

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION
Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division
Chief's Report To the Community Advisory Board
February 15, 2007 – May 24, 2007

Highlights

- **DOCR Employee of the Year:** PRRS Resident Supervisor Andre Stepp was chosen for this award for his outstanding performance over his nine-year tenure with the Department. He joined the Department after earning his undergraduate degree at Howard University, and skillfully monitors and assists program clients on Unit 3. In addition to managing his considerable RS duties, he serves as the PRRS Escape Officer and also registers newly-arriving sex offenders with the police. He will receive recognition for this honor at the Department's award ceremony on 5/30/07 and at a state correctional association ceremony on June 3 in Ocean City.
- **MDP Graduate:** PRRS Screener Tina Michaels graduated from the first class of the County's new Management Development Program on May 11th, and completed all of the requirements of this rigorous 18-month program. Tina was selected as one of two DOCR employees to participate in this program that is aimed to provide leadership and management training to promising County employees.
- **Personnel Hires/Changes:** The Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division prides itself on its commitment to professional development of its staff and is pleased to note that Interns Carmon Polanco, Elizabeth Ressler, and Andrew Lauter have been promoted to Resident Supervisors. Andrew is working on Unit II and Carmon and Elizabeth are working on Unit IV. New Correctional Dietary Officer Richard Austin started working in April. CDO Austin recently had retired from the State Division of Corrections. Also, PRRS recognizes the outstanding contribution of Home Confinement Monitor Sara Prioko and Case Manager Frank Rini who both recently transferred to DOCR's Pre-Trial Division.
- **PRRS Research Milestone:** CAB member Shawn Marie Flower was graduated from the University of Maryland on May 21 with a Doctor of Philosophy for a dissertation topic supported by PRRS. The 192-page paper titled "Predicting Success in the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center: The Actuarial Efficacy of the Selection Suitability Scale," examined the program performance of 600 residents who were enrolled in the program from 2001 to 2004 and found a significant and positive relationship between the screening assessment predictor and the residents' overall performance on three outcome measures. Her study represents one of the first doctoral level research efforts at PRRS.
- **PRRS Program:** PRRS introduced a newly developed program called "Tools for Change" that aims to provide carefully selected residents an opportunity to examine past behaviors that led to their involvement in the criminal justice system and to learn alternative ways of thinking and problem solving. These types of Cognitive Behavioral programs have been

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proven effective in the correctional literature, and this program's development and implementation represents the first of several new evidenced-based programs to be introduced at PRRS. PRRS staff Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun, Case Manager Pernell Shaw, and Case Manager Frank Rini (now with Pre-Trial) led this effort.

The first Tools for Change class began on February 13, 2007. The curriculum consists of twenty sessions. The first ten sessions, which provide a framework for the remaining sessions, are offered during the first two weeks an offender is at PRC. The remaining ten sessions are offered one time per week, for ten weeks, as an aftercare component. Residents are selected for inclusion in this program based upon their total score on the Texas Christian University's Criminal Thinking Survey and the resident's level of risk/need as assessed by the Level of Service Inventory-Revised, in the area of Attitudes and Orientation. To date, there have been six sessions of the program offered with a total of fifty-nine residents served.

GED and Pre-GED classes are offered on a continuous basis for residents of the Center. Since January 2007, approximately thirty six residents have taken classes at the Center. So far this year, we have one resident who has obtained his GED.

Tutoring - Since January 2007, five residents have been paired with tutors. One resident continued to receive tutoring services after his release for approximately one month before he dropped out of the program.

Sponsor Support groups continue to be offered three times per week.

- PRRS Case Managers' Roundtables are held twice a month in the afternoon and focus on a topic related to reentry. The topics presented since January 2007 include:
 - The Case Manager's Role in Disciplinary Hearings - Tina Michaels
 - Overview of Hamden County Reentry Program
 - Financial Management, Training for Trainers (Part 1) - Rosemary Hill
 - Financial Management, Training for Trainers (Part 2) - Rosemary Hill
 - Gang Training - Tate Safford
 - Tools for Change Presentation - Frank Rini, Pernell Shaw, and Patricia Braun
 - Welcome Home program (Update and Referral Procedure) - Mary Mulholland
 - Path Program - Kim Bell, MC Health and Human Services
 - Second Genesis Sex Offender Program - Stephen Price
 - African American Male Empowerment Network - Ludley Howard
 - Hannah Sassoon (Sheriff's Department MC County)
 - Counseling Plus
- **Welcome Home Program:** Over the past two months, the Archdiocese of Washington's reentry program has identified 94 individuals interested in mentoring and providing services to PRRS residents. Program Coordinator Mary Mulholland and Program Founder Michael Bryant have conducted extensive outreach, have spoken at church services in nine parishes, met with numerous pastors, hosted visits at the PRRS by two parish social justice

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committees, attended interfaith breakfasts, and held meetings with many social service providers. By the end of June, five training sessions will have been completed, and the program has already placed a number of talented volunteers to work with PRRS residents in a variety of ways including educational tutoring and providing employment assistance. Future program development will include collaboration with Parole and Probation and developing a post-release mentoring component. CAB member Shawn Flower -- with her newly minted PhD -- is assisting the Archdiocese develop and evaluate this program.

- **Women's Weekly Groups:** In January, PRRS opened up Unit 1 as a self-standing unit for female residents in order to provide more gender-specific and trauma-informed services to this important population. Since then, Unit 1 staff -- (Unit Manager Stephanie Hall, Community Release Coordinator Debra Lyons-Prince, Case Manager Kendra Terry, Resident Supervisor Sandra McQueen) -- have actively supported a Women's Weekly Group that addresses a number of important topics. Some of the recruited speakers and topics of these groups include: Montgomery County Speaker's Bureau -- Presentation on Food & Mood; Women's Empowerment Workshop -- Stacy Dyson; Life Coach Katherine Lewis; Christian Outreach Group; Life Skills Workshop's employment services; Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition services; Legal Aid Representative; Health and Wellness, outside counseling services; Commission on Women's Personal Development Workshops; spiritual/religious services at the Rose of Sharon and "There's Hope" Christian churches; housing information; employment and skills training; and image, and wardrobe mentoring.
- **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition:** Two PRRS residents were selected to become residents of the Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition's three year Re-Entry Program. These women were selected after several rigorous interview panels where they were screened for motivation, level of commitment, and their overall investment to the strengthening of their families. They both have release dates in July 2007 and will each be provided a two-bedroom fully furnished apartment for them and their children. They will also be assigned a case manager as well as mentors and PRC and Probation Staff will maintain involvement for full "wrap around" services. They will be eligible for other HOC housing after successfully completing this three year re-entry phase and over the next week, PRC Case Manager Kendra Terry will be assisting these women in the completion of their packets for final HOC review. We do not anticipate any problems in that final process and we are eager and excited for both Rachel and Jacqueline as they begin this next exciting phase in their journeys.
- **Federal Bureau of Prisons Contract:** The Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division has signed a three-year contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to continue to serve as a pre-release placement location for federal inmates returning to Montgomery County and the Greater Washington area. The new contract codifies the application of PRRS policies and procedures to federal residents and updates a number of provisions from the prior 1999 agreement. The contract review process resulted in increases in the per diem rate paid by the FBOP from \$75.00 to \$113.47 per day for the Pre-Release Center and from \$45.00 to \$68.08 for Home Confinement and most importantly continues this excellent professional relationship that serves the mutual interests of PRRS and FBOP and the federal residents.

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- **Electronic Monitoring Contract:** PRRS will soon terminate the current contract with a vendor of electronic monitoring services due to poor performance, and will issue an emergency contract with a new vendor. This equipment is used to monitor program clients both on the home confinement program and PRC residents whose criminal offense (e.g. sex offense) or job situation (e.g. furniture mover) requires PRRS to monitor them more closely when they are in the community.
- **Job Development (May 2, 2007):** The County Executive's staff provided PRRS with an employer contract who expressed interest in hiring residents from the Pre-Release Center for a job in Hyattsville that manufactured high-end security doors and windows. Within two weeks, PRRS staff confirmed the interest by letter and telephone, held a conference call with the plant manager, conducted a site visit, and transported four carefully selected candidates from the Pre-Release Center for interviews to the company. One individual was hired and started on May 18th. Credit goes to the three Work Release Coordinators who worked collaboratively, efficiently, and quickly to develop this opportunity.
- **Disciplinary Policy:** PRRS implemented a new disciplinary policy that was carefully researched to meet the standards of substantive and procedural due process laid out by several key Supreme Court decisions.
- **Kitchen Expansion (March 30):** At DOCR's request, the County has initiated a capital planning process to expand and modernize the kitchen and cafeteria area of the Pre-Release Center. When built in 1978, the kitchen was designed to serve 80 residents and now the program has grown to serve 170 individuals. An architectural company was hired and has completed the first phase of drawings and plans.
- **PRRS Community Advisory Board Subcommittees:** The three CAB subcommittees which were officially formed at the February 15, 2007 CAB meeting met at least once to develop goals and planned activities for the year. CAB members Cherise Burdeen, Tomi Hiers, and Eric Brenner are the respective chairs of the Community Education and Outreach (CEO), Membership, and Research subcommittees and will report on the their subcommittee meetings on 2/15/2007. Some of the ideas discussed include hosting an employer appreciation breakfast in December (CEO), identifying former PRRS consumers for the board and increasing its diversity (Membership), and tracking the effect of the program on the client's children (Research).

Event/Activity Chronology

- **Miami Dade County (February 26, 2007):** Approximately 20 representatives including County Commissioners and other elected officials and their staff toured MCCF and PRRS. This jurisdiction is currently revamping its correctional system and is considering creating a community-based program as well as expanding its jail.
- **Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (February 27, 2007):** Gina Clay, Assistant Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards

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presented an award to our program for receiving 100% compliance with the seventy-four state correctional standards. This is a significant accomplishment for our program and staff.

- **Coalition for the Homeless (March 1, 2007):** The PRRS hosted the March meeting of the Coalition for the Homeless. This organization has been a champion in developing strategies to reduce homelessness and increase affordable housing alternatives in Montgomery County.
- **Hennepin County, MN (March 2, 2007):** Program Director and Contract Manager Ron Weisborg spent the morning visiting MCCF and PRRS with the PRRS Division Chief. Hennepin County has long been an innovator in community corrections and Stefan had visited their programs in September of 2006.
- **NACO Legislative Conference (March 4, 2007):** PRRS hosted a tour on Sunday, March 4th for county officials and representatives from across the country that were in town attending the National Association of Counties legislative conference.
- **White Flint Sector Planning (March 5, 2007):** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission hosted a large evening meeting at their Silver Spring Office at which developers and land owners in the White Flint area presented conceptual ideas for buildings and land use. The area surrounding the pre-release center is poised to undergo significant redevelopment in the next decade.
- **University of Maryland Student Projects (March – May):** Two groups of graduate students from Professor Peter Reuter's Policy Analysis Class conducted studies at PRRS to examine the management of sex offenders and the types and suitability of jobs obtained by residents. Dr. Reuter is one of the nation's premier analysts on drug policy, and PRRS Screener Tina Michael coordinated these studies at the facility.
- **Faye Taxman (March 13, 2007):** Noted researcher of community correction programs from Virginia Commonwealth University, Faye Taxman, provided two separate trainings for PRRS staff to review the recent literature on best practices in community corrections and specifically the importance of interpersonal communication skills.
- **Singapore Corrections Director's Visit (March 16, 2007):** The Singapore Corrections Director and staff from his agency visited the DOCR on March 16th and toured MCCF and PRRS. They were participating in a reentry conference in Baltimore. and contacted the DOCR Director Art Wallenstein with their request to view the County's reentry programs.
- **International Association of Reentry (March 19, 2007):** The DOCR Director, MCCF Warden, and PRRS Division Chief presented a workshop titled "Offender Reentry at the Local Level – The County and Corrections." The workshop session was well-attended.
- **Second Chance Act of 2007 (March 20, 2007):** PRRS Division Chief represented the Department and testified before the House Committee on the Judiciary concerning federal legislation that would provide resources for reentry programs nationwide. He participated

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- in two additional briefings for congressional staff on April 20 and May 16 hosted by Representatives John Conyers (D-IL), Danny Davis (D-IL), and Bobby Scott (D-VA).
- **Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet (March 21, 2007):** Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas and the PRRS Division Chief attended the Wheaton and Kensington Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. Many area businesses are members of this organization and the event provided excellent networking opportunities with employers and local officials.
 - **Victim Services Advisory Board (March 22, 2007):** Unit Manager Marsha Engel and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio attended the County's Victim Services Advisory Board evening meeting and provided an overview of PRRS programs and the programmatic challenges to ensure that the needs and rights of victims are respected. They presented the draft outline of a new policy and procedure that will govern how PRRS works with cases involving victims – both those that wish no further contact and those that seek to resume contact with their perpetrators.
 - **Just Faith Groups (March 27, 2007):** Welcome Home Coordinator Mary Mulholland hosted visits to the Pre-Release Center from groups within two local parishes -- St. Peter's (Olney) and St. Francis' (Derwood) -- which explore different topics related to social justice and faith.
 - **City of Baltimore Mayor's Office (March 28, 2007):** Staff from the City of Baltimore's Office of the Mayor visited the PRRS facility on March 28th. They are researching the issue of jail reentry, and PRRS Community Advisory Board member Felix Mata recommended our program to them.
 - **State's Attorney's Office (April 13, 2007):** The PRRS Division Chief met with State's Attorney John McCarthy and his Deputy John Maloney to discuss continued ways to collaborate on prosecuting escapees and providing services to the offender population. At the meeting, SAO McCarthy assigned Assistant State's Attorney Deborah Armstrong to represent the SAO on the Community Advisory Board and to also serve as the lead for escape prosecutions. Ms. Armstrong knows the PRRS program well having served on the Community Advisory Board some years ago.
 - **Montgomery County's Best Honor Awards Program for 2006 (April 16, 2007):** PRRS Support Services Manager Eleanor Walker and Unit Manager James Shannon were recognized as part of a team of staff from DOCR and HHS that helped consolidate drug testing in the County for the purpose of accuracy, efficiency, and cost savings.
 - **Federal Bureau of Prisons Monitoring Visit (April 18, 2007):** FBOP Contract Manager William Cimino conducted a quarterly monitoring visit of PRRS and found no deficiencies in the program's performance. During his visit, he reviewed files, interviewed residents and staff, and examined the facility's sanitary conditions. In Mr. Cimino's report, he noted several concerns regarding the timeliness of performance reports that will be immediately addressed.

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- **Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Meeting (April 18, 2007):** Work Release Coordinator Christine Johnson was a guest speaker at the Mid Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's luncheon meeting. The Mid Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce includes the greater Silver Spring, Hyattsville, and Bethesda Chapters. Christine Johnson spoke about the work she does and the goals of the Pre-Release Center. She also spoke about the increasing Hispanic population within the jail and at PRC stressing the Department's belief in the importance of getting these men and women employed before they are finally released.
- **Law Enforcement and Reentry (April 19, 2007):** The Division Chief participated in a day long review of a soon-to-be released publication on the topic of Reentry and Law Enforcement. The event, sponsored by the Council of State Government, Police Executive Research Forum, Urban Institute, and International Association of Chiefs of Police, gathered together a number of police and correctional practitioners, federal agency officials, and policy makers from around the country to provide feedback on a 150-page publication that describes ways that law enforcement and correctional agencies can collaborate to promote public safety and community well-being.
- **Volunteers of America in Baltimore (April 20, 2007):** Program Director Victor Caldora and five program staff from VOA toured PRRS and were given a program overview by Unit Manager Jim Shannon.
- **MC Revenue Authority (April 20, 2007):** Executive Director Keith Miller visited PRRS to discuss employment opportunities for residents at the County's golf courses. The visit was arranged by Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas and involved all of the WRCs.
- **NAACP 2007 Annual Freedom Fund Dinner (April 22, 2007):** The DOCR had a full table at this Sunday evening event sponsored by the Montgomery County Chapter of NAACP. The DOCR has a solid record of performance in diversity recruitment, retention and promotion and is committed to treating prisoners humanely, and these are major priorities of the County chapter.
- **The Urban Institute and the Annie E. Casey Foundation (April 23, 2007):** The PRRS Division Chief participated in a session on "Discharge Planning for Successful Prisoner Reentry" conducted by the Urban Institute and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This session engaged a group of practitioners from around the country to discuss the many issues related to discuss discharge planning for different incarcerated populations.
- **National Community Corrections Center (April 27, 2007):** The PRRS Division Chief attended the quarterly meeting of the NCCC and heard a presentation by Michael Thompson of the Council of State Governments on the technical assistance his organization provides to states to reduce the need to expand prison beds. This meeting is attended by a number of federal agency officials, major associations, current and retired correction practitioners, and policy makers.

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- **Welcome Home Training (March 24 & May 2, 2007):** Welcome Home Coordinator Mary Mulholland and Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun held training sessions for volunteers/mentors interested in providing services to PRRS. The first session was a full-day training on a Saturday and the second was an evening training.
- **AJA Publication (May 3, 2007):** The March/April edition of the American Jail Association's magazine American Jails has reprinted an article on jail recidivism co-authored by Martha Lyman, EdD., Research Director at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department and the PRRS Division Chief.
- **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (May 5, 2007):** Many DOCR staff joined over 225 individuals to attend the Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of fallen correctional employees at Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. Two of the fallen correctional staff honored were from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and their families were present. The DOCR Honor Guard participated in every aspect of the ceremony and several DOCR staff attended with their family members. DOCR Chaplain Russell Isler was a key participant in the ceremony, presenting the invocation and prayers when the honors were presented for each of the fallen correctional staff members.
- **County Executive Special Assistants' Visit (May 8, 2007):** Two Special Assistants to the County Executive -- Jennifer Hughes and Chuck Short -- visited the Pre-Release Center on May 8th. The senior management team briefed them with a short programmatic overview and tour. They also visited MCDC and MCCF.
- **New Health and Human Services Director's Visit (May 15, 2007):** PRRS hosted a visit for Uma S. Ahluwalia, the newly appointed Director of Health and Human Services for Montgomery County. DOCR collaborates extensively with HHS. At the detention facilities, HHS employees staff the mental health diversion program called CATS, the substance abuse program called JAS, and several other reentry programs.
- **District Court SAO Assistants (May 16, 2007):** PRRS hosted 16 prosecutors with the State's Attorney's Office for a program overview and tour. SAO District Court Prosecution Director Margaret Schweitzer organized the event with the Division Chief to educate the prosecutors about the PRRS program. Many questions were asked concerning the screening and placement process at PRRS.
- **Berks County, PA (May 17, 2007):** Four representatives from the Berks County Correctional Department who are on the transition team to open up a new Pre-Release Facility visited PRRS to learn more about our program. After a tour and overview, PRRS provided them with a complete copy of the Department's policies and procedures, resident guidebook, and position descriptions.
- **County Public Information Officer (May 23, 2007):** Patrick Lacefield, the Director of the County's Office of Public Information, visited PRRS for a tour and program overview.

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- **Winning Fathers Demonstration Program (May 23, 2007):** Three representatives from the County's Department of Health and Human Services spoke to PRRS case managers about a new federal grant program to develop a fatherhood program for residents. The five year grant is intended to assist residents develop a better relationship with their children and can also assist with couple counseling and child custodial issues.

Upcoming Events

- **White Flint Sector Plan Meeting At PRC (June 13, 2007):** Margaret Rifkin, Lead Planner/Urban Designer, of the Community-Based Planning Division of the Montgomery County Department of Planning will be meeting with PRRS staff to discuss the future of the White Flint area.
- **German Delegation Visit (June 16, 2007):** Former CAB member Marlene Beckman from the National Institute of Justice has arranged for PRRS to host a delegation from Germany on Saturday, June 16. Senior staff will provide an overview of the program and a tour of the facility. The delegation will also tour the District of Columbia Department of Corrections.
- **American Probation and Parole Association (July, 2007):** The DOCR Director 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 (January 2008):** The DOCR will present a workshop at the Winter conference of the ACA in Grapevine, Texas on jail reentry. Reverend Tim Warner from St. Marks United Methodist Church will co-present with DOCR staff.

Escapes/Court Dispositions since February 15, 2007:

Escapes

- **Escapes since January 1, 2007 = Two**
 - **Ismail Meredith:** Former Resident Meredith escaped on May 20 after two female minors were found in his room. He was returned to custody on May 21 and is now facing escape charges. The new minors were on run away status and entered the escapee's room after he broke the window. Montgomery County Police responded immediately and the minors were arrested, handcuffed and charged with 3rd degree burglary, trespass, and trespass in a government building.
 - **Jose Encarnacion** escaped from the PRC on April 1, 2007. He will have a Motion Hearing on June 28th, Jury Trial on July 11th, and a Disposition Hearing on July 20th.

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Past Escapee Dispositions

- **Todd Watson** (Escape Trial April 9, 2007): Todd Watson was sentenced to one year by Judge Paul H. Weinstein of Circuit Court for Escape. This one year sentence will begin in July 2007 when his original sentence for Second Degree Assault concludes. He escaped from the Pre-Release Center on December 21, 2006 and turned himself in on January 7, 2007.
- **James Chase** (Escape Reconsideration Hearing April 11, 2007): James Chase was denied a reconsideration hearing in regard to his Escape sentence by Judge Paul H. Weinstein. Judge Weinstein stated that Mr. Chase has not earned the right to have his sentence reduced. Mr. Chase's escape sentence does not begin until August 2007.
- **Steven Quarles** (Indecent Exposure Reconsideration Hearing April 11, 2007): Mr. Quarles had received an 18 month sentence, plus two years probation with treatment ordered as a condition, for Indecent Exposure to a PRRS staff member. Judge Durke Thompson suspended four of the eighteen months sentence stating that the punishment had been served and Mr. Quarles would be returning to sex offender treatment on probation.

One Escapee at large: Gerardo Leon Torres escaped on December 2, 2005.