

Chief's Report to the Community Advisory Board December 6, 2007 – January 31, 2008

Highlights

- **U/M Jane Sachs retirement:** The Department recognizes Jane's 30 years of service to PRRS and her role in making this program a national model. Over 100 staff and friends from throughout the county will celebrate her achievement on Friday evening.
- **Recidivism Proposal Funded:** The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention has provided \$80,000 to fund a recidivism study in Montgomery County. The study will track the post-release criminal history of 300 male and 300 female sentenced inmates released in 2003/2004, and will provide insight into type and frequency of re-offending.
- **Federal Bureau of Prison Monitoring Audit:** Acting FBOP Community Corrections Manager William Cimino and FBOP Program Specialist Randy White conducted a routine monitoring visit of PRRS on January 24th. While the Division awaits the written report, Bill provided a favorable oral summary of his findings. Specifically, he added that all federal residents interviewed indicated that they were pleased with the services provided to them without complaint. He did note that some filing procedures should be improved.

Programmatic Changes

- **Parole and Probation (January 14th):** PRRS staff met with probation and parole representatives Robert Ulino, Amy Bransford, and Claudette Hall to discuss ways that the two agencies might further collaborate. The discussion focused on information that could be shared by agencies at commitment and at release, developing an expedited halfway back alternative sanction for at probation violators, improving accountability in areas of victim rights and restitution, and assisting in expanding the step down reentry program for state inmates returning to Montgomery County.
- **Winning Fathers Project (January 15th):** HHS' Child Welfare Agency is piloting a parenting program at PRRS that will work with residents and their partners and children. The purpose of the program is to assist committed couples improve their communication skills for the purposes of better parenting. The program is offered with state funding in six Maryland Counties, and PRRS will be the sole pre-release pilot site.
- **Achieve, Believe, Succeed (January 29th):** Resident Supervisor Andrea Baker and Kenny Sterling are leading an effort to recognize past PRRS residents who have been successful and to engage them in activities that might assist current program participants. The first recognition session is scheduled for Saturday, March 15 from 2pm-4pm.

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- **Welcome Home Program:** WHP Coordinator Mary Mulholland continues to grow and expand the program, and in the past year the volunteer mentors have logged over 1,000 hours of service. Currently 42 volunteers assist residents in many different ways including developing literacy skills, preparing for the GED, teaching computer skills, and supervising the career resource center. Mary held several trainings and support meetings for the volunteer network that she has developed over the past month.

Security/Safety

- **Medication Training (December 11th):** On December 11th, DOCR's Health Service Administrator Tony Sturgess trained PRRS staff to administer medication as required by the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.
- **De-Escalation Committee (December 13th and 20th):** The De-escalation Committee met twice and is developing training to equip staff to address challenging situations with residents through communication techniques.

PRRS Staff

- Public Service Intern Alicia Jackson has been promoted to Resident Supervisor. Ms. Jackson received her Bachelor of Arts from McDaniel's College in Westminster, Maryland. She majored in Sociology with a concentration in criminal justice. She worked for the Shoemaker Foundation which is a residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation Center;
- Resident Supervisor Latoya Ward will join CSOSA, the federal pre-trial agency in the District of Columbia after six years with the DOCR.
- Unit Manager Marsha Engel will retire on February 1 after 20 years of service with the county.
- Unit Manager Jim Shannon has been appointed Chairman of the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus' Social Work Advisory Board.
- Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio has been appointed to an adjunct teaching position at the University of Maryland College Park Campus to teach criminal justice policy.
- Support Services Manager Eleanor Walker has announced her intention to retire on February 29th after 22 years of County Services, with 13 years at PRC.

PRRS Event/Activity Chronology

- **National Association of Social Workers Conference (December 6 – 7, 2007):** Ivan Downing, Kendra Terry, Elizabeth Ressler, Patricia Braun, and Tina Michaels attended the National Association of Social Workers Conference on Reentry: Impact on the Professional Workforce. Tina spoke on a panel with members from other jurisdictions to represent DOCR's specific reentry initiatives.
- **NIC Workforce Meeting (December 10-13, 2007):** NIC's Senior Management Team for Offender Workforce Development held their strategic planning retreat at PRC December 10th through the 13th. PRRS' Patricia Taylor who is on a two-year assignment with the NIC arranged the event.

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- **Fairfax County Workforce Investment Board (December 12th):** Several members of the Fairfax County Workforce Investment Board visited PRRS and met with the Work Release Coordinators and other staff. They are developing a work release program in Fairfax.
- **White Flint Planning Meeting (December 11, 2007):** Chief LoBuglio represented PRRS at a planning meeting of the White Flint area held at Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's office in Silver Spring, and was joined by dozens of property owners, developers, lawyers, citizens, and several government agencies including DPWT and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Drafts of the new master plan for the area in which the PRC is located were discussed.
- **"Crime Victim Rights and Compliance: Agency Responsibility – It's the Law" (January 8-9, 2008):** Case Manager Pernell Shaw and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio represented Montgomery County DOCR and the Pre-Release and Reentry Service Division at this statewide conference to promote agency accountability for ensuring crime victim's rights.
- **Commission for Women Presentation (January 18th):** Case Manager Shaunda Legg attended a half-day training on at the Commission for Women. Using Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Philosophy to Understand, Engage, and Motivate Clients was presented by Pat Harvey, LCSW-C. She gave an overview of the basic tenets of DBT and how DBT has been used with clients exhibiting self injurious behaviors as well as their parents.
- **Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce (January 23rd):** Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas attended the January 23rd meeting of the Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce. The Guest speak was Toby Bozzuto, Executive Vice President of Bozzuto Development Company, who spoke about the planned mixed-use projects in downtown Wheaton.
- **Baltimore Mayor's Office Reentry Subcommittee (January 30th):** Eight representatives from the Mayor's office, community providers, probation and parole, and the Abell Foundation toured MCCF and PRRS. In August, several PRRS staff had met with them in Baltimore to tour the Baltimore City Intake Center and Men and Women Detention Centers to discuss ways that reentry programming might be expanded.

Upcoming Events

Montgomery County Victims' Commission (February 28th): PRRS staff will appear before the County's Victim Commission to discuss some of the changes that PRRS has made in the program over the past year to improve responsiveness to victims including verifying the accuracy of the state victim notification system, collecting restitution, and working with victim advocate representatives in the police department.

Escapes/Court Dispositions

- **10 Escapes in 2007**
- **Escape Dispositions- Pending Cases:**
 - **Horatio Silva** escaped on October 27, 2007 after he left the Center to attend an AA meeting and did not return. He is serving a ten year sentence, suspend all but 18 month, for Robbery plus has many priors. Mr. Silva was arrested in Prince George's County on December 14th and charged with Destruction of Property, Third Degree Burglary, and Fourth Degree Burglary. Montgomery County has placed a detainer on him. Mr. Silva had a preliminary hearing in P.G. County on January 11th to face his most recent charges.
 - **Gerrardo Torres** escaped from the Pre-Release Center in December of 2005. He was apprehended in September 2007 in Tennessee and returned to Montgomery County. He has been indicted by the Grand Jury for Escape and a February 14th court date has been set for February 15th.
 - **Jose Benitez** escaped on August 14, 2007 and was apprehended eight days later (August 22nd) at the home of the victim of the governing charge. Mr. Benitez left for work, failed to arrive at his jobsite, and never returned to PRC. Mr. Benitez is a registered sex offender. He has been indicted for escape by the Grand Jury. Inmate Benitez pled guilty to the Escape charge on January 2nd; however his sentencing date is postponed until March 10th due to the Judge's request a pre-sentence investigation.
 - **Eric Irving** left the Pre-Release Center on December 26, 2007 for a sixteen hour home pass. He was to return to the Center at 11:00 P.M., but did not return. An Escape warrant was issued on December 27th. Inmate Irving was arrested in Washington, D.C. on January 4th by the Sheriff's Office. He is currently being held in Washington, D.C. on drug charges. He has been charged as a fugitive from Montgomery County.
- **Sentenced Escape Cases:**
 - **Joanne Lee** escaped on August 11, 2007 and turned herself in the following day. While on an approved home pass, she got into an argument with her father and left her approved location. She later admitted to staying at a friend's home and using cocaine while on Escape status. Ms. Lee was indicted on escape by the Grand Jury. On January 16th, Ms. Lee pled guilty before Judge Anne Harrington and received a one year sentence.