

Chief's Report to the Community Advisory Board February 15, 2007

Highlights

- **PRRS Expanded Eligibility Criteria:** The legislative amendment approved by the County Council this past October to allow inmates who are within one-year of release for placement into PRRS became effective January 12, 2007. Previously, inmates had to be within six months of release. Unit Manager Marsha Engel first suggested this idea several years ago, and Unit Manager Jim Shannon and Screening and Assessment Manager Teresa Still helped draft the amendment with able assistance from Dave Stevenson of the County Attorney's office and Linda McMillan, Senior Analyst with the County Council.
- **PRRS Organizational Changes:** Effective January 7th, the PRRS began operating with a fourth unit for female residents in addition to the existing three male housing units. Unit Manager Stephanie Hall oversees this unit as well as home confinement and front desk operations. The new female unit will allow improved and focused services for our rising population of female residents.
- **PRRS Treatment Programs:** PRRS created a new program unit within the Division's Screening and Assessment section. Led by Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun, the Unit adapted a cognitive skills behavioral program, called "Changing Offender Behaviors," to our program. Case Managers Frank Rini and Pernel Shaw helped develop the program and began teaching it on February 13th. They also are teaching the evening Sponsor Support Group sessions to the families of PRRS clients.
- **Community Advisory Board Strategic Planning Session:** Approximately fifteen members of the CAB convened on January 12th for a half-day meeting to focus on ways that the board might be expanded and strengthened. It was facilitated by Consultant Cherise Burdeen who summarized the meeting in a report that will be handed out at the February CAB meeting.
- **Research Study Meeting:** On January 31st, PRRS convened a research meeting on the topic of measuring recidivism. Research Director Marty Lyman, Ph.D. from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department in Massachusetts, former Director of Research for the Federal Bureau of Prisons Gerald Gaes, Ph.D., and University of Maryland Doctoral student Shawn Flower joined Screening and Assessment Manager Teresa Still and Stefan LoBuglio to review methodologies for measuring recidivism rates in a local correctional system. In March, PRRS will provide a report to the County Council's Public Safety Committee.

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- **PRRS Security Enhancements:** Over the past several months, PRRS contracted to install 32 recordable cameras, two sections of fence, and new door swipe entry systems. These measures, which came about as the result of collective bargaining discussions, are designed to enhance security while minimally impacting the supportive culture at PRRS.

Program Developments

- **Victim Restitution Review:** In response to an inquiry from a Victim's Advocacy Group, PRRS will revamp its procedures for collecting court-ordered restitution from program participants. The Advocacy Group raised legitimate questions about why restitution was not collected from a female resident who was working at PRRS during her stay in 2005/2006. Our research revealed that PRRS neither had the authority nor the mechanism to collect restitution. However, the new legislative amendment that became effective January 12th now gives PRRS this authority. Unit Manager Stephanie Hall is drafting a new policy and procedure on restitution in collaboration with Probation and Parole. Teresa Still, Classification and Screening Manager, is also assisting and she conducted a review of our local cases at PRRS and determined that three had confirmed restitution orders and another dozen continue to be investigated.
- **Transportation Assistance from MCDC and MCCF:** PRRS and the two Detention Services Divisions have developed a protocol that will allow MCDC and MCCF to assist PRRS with transports of suspended residents back to custody. This assistance would be called upon in rare cases where PRRS staff could not conduct the transports themselves without reducing the staffing level at PRC below acceptable minimums.
- **PRRS Resident Supervisor Position Upgrade:** The County's Office of Human Resources conducted an Occupational Class Study of the Resident Supervisors series, and concluded that the position merited an upgrade which took place February 4th. The RS position is vitally important to PRRS, and plays a front line role in monitoring and mentoring residents, holding them accountable in the community with the home confinement unit, and ensuring the safety and support of the center and grounds.
- **Additional Resident Supervisor Position:** Partly in response to the significantly higher PRRS average daily population count, the Management Services Division and the DOCR Director identified and activated an additional Resident Supervisor position to assist the Division manage its population. PRRS is currently filling five vacancies.
- **Electronic Monitoring Technology:** PRRS is in the process of terminating the contracts with the current vendor of electronic monitoring equipment due to the poor performance of its equipment and service. With assistance of the Management Service Division and the County's Procurement Department, PRRS will issue an emergency one-year contract with another vendor for Radio

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Frequency home curfew equipment, remote alcohol testing equipment, and active and passive GPS technology.

- **New Work Release Coordinator:** DOCR's Christine Johnson, the current Program Supervisor of MCCF's food service training program (called Sweet Release) was selected for and has chosen to accept the Work Release Coordinator at PRRS. She has a superb background both in the private sector in sales and marketing and food services (she has managed multi-million dollar restaurants), and in the non-profit and government sector developing job training programs for the homeless and those with criminal histories. Prior to DOCR, she managed two job training programs for the DC Central Kitchen.
- **Federal and State Contracts:** PRRS is in the process of renewing its contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prison and the Maryland Division of Correction that authorizes it to accept inmates from their systems into the program. The renegotiation involves a review of per diem rates charged in the contract. PRRS is also looking to modify the state contract to receive authority to place state inmates on home confinement.
- **District 2 MC Police Collaboration:** As part of their field training, Unit Manager Jane Sachs has arranged to meet new police officers and orient them to the PRRS. Additionally, Jane works with several detectives to disseminate crime information to PRRS staff in cases where the police are seeking assistance to identify the perpetrators of these crimes.
- **Welcome Home Program:** Mary Mulholland, the coordinator of the Archdiocese of Washington's program in Montgomery County, has conducted extensive outreach to develop this mentoring program. Based at the Pre-Release Center, the goal of the program is to identify mentors from faith-based organizations to assist client with their reentry plans. In the past two months, she has met with representatives from St. James Episcopal Church, St. Raphael Catholic Church, D.C. Jobs Partnership, the Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition as well as Department staff with PRRS and MCCF. On January 6, she hosted a tour and a meeting with residents at the PRC from the Just Faith group from Resurrection Church in Burtonsville toured PRC. Just Faith groups from St. Peter's in Olney and St. Francis in Derwood will visit PRRS March 27th. Over the next several months, Ms. Mulholland and program founder, Father Michael Bryant, will speak to Catholic parishes and their social justice committees to discuss the program and to recruit mentors. Several parishes have already published inserts about the program in parish bulletins.

Event/Activity Chronology

- **MCCF Workforce and Faith-based Initiative (12/11/07):** Joyce Reimherr, the Workforce Counselor at MCCF's One-Stop Career Center, convened a meeting to

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examine ways that the faith-based community can directly assist in providing job training services to clients at MCCF. Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun, Archdiocese of Washington Welcome Home coordinator Mary Mulholland, and Stefan LoBuglio attended the meeting. Both MCCF and the PRRS have major initiatives to involve faith-based organizations in the delivery of reentry services.

- **White Flint Sector Plan (12/12/07):** At the December CAB meeting, board member Karl Girshman encouraged PRRS to become involved in the extensive master planning process for the White Flint Area (which includes the pre-release center) that is being spearheaded by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. PRRS staff attended the evening community planning session on December 12th and joined 80 other individuals who represented businesses, homeowners, and government agencies from the area. The White Flint area is poised to see a development boom over the next decade that will bring over 4,000 housing units, hundreds of additional hotel rooms, and extensive retail and commercial development to the area. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for February 27th.
- **National Community Correction Center (12/15/06):** PRRS staff attended the December meeting of this organization that promotes federal legislation to advance community corrections. The meeting featured a forum on transitional housing for offenders and guest speakers included Philip Mangano, Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, and Nan Roman, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.
- **Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce (12/06):** Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas attended the Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce December meeting. The topic of the meeting was "Connecting Employees to Employers" with presentations from Montgomery College and St. Luke's House. He met representatives of local businesses plus representatives from Montgomery Housing Partnership, Montgomery County Department of Public Works, and Kay Apartment Communities.
- **Expressive Therapy Center (December):** Case Manager Kendra Terry met with therapists from a Rockville-based practice called the Expressive Therapy Center to explore whether female residents might benefit from creative and artistic therapeutic approaches.
- **Montgomery County Grand Jury (12/14/06 & 1/9/07):** DOCR's Division Chiefs provided an overview of pre-trial, detention, and pre-release services to the newly sequestered Grand Jury. In January, the department provided a tour of the MCCF and the Pre-Release Centers and also arranged for them to speak with inmates privately. The Grand Jury is particularly important to PRRS as they decide whether our escapees should be indicted. The Grand Jury is also responsible to ensure that confinement facilities in the County are humane, well-run, and constitutional.

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- **Federal Bureau of Prisons (1/9/07):** The Federal Bureau of Prison conducted a quarterly monitoring visit at PRRS and found no deficiencies in our operations. Unit 2's staff – Unit Manager Stephanie Hall, Community Release Coordinator Debbie Lyons-Prince, and Work Release Coordinator Angela Talley took the lead in preparing for this visit. Bill Cimino, Contract Specialist and Dewayne Hendrix, Community Corrections Manager for the FBOP also toured the facility and conducted an afternoon training session on federal disciplinary procedures to PRRS staff.
- **Second Chance Federal Legislation (1/10/07):** Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio participated in a meeting at the congressional office of Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) concerning the introduction of the Second Chance Act. This national piece of federal legislation is supported by a bi-partisan majority in the Senate and House and the Montgomery County DOCR has provided technical assistance and support for its passage.
- **NACO Conference (1/18-20/07):** Stefan LoBuglio addressed the subcommittee on public safety and homeland security of the National Association of Counties at their Winter Retreat in Las Vegas. He appeared on a panel of correctional professionals including Steve Aos, the Executive Director of the Washington State Institute of Public Policy, Jane Browning, Executive Director of the International Community Corrections Agency, and Paul Sheehan, CFO of the Correctional Health Alternatives Project to discuss reentry issues.
- **Council of Governments (1/23/07):** Stefan LoBuglio represented the DOCR director at the meeting of the corrections subcommittee of the COG. The issues discussed at the meeting concerned the need to develop better inter-jurisdictional agreements to allow correctional departments within the Greater Washington area to coordinate emergency evacuations if needed.
- **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition (1/24/07) –** PRRS staff met with Executive Director Norma Jennings and Liz Anne Ganiban to discuss ways to increase the participation in a newly introduced program that provides housing to carefully selected female residents with children. This innovative program represents collaboration between PRRS and SSIHC as well as the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission.
- **Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Initiative (1/24/07):** Unit Manager Jane Sachs represented PRRS at this meeting where this group of criminal justice and social service agency professionals met with new County Council Member Duchy Trachtenberg to discuss some of the challenges and potential solutions to the involvement of individuals with mental health issues in the criminal justice system.
- **White Flint Development Meeting (1/25/07):** Michael Smith, Vice President of LCOR Incorporated, is the project manager of the development around the White Flint Metro Station, and he visited PRRS. He received an overview of PRRS and a

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tour, and discussed the possibility of tying some of the new economic activity in the area with the PRRS work release program.

- **Women's Legislative Briefing (1/28/07):** Resident Supervisor Paula Zapata attended this briefing sponsored by the county's Commission for Women that aimed to provide information on legislative initiatives that affect women, their children, and families. The keynote speaker for the program was Donna Brazile, former chairperson of a presidential campaign.
- **University of Maryland's Department of Criminology Department (1/29/07):** The PRRS Chief spoke to Professor Peter Reuter's afternoon class on public policy. Later in the semester, students from this class will participate in a research project at PRRS.
- **Coalition for the Homeless (2/1/07):** DOCR staff attended a splendid evening and fundraiser for the Coalition for the Homeless that honored the tireless work of Executive Director Sharan London over the past decade to reduce homelessness in the county.
- **Louisville, Kentucky Metro Department of Corrections Visit (2/5 & 6/07):** A senior-level delegation from Louisville including the Mayor's Cabinet Public Safety Director, an assistant County Attorney, a former Chief Judge, and senior social worker from the Louisville, Kentucky Metro Department of Corrections visited the DOCR. On the first day they toured MCCF and PRRS for an overview of reentry programs. On the second day, they visited MCDC, received an overview of Pre-trial Services by Chief Sharon Trexler, an overview of the Reuse project by Warden Smith, toured the Central Processing Unit, and attended a Video bond hearing at the Detention Center. Later in the afternoon they met with District Court Judge Gary Everngam and the Chief Public Defender in the county, Paul Dewolfe.

Upcoming Events

- **Miami-Dade County Commissioners (2/26/07):** Corrections Director Tim Ryan will lead a delegation of 11-15 members of a Blue Ribbon Commission that has been appointed to review the local correction system in Miami. The Commission includes county commissioners, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, the County Attorney, and other high-level officials.
- **Coalition for the Homeless (3/1/07):** The PRRS will host the March meeting of this organization that has been the champion in developing strategies to reduce homelessness and increase affordable housing alternatives in Montgomery County.
- **NACO Legislative Conference (3/4/07):** PRRS will host a tour on Sunday, March 4 for county officials and representatives from across the country that are in town attending the National Association of Counties legislative conference.

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- **Faye Taxman (3/13/07):** Noted researcher of community correction programs from Virginia Commonwealth University, Faye Taxman, will provide PRRS staff with an overview of the recent literature on best practices in community corrections and specifically the importance of an interpersonal communication style called motivational interviewing.
- **Singapore Corrections Director's Visit (3/16/07):** The Singapore Corrections Director and staff from his agency will be visiting the DOCR on March 16th and will tour MCCF and PRRS. They are participating in a reentry conference in Baltimore and contacted the DOCR director with their request to view the county's reentry programs.
- **International Association of Reentry (3/18/07):** DOCR staff will provide a workshop of county reentry programs at the first conference held by this recently formed group in Baltimore.
- **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 on the Jail Reentry Roundtable Initiative at this national conference of parole and probation departments.
- **American Correctional Association (August 2007):** The MC DOCR will present a major workshop at the annual conference of the ACA in Kansas City, Missouri on jail reentry. Some of the Department's faith-based partners will co-present with DOCR staff.

Escapes/Court Dispositions since December 7, 2006:

Escapes

- **Todd Watson (12/21/06):** Former resident Watson escaped on 12/21/06. He came to the PRC and turned himself in on January 7, 2007, and was immediately transported to MDCD. He was indicted by the Grand Jury on 2/12/07 for escape;
- **13 Total Escapes in 2006:** All escapees were apprehended, most within 8 hours of escape
- **1 Escapee at large:** Gerardo Leon Torres escaped on December 2, 2005.

Dispositions

- **Joseph McLaughlin (1/12/07):** Joseph McLaughlin, who was sentenced by Judge Weinstein to 18 months on July 17, 2006 for Escape, had his sentenced reconsidered to time served and was released from the jail on 1/30/07. His release

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date from the 18 month sentence less IT for working in the kitchen was to be 5/27/07.

- **Robert McVay (January 8, 2007):** Former resident McVay pled guilty to Escape from the Pre-Release Center in front of Judge Paul H. Weinstein and received a seven month sentence consecutive to the current sentence he is serving. He escaped 10/2/06.

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