transferred to Montgomery County on August 23, 2005. On November 23<sup>rd</sup> in Circuit Court, she pleaded guilty for her escape and was sentenced to time served.
    - ii. David Copeland escaped from PRC in 1997 and was finally apprehended and was indicted by the Grand Jury on August 18, 2005 for Escape. Due to special circumstances in his case, he was sentenced to time served.