

# **PRRS Chief's Report**

## *April 22, 2010 to July 22, 2010*

### **Highlights**

- 1. FY'11 PRRS Reorganization:** PRRS lost two senior manager positions as the result of budget reductions in FY'11 and no longer employs a unit management organizational structure. Instead of four units and four Unit Managers, the PRRS population is managed as a single unit with two Deputy Chiefs. Mr. James Shannon is the Deputy Chief of Facility and Security (DCFS) and supervises all Resident Supervisors and Ms. Patricia Braun is the Deputy Chief of Program and Services (DCPS) and supervises all case managers and work release coordinators.
  
- 2. Contract with Maryland Division of Correction Ends:** The state legislature failed to fund the contract that allows PRRS to transition individuals incarcerated in the state's prison system who are returning to Montgomery County. This 20-year relationship came to an abrupt end on July 8 as the state brought back into custody five of the six state incarcerated individuals already placed at PRRS. One individual who is working will remain at PRC until his release date in August.
  
- 3. Winning Fathers receives National Award:** The County's Department of Health and Human Services' Winning Father's program received a National Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties. Since 2007, Edward Powell, the Coordinator of the Program, has provided parenting and relationship-based classes to residents and their partners. Through the program, he has also organized community activities that have provided residents with opportunities to share positive experiences with their children.
  
- 4. Family Reentry Grant:** On May 6, the DOCR kicked off its involvement in a federally funded grant program designed to further the involvement of family members in the reentry process. Run by the New York-based Vera Institute with funding from the USDOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the "Close to Home Initiative provides staff members from PRRS and MCCF with additional tools and training developed over the past decade by the New York-based Family Justice organization. During June 15-17, VERA staff members came onsite to conduct research by interviewing residents and their family members.
  
- 5. Technology Careers Grant (6/10):** PRRS submitted a grant application for a program that would provide computer training to all residents in the program. Written primarily by Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas, the program – "Work First, Train Concurrently" – represents collaboration between PRRS, Montgomery College, and Workforce Solutions, the County's One-Stop Career Center provider.

### **Program Developments**

- 1. NIC Proposal (7/15):** PRRS supported a proposal written by the Executive Director of the County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission that requests technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections on a proposal titled "Evidence-based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems." The proposal requests that NIC designate Montgomery

County as one of six sites in the country to pilot a new framework for criminal justice policy deliberation.

2. **Federal Bureau of Prison Annual Full Monitoring Visit (7/14):** FBOP found no deficiencies in PRRS operations after their careful review of case files, interviews with residents, and an inspection of the facility. They indicated that PRRS continues to serve as a model program. At the opening and close-out sessions, FBOP indicated that they may have more individuals from the Virginia area to refer to PRRS, and asked that our policies allow them reasonable access to their homes.
3. **New Pharmacy Contract (7/1/10):** The DOCR has contracted with a new pharmaceutical vendor that employs an online prescription process that will reduce the Department's medical costs and improve its ability to monitor medication compliance among its population. At PRRS, it will also be useful for gathering statistical data about the prevalence of mental and somatic health conditions of its client population.
4. **Medical Snapshot of PRRS (7/15):** As of 7/15, 59 of the 178 participants (33.1%) at PRRS received medication –29 (16.3%) for mental health conditions and 30 (16.9%) for chronic somatic issues. Of the mental health diagnoses, 11 were for Major Depression or Depressive Disorder; 2 for Schizophrenia; 10 for Bi-polar disorder; 2 for ADHD; 20 for drug and alcohol dependence; 2 for adjustment disorder; 20 for co-occurring disorders. The prevalence of chronic somatic diagnoses are: 9 for diabetes; 19 for hypertension; 5 for asthma; 1 HIV; 9 for high cholesterol; 1 Thyroid disorder; 5 for Gastroesophageal Reflux Disorder; 1 Sick cell disease and 1 for coronary artery disease.
5. **Believe, Achieve, Succeed, and Excel (6/19):** Case Manager Andrea Baker arranged for three former residents to return to the Pre-Release Center and share with current residents, staff, and volunteers about their continuing efforts to remain productive and successful citizens and parents. All three of the former residents expressed gratitude to the assistance they received from staff at PRRS.
6. **Computer Instruction through Oasis of Montgomery County (6/11):** PRRS plans to offer a basic computer class during lunch hours several days a week courtesy of a volunteer instructor from Oasis. This community-based organization serves county residents who are fifty-five years and older and interested in local community issues.
7. **PRRS Transitional Plan (6/3):** PRRS developed a re-organization plan to address the significant cutbacks of staff and resources at PRRS. This plan was presented to staff at a series of meetings on different shifts.
8. **Parole Protocol (6/2):** Assessment and Quality Services Manager Tina Michaels worked out a protocol for PRRS staff and probation to ensure that residents and the program are properly notified of upcoming hearings and to better respond to resident requests about their parole status. Updated contacts were made with the Maryland Parole Commission and the Rockville Probation and Parole Office.

- 9. PRRS Visiting Times Expanded to Sunday Night (6/1):** As a result of changes in the transport protocol of new Residents (see below), PRRS extending visiting to Sunday nights from 7-9pm. Currently PRRS offers visits seven evenings a week from 7-9pm and seven afternoons a week from 2-5pm for employed residents.
- 10. Community Service Work Crews (5/27):** PRRS will develop a community service work crew staffed by a Resident Supervisor whose position costs will be covered by the Department of General Services (DGS). DGS will use this work crew to reduce outside contractor costs.
- 11. Case Manager Roundtables (4/1-5/27):** As part of our professional development plan, Deputy Chief Braun schedule programmatic round tables twice a month for Case managers and Work release Coordinators. The following meetings and topics were held this quarter:
- 5/27/10: HHS's Eugene Morris spoke regarding services and appropriate referrals to the County's ACCESS to Behavioral Health; Discussion on new intake procedures;
  - 4/15/2010: Discussion and clarification of the "work first philosophy with Division Chief;
  - 4/1/2010: Discussion of medical procedures and protocols Lynn Williams, PRRS Nurse Practitioner.
- 12. DOCR's Fiscal Services (5/18):** PRRS welcomed the Department's Fiscal Services section to its division. Under the re-organization, this section which pays the Department's bills and manages the custodial trust accounts is housed at the Pre-Release Center. The section is led by Fiscal Services Manager Florence Bartlett.
- 13. New Transport Protocol (5/17):** PRRS assumed direct responsibility for transferring new residents from the detention facilities to PRC on Monday mornings. Previously, correctional officers from the detention facilities transferred residents on Sunday nights. The change saves on staffing costs and also has programmatic benefits.
- 14. Urbana High School Sociology Class Visit (4/28):** Former PRRS intern and current Public School teacher Colleen Bernard arranged for a class visit to PRRS..
- 15. Welcome Home (5/5-6/28):** Program update as follows:
- Melissa attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Caregiver's Conference on May 5<sup>th</sup> put on by Interfaith Works, which offered excellent resources about programs offered in Montgomery County;
  - Dr. Donald McCrabb, Welcome Home Program consultant, facilitated two separate training sessions this past quarter for mentors (held at the Washington Theological Union). The first was a Listening Skills Session presented on May 8<sup>th</sup> and the second was a session held on July 10<sup>th</sup> focused on Discerning Mentee Needs and Values-Motivated Responses. Both were a great success and mentors reported that they were very helpful.
  - An orientation session for prospective mentors was held on May 19<sup>th</sup> at PRC. Ten volunteers attended the session and are all in various stages of the process to becoming matched mentors.

- An ongoing support session for current mentors was held on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The topic, which was presented by Michael J. Bohman, LCSW-C (Director of Assertive Community Treatment Services) was Mental Health Issues in the mentoring relationship. Michael addressed the following learning objectives: understanding mental health issues, mental illnesses, focusing on recovery, stages of change and intervention strategies.
- The Welcome Home Program participated in the Archdiocese of Washington's Social Ministry Conference on June 12<sup>th</sup>. We held a workshop, spotlighting the relationship between a mentor and mentee, and presented information about the program in an effort to recruit volunteers.
- The Welcome Home Program in MC held its first mentee support group meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The turnout and participation from the mentees was inspiring and exciting. We held a raffle (of often needed items such as an alarm clock, backpack, wallets, umbrellas and metro cards) for those who attended. They shared stories, suggestions and insight over dinner. We are planning to do this on a quarterly basis.

### Visits/Events/Meetings

1. 7/22: Four representatives of the Clinton County Correctional Facility from McElhattan, Pennsylvania are visiting PRRS.
2. 7/20-21: Six representatives from the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative visited PRRS.
3. 7/20: Six PRRS residents performed community service at Strathmore Music Hall and assisted with landscaping. The County's Department of General Services asked PRRS for this help, and Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas arranged.
4. 7/19: Four representatives from the Montgomery County Police Department's records division visited PRRS in a visited hosted by AQSM Tina Michaels.
5. 7/14: WRC Hillel Raskas attended a Friends of the Conservation Corps meeting as part of his role as a board member. The Conservation Corps provides training and education opportunities for youth and serves PRRS residents.
6. 7/8: Former State Attorney and Retired Judge Andy Sonner visited PRRS.
7. 7/1: Premiere showing of a student film on female reentry that included participation from PRRS residents and staff. The students from the Institute for Documentary Filmmaking at George Washington University spent several days filming at the Pre-Release Center, and the films credits acknowledged the program's support. Case Manager Cindy Boyd, DCFS James Shannon, and two PRRS residents attended the showing at the Jack Morton Auditorium on the GW campus.
8. 6/28: Representatives from the Maryland State Division of Correction, Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, and the Division of Probation and Parole visited PRRS as part of their effort to improve correctional education and reentry programming at the state level.

9. 6/26: Several PRRS residents assisted organizers with Lincoln Park Community Day. Most of the resident participating had ties to this community and this assistance was organized by DCFS James Shannon.
10. 6/25: Two US Federal Probation officers visited PRRS from the Western District of Virginia. They met with residents from their jurisdiction and expressed their appreciation for services provided by PRRS to their soon-to-be clients.
11. 6/23: Michael Subin, Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordination Commission, visited PRRS and discussed the NIC proposal mentioned above. County Council Liaison Linda McMillan joined the meeting as well.
12. 6/17: Division Chief LoBuglio attended Thursday night drug court along with the preparatory case management meeting.
13. 6/14: County Council Member Phil Andrews convened a meeting with the DOCR Director, PRRS Division Chief, Montgomery County Probation Chief; State Attorney Deputy, and two County Council liaisons to discuss the importance sharing resources and coordinating actions between the County's correctional system and the State's probation and parole agency.
14. 6/14: Lawrence Wilder, Special Assistant to the Virginia Department of Education and a member of the State Reentry Task Force visited PRRS as part of a fact finding tour of notable reentry programs.
15. 6/7: Division Chief LoBuglio was a plenary speaker at the Mid-Atlantic States Correctional Association Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey.
16. 5/25: Work Release Coordinator Carlos Mellot appeared on Montgomery County's Spanish language show "Que Pasa?" as part of PRRS' outreach to the Latino community. On 4/22 he appeared on the program Revista Semanal. Also, on March 18, reporter Alex Ortiz-Cañas wrote an article in the Archdiocese's newspaper El Pregonero about PRRS which quoted several residents and Work Release Coordinator Sylvia Hernández who hosted the visit.
17. 5/17: Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas and the Division Chief met with a group of administrators from churches in the county at Saint Andrew Lutheran Church who are interested in planning a job fair that would involve individuals with criminal histories. The group is called People-4-People partners.
18. 5/13: Executive Director of OASIS Marcy Drozdowicz met with PRRS staff and expressed interest in whether her organization good arrange outreach to PRRS residents. Oasis provides adult learning opportunities for older adults in the County. As a result of the meeting, a female resident was able to enroll in a fitness class run by Oassis, Marcy provided a morning of gardening services with residents at PRRS, and Oassis may provide PRRS with a computer instructor (see above).

19. 5/11: Case Management Technology Specialist Sharon Gibbs Cooper from the University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Service and Research (IGSR) provided onsite training to Resident Supervisor Ivan Downing on the drug testing collection software system, known as Smart, used by PRRS.
20. 5/5: AQSM Tina Michaels attended a meeting of the National Committee on Community Corrections in Washington D.C.
21. 5/5: PRRS staff members attended a Drug Court graduation at which PRRS was thanked for its important support to the program. Approximately 16% of drug court participants live at PRRS, and almost 50% have participated in the PRRS program as part of their Drug Court requirement.
22. 5/4: WRC Sylvia Hernandez and Carlos Mellot attended the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board's Youth Council Meeting. PRRS has been invited to have a representative on the board of the Council.
23. 4/27: PRRS hosted a visit from representatives from the Czech Republic. They included two deputies from the Ministry of Justice and the warden of a female prison.
24. 4/23: Newsweek Reporter Ellis Close visited PRRS, toured the building, met staff, and spent an hour alone with a handful for residents.
25. 4/21 – AQSM Tina Michaels joined the DOCR Director and the MCCF Warden in a meeting with District Court judges about looking at alternatives to weekender sentences.

## **Personnel**

### **1. Departures**

- Unit Manager Angela Talley's position was abolished as part of the DOCR's cutbacks, and she concluded her nineteen year career with PRRS in June. Fortunately, she interviewed and was selected for a managerial position with the County's HHS's juvenile justice program.
- Unit Manager Chris Johnson's position was abolished as part of the DOCR's cutbacks, and she concluded her four-year tenure with PRRS in June. Fortunately, she interviewed and was selected for a managerial position with the DOCR as a Deputy Warden at MCCF.
- Principal Administrative Assistant Janet Grier's position was abolished as part of the DOCR's cutbacks, and she concluded her four year tenure with PRRS in June. Fortunately, she interviewed and was selected for a support position with the Montgomery County Police Department's record's division.
- Resident Supervisor Roddy Monahan retired on June 30 after a 27-career with the DOCR beginning first as an intern for one year, serving as an officer for seven, and completing his career at PRRS.

- Office Service Coordinator Becky Fitzgerald retired after 30+ years with the County. She began as a Crossing Guard, as was the OSC to all three of the Department's Division Chiefs in its history.
- Case Manager Nichole Davis completed a decade of service with PRRS as an intern, Resident Supervisor, and Case Manager on July 16, and she is relocating to Texas.
- Work Release Coordinator Carlos Mellot announced his resignation as of July 26 for a new position with MCGEO. He has served as a Resident Supervisor and Work Release Coordinator at PRRS during his two year tenure.

## 2. Arrivals

- a. Resident Danilo Chamarro joined PRRS on July 6 and is currently receiving four weeks of on-the-job training. His position with the Department of General Services was abolished and he interviewed and was selected for the RS position.
- b. Office Service Coordinator Andrea Gardner joined PRRS on July 7. She was formerly with the County's Department of Technology Services' Office of Cable and Communication Services for four years. Her position was abolished and she interviewed and was selected for the PRRS OSC position.

## 3. Training

- a. Cindy Boyd attended Motivational Interviewing training at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.
- b. Resident Supervisors Paula Zapata, Ivan Downing and Case Managers Don Meyers and Cindy Boyds each attended one-day training on Crime Scene Management and Evidence Preservation in the Correctional Facility either on May 5 or June 2.
- c. Resident Supervisor Mark Myrick completed a training titled Introduction to Safety and Health for Supervisors on June 3 and 4 offered by Maryland Occupational Safety and Health

## Personnel

1. **Integrated and Updated Fire Alarm:** The County's Fire Marshall's signed off on a \$175,000 fire alarm system that provides superior notification and detection capabilities than the obsolete system it replaced. The County's Department of General Services managed this project from conception to completion and used a private contractor to install the system.
2. **PRC Kitchen Renovation (6/28):** The County Council has approved the plans to design the expansion of the PRC kitchen as part of the FY'11 Capital Improvement projects and allocated \$233,000. The current kitchen dates to the opening of the PRC in 1978 and was designed to serve a population half of which currently exists at the Pre-Release Center.
3. **Air Conditioning Unit Failure:** PRRS Central Support Services and Department of General Services are working hard to address numerous problems with the air conditioning units in

resident rooms at PRRS. Out of 90 rooms, 26 units were not working at the height of the heat wave, and DGS has accelerated efforts to repair all units. PRRS will keep six rooms offline that have units that cannot be repaired in the near term.

**Population Served**

	April	May	June
Local ADP	110.1	133.8	126.1
Federal ADP	37.7	35.6	43.6
State ADP	4.7	4.8	4.5
Total APD	152.4	174.2	157.6
PRC ADP	142.1	155.5	186.2
Home Confinement ADP	10.3	18.7	28.6

**Escapes/Court Hearings: Two escapes to report in Calendar Year 2010**

1. **Escapee Thomas Taylor (6/19):** This former resident escaped from PRRS on 6/19 after he left PRC on an approved pass. He was caught shop lifting CDs at a big box retail store and resisted arrest. In the course of the arrest, he injured two police officers and a store security guard. He is charged with second degree assault, malicious destruction of property, theft under \$100, and making a false statement to a Peace Officer.
2. **Escapee Tyrone Slade:** This former resident escaped on Saturday, March 27 at 6:30pm and was on fugitive status for 62 hours. He was apprehended on March 30, 2010. His court date for the escape charge is Monday, September 20, at 9:30AM.