

**Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division
Chief's Report to the Community Advisory Board
June 8, 2006**

Noteworthy Activities

- **Jail Reentry Roundtable (June 27 – 28, 2005):** Montgomery County DOCR along with the Urban Institute and John Jay College of Criminal Justice will host a two day national conference on jail re-entry issues to be held at the Urban Institute in the District of Columbia. The conference will involve top policy makers, practitioners, and academics from across the country that will convene to discuss jail reentry from several different perspectives. The conference has commissioned seven papers on issues that will be discussed at the conference including: rural jails, female offenders, post-release integration, offender flow, reentry planning, community stakeholders, post-release supervision, recidivism, and public safety.
- **American Correctional Association Accreditation Monitoring Visit (May 31, 2006):** As the final step in the re-accreditation process for the Pre-Release Center, an ACA auditor conducted a monitoring visit on May 31, 2006. The Monitoring visit was successful and the auditor found the program in compliance with all of the ACA's 17 mandatory standards and 232 out of 235 non-mandatory standards for an overall compliance rate of 99%.
- **Annual Correctional Officers Week Awards Program:** On May 11, 2006, DOCR held the Annual Correctional Officers Week Awards Program at the Public Safety Training Academy. Special Appreciation Awards were given to PRRS Community Advisory Board members John Lavigne (Public Defender's Office) for his commitment to chair the CAB over the past sixteen years, Assistant State's Attorney Tom Degonia for his relentless prosecution of PRRS escapees, and Executive Director Norma Jennings (Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition) for developing a program that assists female residents find affordable housing in the County. Assistant County Attorney Joanne Brown (Office of the County Attorney) received a Special Appreciation Certificate for her support of women's programs at the Pre-Release Center. The following PRRS staff received awards:
 - **PRRS Division Employee of the Year:** Teresa Still, Assessment Services and Accreditation Manager

PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee

June 8, 2006

- **Outstanding Performance Award:** Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun, Correctional Screener Tina Michaels, Home Confinement Resident Supervisor Sara Piorko, Support Services Manager Eleanor Walker, Case Manager Kendra Terry, and Case Manager Sylvia Hernandez,
- **Outstanding Performance Certificate:** Resident Supervisor Andre Stepp

Significant Program Developments

- **Case Management:** PRRS has implemented a new ratings and level system to assess the participation of residents/clients in the program. This new ratings and level system will replace a rating system used since the late 70's. The new system has more milestones tied to tangible reentry tasks such as obtaining identification documents and provides greater flexibility of movement between levels by removing time requirements between them. Residents who are highly motivated and who are able to accomplish expected tasks can quickly move to the highest levels which positions them to receive more privileges. The new system was developed after several months of study by a staff committee led by Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun and Assessment Screener Tina Michaels.
- **Career Development Resource Center:** PRRS Career Development Resource Center is now open. With new ten computers, residents are allowed limited access to approved sites on the internet for job search purposes. PRRS will work in close coordination with One-Stop Career centers in the County and at MCCF.
- **Housing Opportunity Commission/Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition/PRRS:** The County's HOC was successful at changing some administrative rules to allow carefully selected individuals with non-violent criminal histories to utilize HOC housing programs. Through a collaborative with SSIHC, a program has been developed that will serve female residents at PRC. The program had its first client on May 3rd, and expects to serve at least five more for the remainder of the year.
- **Faith-Based Initiative:** PRRS will work closely with the Archdiocese of Washington on a new Archdiocesan reentry initiative called Welcome Home that focuses on identifying and training mentors who may assist offenders returning from jail and prison to Montgomery County. The initiative received the support of the County Council, and the Archdiocese and PRRS are exploring whether it can be located at the PRC.
- **Family Justice:** PRRS contracted with Family Justice, a non-profit organization based in NYC, to provide a review and technical assistance on the ways that PRRS involves family in the reentry process. This organization runs the award winning program, La Familia de La Bodega, which serves individuals with criminal histories and their families in the City's lower eastside. The review will be completed in August, and based on the final report's recommendations, PRRS may choose to continue to work with Family Justice to implement new strategies of family involvement in the reentry process.

PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee

June 8, 2006

- **Program Review Committee:** Unit Manager Jane Sachs along with other staff including Tina Michaels and Patricia Braun, have been reviewing programming at PRC, and are planning to develop and implement a cognitive behavioral therapeutic program onsite. CBT have been found effective in many correctional settings, and aim to address "criminal thinking" patterns.
- **Mental Health Reentry Services between PRRS and Community Providers:** PRRS staff continues to work with the county's HHS agency, particularly the ACCESS program, and our Departmental psychiatrist to develop more robust systems that can provide transitional services to individuals with mental health needs.
- **Electronic Monitoring Contract Awarded:** Isecuretrac was awarded the electronic monitoring vender contract. Isecuretrac equipment offers the ability to provide direct contact with the clients and frequent updates on the clients' locations using GPS technology. The alcohol testing equipment is different from the current equipment and will provide visual confirmation rather than a voice confirmation when an individual is tested from a remote location.
- **New Contract Physician and Medical Update:** Dr. Dadgar was awarded the physician contract effective July 1, 2006. Dr. Dadgar is familiar with our operation as he worked with the Department some years ago. Unit IV Manager Jane Sachs now oversees the Medical Services for PRRS in coordination with the Department's Medical Section. Tony Sturgess (Manager of the DOCR Medical Section) is working with the Maryland Board of Nurses about medication training for PRRS staff.
- **Drug Court:** On May 16th, Judge Nelson W. Rupp, Jr. of Circuit Court presided over the first graduation of drug court with a gala affair. In his comments, Judge Rupp was generous in praising PRRS for agreeing to support the program by housing those drug court participants who needed the residential services and structure provided by the reentry program.
- **PRRS Guidebook Revision:** The first major revision of The Pre-Release Center Guidebook since 2003 has been sent to the Print Shop. Many program changes have taken place and policy and procedures have been revised. Disciplinary procedures and levels (formerly phases) have been addressed and the revised Guidebook is more readable and will include pictures. Unit Manager Marsha Engel is leading the revision of the Guidebook.
- **Weekly Inspection Tours:** PRRS weekly inspection tours continue of the entire facility (inside and out) on Thursday mornings by all Managers and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio. The facility is looking better and repairs and deficiencies are now quickly being handled either by staff or the County's Facilities and Services staff.

PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee
June 8, 2006

Visitors/Tours/Events

- **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 in September. In January, the Commission had audited the PRC and produced a very positive report although it found 4 medical standards that needed further attention and made seven other recommendations concerning our correctional practices. The Auditors praised the cleanliness of the facility and the quality and professionalism of the staff. The Auditors will return September 27, 2006 for a monitoring visit and we are confident that PRC will receive 100% compliance in the Standards.
- **MCAA Annual Conference (June 3rd – 6th):** Chief LoBuglio attended MCAA's Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland and gave a presentation on jail reentry issues. His presentation focused on national reentry issues as well as PRRS programs and practices.
- **Federal Monitoring Visit** was conducted by Bill Cimino of the Federal Bureau of Prison's Community Correction Office on April 19th. Mr. Cimino reviewed federal residents' files, met with staff and a couple federal residents, and conducted an inspection. His visit was thorough and he reported that PRRS is doing an outstanding job with the federal residents who are placed in the program.
- **Judicial Visit:** Joseph A. Dugan, Jr. of the Montgomery County Circuit Court visited and toured the facility on March 10th. Senior staff discussed with Judge Dugan the assessment and screening processes and how the program works with the judiciary to place individuals in our program and on home confinement.
- **Health Care:** Stefan LoBuglio arranged for a visit from the President of Community Oriented Correctional Health Services, Steven Rosenberg, and his staff on April 1st. This organization has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to assist correctional systems adopt a community-based health care model for their institutions, and the meeting involved the Director of the DOCR, Warden of MCDC and Unit Manager Jane Sachs.
- **Correctional Tour:** On May 2nd, Senior Manager Jim Shannon arranged a visit of a state correctional facility in Cumberland, Maryland for interns, new staff and Stefan LoBuglio. The Western Correctional Institution is administered by Jon Galley (former MCDC Warden), and was a very impressive facility.
- **Sedgwick County, Kansas Sheriff's Department:** Representatives from the Sheriff's Department of Sedgwick County, Kansas visited the Pre-Release Center on May 9th and included a sheriff, judge, county commissioner, CJCC chair, and correctional chief. The group was on a whirlwind national tour of three well-regarded community correctional programs (other two sites were Grand Rapids, MI and Nashville, TN). In his thank you letter, Sheriff Gary Steed praised the program and staff, and indicated his appreciation for the assistance that we provided.

PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee

June 8, 2006

- **Prince George's County Department of Corrections:** Representatives from the PG County Department of Corrections and consulting architects visited the Pre-Release Center on May 10th, in an effort to further their planning of community correctional program. Manager Jim Shannon gave them a briefing on PRRS and a tour. Chief LoBuglio received a "thank you" from Deputy Director Mary Lou McDonough stating that they were very impressed with the work PRRS staff are doing.

Security:

- **New Security Devices & Measures:** As the result of a mediated settlement between the County and the Montgomery County Government Employees Organization (MCGEO), several new security measures will be implemented at the Pre-Release Center 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 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.
- **Key Control:** A new computer-based key control system was recently installed that will improve PRRS compliance with certain correctional standards. Once fully implemented, PRRS staff will no long take facility keys home.
- **Resident Searches:** Every few months, PRRS staff conduct a personal search of all 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.

Court Dispositions:

- **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. An escape warrant was issued, however Mr. Murray is still in the custody of Prince George's County and no court date has been set in Montgomery County for his escape charge.
- **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.
- **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

PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee

June 8, 2006

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.

- **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).
- **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 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.

Fugitives:

- **December 2, 2005:** 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. After many telephone calls and searches, an escape warrant was issued for Mr. Torres. He is still a fugitive.
- **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 had been infraction free and obtained Level 3 status at the Pre-Release Center until May 21st when she received three program violations. Staff feel that Ms. Caudle's fear of returning to detention may have lead to her escape from the Center.

Other:

- During the morning of May 14, a PRC resident exposed himself to a female staff member during her rounds of the unit. The resident was immediately suspended back to the jail, and later the staff member filed criminal charges. As is our departmental policy, we will vigorously support the prosecution of this inmate and seek consecutive sentenced time for this offense against a staff member. The court hearing on this case is scheduled for June 15, 2006.

S:\PRC_DIV\PRR Comm.Advisory Board\Chief's Report 06-08-06.doc