

Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division
Chief's Report to the Community Advisory Board
September 14, 2006

Highlights

- **Jail Reentry Roundtable (June 27 – 28, 2005):** The Montgomery County DOCR, the Urban Institute, and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice hosted a two day national conference on jail re-entry which was held in Washington, D.C. The conference involved over 100 top policy makers, practitioners, and academics from across the country, and commissioned seven papers on jail reentry topics (rural jails, female offenders, post-release integration, offender flow, reentry planning, community stakeholders, post-release supervision, recidivism, and public safety). The papers are available from the Jail Reentry Roundtable website: www.urban.org/projects/reentry-roundtable/roundtable9.cfm
- **Work Release County Legislative Amendment:** In July, the amendment that will increase the eligibility criteria for PRRS programs from six months to one year and that better codifies the home confinement program was discussed at a session of the County Council's Public Safety Committee that involved senior managers at PRRS and the DOCR Director. On September 19th, the full Council will meet and vote on this amendment.
- **DOCR Population Spike:** Beginning in July, the DOCR average daily population increased by over a 100, and to alleviate some of the population pressure on the detention facility, PRRS relaxed its minimum sentence criteria of 30 days to 10 days in order to serve more clients. Approximately 30 individuals were transferred to PRRS in the last two weeks of August and the program will continue to serve this short term population and will begin developing specialized programming to serve these clients.
- **Escape Report:** In response to three escapes within an eight-day period, the Division Chief asked Assessment and Accreditation Manager Teresa Still to complete a report analyzing the attributes of the nine individuals who had escaped in 2006 up until that point. In seven of the nine escapes (78%), the resident was back in custody within one day or less. Of those same nine cases, five (56%) were back in custody within eight hours or less. The report found that the majority of the escapees were serving sentences for Violations of Probation and were homeless or in need of housing upon release, and that 44% were receiving mental health services.

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- **Recidivism Methodology Study:** The County Council has directed that the DOCR produce a report that would describe the methodology by which the Department would conduct a recidivism study and how the results might be understood. Community Release Coordinator Debra Lyons-Prince is undertaking this project under the direction of Assessment and Accreditation Manager Teresa Still.
- **Federal Bureau of Prison's Yearly Inspection (July 12, 2006):** FBOP Contract Oversight Specialist Bill Cimino conducted a full inspection of PRRS and issued a report that complimented the PRRS program and did not identify any deficiencies.
- **National Institute of Corrections (NIC):** Work Release Coordinator Patricia Taylor has been selected by the National Institute of Corrections to serve as a National Workforce Development Trainer for correctional systems across the country. Under the arrangement, she will remain a County employee but will be assigned for a two year period to NIC. NIC is the nation's premier provider of training, technical assistance to federal, state, and local correctional agencies.
- **National Review of Community Residential Programs:** The DOCR contracted with a consultant to conduct a brief study of ten community-based residential programs in order to compare PRRS operations and organization with theirs. Consultant Cherise Burdeen completed the study on September 11, 2006 and this study will prove invaluable in helping shape the future direction of PRRS.
- **Archdiocese of Washington Mentoring Program:** A contract has been finalized with the Archdiocese of Washington to run a mentoring program that will serve individuals leaving the local correctional system. The program will be located at the Pre-Release Center and is part of the Archdiocese's Welcome Home initiative.

Program Developments

- **Electronic Monitoring Technology:** The Montgomery County DOCR awarded a new contract for electronic monitoring technology that is used by the Pre-Trial and PRRS Divisions to track offenders living in the community. A new vendor was chosen and the new contract began in August. The new equipment should allow PRRS to expand its use of GPS technology.
- **Home Confinement Incentives:** PRRS increased the incentives for those placed on home confinement by awarding them an additional five days of Special Program Time monthly. These individuals would also receive five days a month of Industrial Time and will continue to receive five days a month for Good Conduct Time. These changes are aimed to increase the number of clients on home confinement and are consistent with the Department's current practices and the Maryland Code.

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- **DOCR Medical Services:** DOCR awarded new medical contracts for somatic and mental health care. The new contracts will increase the medical hours and services provided to residents at PRRS.
- **Second Chance Act Legislation:** The Department continues to support this national legislation that promotes correctional reentry. DOCR Director Art Wallenstein has written several letters of support to local congressional representatives. PRRS Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio has been attending regular work sessions and has participated in several congressional staff briefings on the legislation.
- **Maryland Correctional Institute for Women - Jessup Visit:** Senior Manager Jim Shannon arranged a visit for interns and staff to the State women's facility in Jessup and reviewed their reentry program through RESTART (a rehabilitation program).
- **Transitional Briefing Materials for the new County Executive:** PRRS provided briefing materials to DOCR Director that are part of a transitional package being prepared by CAO Bruce Romer for the New County Executive. PRRS materials discussed the need to address the needs of an aging facility and the need to introduce new security and programmatic measures to deal with a changing population.
- **Mental Health/Criminal Justice Nexus (September 7th and 13th):** The PRRS Division Chief participated in meetings arranged by the Council of State Governments, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the TAPA Center, and the GAINS Center to examine how criminal justice agencies can better serve those individuals with mental health issues and ways to assess the effectiveness of these services.
- **Maryland County Correctional Tours of PRC:** Over the past three months, PRC has hosted several tours of the Pre-Release Center from correctional staff from Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties.

Security:

- **Key Control, Safety, and Security:** PRRS's new Key Watcher System is now fully operational and represents a large step forward in improved key control. This system meets our State and ACA standards and requires all staff to keep their keys onsite when not in the facility. Also, a new traffic pattern has also been put in place by alarming the kitchen and hallway doors. Now residents are not allowed to exit into the courtyard by means of the hallway doors and must pass by the Support Services office/front desk to enter the dining room and courtyard by the double doors off of the dining room. The program can now better capture their comings and goings and also ensure that residents are properly attired and have their I.D.'s on their person.
- **New Security Devices, Fence & Measures:** In the coming months, ten video cameras will be placed throughout the facility to enhance the ability of staff to monitor and record activities and improve overall resident accountability. In addition, limited sections of a

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modest fence will be installed around the building to deter unauthorized individuals from the areas behind the building and the courtyard. Finally, the County will purchase additional metal detector wands for the units.

- **Resident Searches:** Every few months, PRRS staff conduct a personal search of all PRC residents and Home Confinement clients as they enter the facility. This is part of a plan for Support Services to coordinate with Unit staff to control the items that enter the facility. Contraband items found were cigarettes, matches, excess cash, and credit cards. The goal is to remind residents that our program demands that they are held to a high level of personal accountability for their treatment, work requirements, whereabouts, and compliance with the rules of PRC and Home Confinement.
- **Canine Search of Unit IV (September 6, 2006):** An unannounced inspection by two Police drug dogs and their officer/handlers was conducted on Unit IV. They went through every room in the Unit but no drugs were discovered. However, the dogs were agitated in four of the rooms that prompted further searches, but no drugs were found.

Escapes/Court Dispositions:

Escapes 2006 to Date – 13

Fugitives 2005 – One since December 2, 2005

- **September 7, 2006:** James Chase had an argument with his girlfriend during her visit at PRC. His girlfriend was asked to leave the facility and after she left, he was instructed to return to his unit. After arriving in his unit, Mr. Chase bolted out the patio doors and off PRC property. He was followed by staff and apprehended a couple blocks away. The Police were called and escorted Mr. Chase to MCDC. Escape papers have been file against Mr. Chase.
- **July 17, 2006:** Steven Wilt escaped from Home Confinement. He left for work his normal time but did not return. He was apprehended on July 18, 2006 by the Rockville City Police and has been charged with escape.
- **July 16, 2006:** Corey Dunbar failed to return to PRC from a church pass. He did return to PRC hours later and was immediately returned detention and charged with escape.
- **July 9, 2006:** Elwood Marten escaped from PRC after an altercation with staff. He was apprehended two hours later by Police and has been charged with escape.
- **June 13, 2006:** Pierre Goode was charged with escape on June 13, 2006 after failing to return to the Center from an AA meeting. A family member called PRC and told of his whereabouts. PRS staff notified the Sheriff's Office and they notified the Police who picked his up in the White Oak area. Mr. Goode is waiting disposition for escape.
- **June 8, 2006:** Michael King escaped June 8, 2006, after failing to return from the Office of Vital Statistics in Washington, D.C. He was apprehended July 10, 2006 during a routine traffic stop in D.C. On July 13th, Mr. King was back in custody in Montgomery County and charged with escape.
- **May 26, 2006:** Anna Meade escaped in April 5, 2005 and was a fugitive until she turned herself in January 2, 2006. Ms. Meade was sentenced to four years suspend all but ten

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months for Escape. Earlier in the week, she received a six month sentence for Violation of Probation (which resulted from the Escape charge). Ms. Meade also lost over ninety days of Good Conduct Time for escape in PRC adjustment hearing.

- **May 24, 2006:** Christine Caudle left the Pre-Release Center at approximately 2:45 P.M. on a community pass for a doctor's appointment and was due back at the facility by 5:15 P.M. However, she did not return and an Escape Warrant was secured at 1:00 P.M. on May 25, 2006. Unit II staff tried to locate Ms. Caudle first in the facility and then by calling her mother, AA sponsor, and the individuals on listed on her visitor's card. Ms. Caudle was apprehended on June 8, 2006 in Washington, D.C. and was indicted for escape on June 29, 2006.
- **May 23, 2006:** Sherman Perry pled guilty to First Degree Escape and received a nine month sentence. Mr. Perry was charged with escape on January 20, 2006 after failing to return to the Pre-Release Center from work. When he was picked up by staff, he admitted using crack cocaine. Mr. Perry was serving an eighteen month sentence for Violation of Probation (Third Degree Sex Offense). Mr. Perry received a sentence of nine months for escape.
- **May 14, 2006:** During the morning of May 14, 2006, a PRC Steven Quarles exposed himself to a female staff member during her rounds of the unit. The resident was immediately suspended back to the jail, and the staff member filed criminal charges. Mr. Quarles was found guilty of two indecent exposures in District Court and received a three year sentence, suspend all but 18 months. He appealed his case to the Circuit Court and on August 21, 2006, he was found guilty and received the same sentence as District Court.
- **April 20, 2006:** At his sentencing hearing, Marshall Kisner received a ninety day sentence for Escape from Judge Paul Weinstein. Mr. Kisner escaped from PRRS December 31, 2005 and turned himself in on January 1, 2006. Since he did not commit any crimes and tested negative for drug and alcohol use, Judge Weinstein decided ninety days was an appropriate sentence. Mr. Kisner also lost sixty days of earned Good Conduct Time during his administrative adjustment hearing in January 2006. Violation of Probation charges will also be brought against him where he could receive an additional two year sentence.
- **April 14, 2006:** Joseph McLaughlin will be formally sentenced to two years for Escape (to be served locally) on July 17, 2006. Mr. McLaughlin escaped from the Pre-Release Center on December 14, 2005 and was admitted to Suburban Hospital the next day for overdosing on cocaine and heroin. Three days later he was transported back to the Detention Center where he is facing charges of significant traffic violations, Violation of Probation, and Escape.
- **January 6, 2006:** Andre Murray escaped from Home Confinement on January 6, 2006. He was apprehended the same day in Prince George's County in the proximity of where a car was being burned. Mr. Murray was in custody of Prince George's County, however he was transferred to Montgomery County on July 28th and has been indicted for escapes and two counts of violation of probation.
- **Fugitive:** Gerardo Torres left the Center on December 2, 2005 on a community release pass to attend a job orientation. It was later learned that he did not attend the orientation nor did he return to the Pre-Release Center at his scheduled time. Mr. Torres is still a fugitive.

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Upcoming Events

- **ICCA Meeting (September 13, 2006):** Unit Manager Jane Sachs, Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun, and other PRRS staff attended the annual research conference of the International Community Correction Association Conference. Titled "Doing What Works," the conference will offer speakers and workshops on evidence based practices, and the information will be extremely valuable as PRRS begins to introduce new evidenced-based programming at the center.
- **Minnesota Annual Community Correctional Act (CCA) Conference (September 25 – 28, 2006):** Stefan LoBuglio will attend this conference and speak about the Jail Reentry Roundtable and the Second Chance Act. 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 will spend a day visiting some model programs while he is in the state.
- **State Commission on Correctional Standards Monitoring Visit (September 27, 2006):** The Pre-Release Center is preparing for a follow-up visit from the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards on September 27, 2006. In January, the Commission audited the PRC and produced a very positive report although it found four medical standards that needed further attention and made seven other recommendations concerning our correctional practices. The PRRS staff has worked industriously to address all of the deficiencies and recommendations and aim to receive a 100% compliance rating.
- **National Committee on Community Corrections (September 29, 2006):** PRRS will be hosting the NCCC meeting September 29, 2006 at the Pre-Release Center. Discussions will include community corrections, employment readiness, and reentry. Congressional staffers will be invited to this meeting. Tours of the Pre-Release Center will be provided.
- **Justice Research and Statistics Association 2006 National Conference (October 11-14, 2006):** Assessment and Accreditation Services Manager Teresa Still will be attending the Justice Research and Statistics Association 2006 National Conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference will offer workshops on basic research evaluation methods, data collection, cost-benefit analysis, recidivism, and more.
- **Urban Institute's Advisory Group for the Jail Reentry Initiative (October 27, 2006):** The Jail Reentry Roundtable will be held on October 27, 2006 at the Pre-Release Center. On the Group's agenda will be finalizing the scan of practice, drafting a national report on reentry from jail, and developing a training curriculum.