

Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee

9/22/05

June through September 2005

Major Program Developments and Activities:

- **American Correctional Association Re-accreditation** – The PRC underwent an audit on 9/20,21 and several significant deficiencies were discovered in basic correctional standards, most pertaining to tool, key, and chemical controls. PRRS will develop and implement a plan of action and the goal is to seek re-accreditation in January.
- **Jail Reentry Roundtable** – On 9/21, the USDOJ's Office of Justice Programs announced its grant award for the Urban Institute's proposal to plan and conduct a national event on jail reentry issues that will bring policy makers and practitioners from around the country together. The event will be held in the greater Washington D.C. area. The John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City and the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation are the two partners with Urban on this 300K project.
- **Financial Audit for 2004** – On September 9, 2005, the Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division had their exit conference with independent and internal auditors to review the Audit Report of Accounting and Financial Procedures for the Fiscal Year 2004. Overall, the audit affirmed that the financial procedures for the residents' accounts were generally sound. The accounting department has already adopted many of the recommendations made to improve operations.
- **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition** – SSIHC and the PRRS are collaborating on an initiative to place homeless female residents with children into Maryland Housing Partnership-developed housing.
- **Drug Court** – PRRS will provide further support to Drug Court by offering the PRC as an intermediate sanction and an alternative to jail for those participants who are not complying with their program rules.
- **Pre-Trial Division** – PRRS and Pre-Trial, both divisions within the DOCR, are working together to identify a common technology for electronic monitoring equipment; programmatically, PRRS may assist its sister division in supervising pre-trial cases that need nighttime and evening coverage.
- **Inspection Tours of MCDC and MCCF** – In July and August, the PRRS Chief and Section Managers accompanied the Detention Management staff in their weekly inspections of MCDC and MCCF. These inspection tours at the two detention facilities were very informative to the PRRS Section Managers in the different approaches in looking for contraband, security and control issues, and housekeeping. Weekly inspections at the PRC will begin in the next two weeks.

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- **Grand Jury Tour** – On September 27th, the newly constituted county Grand Jury will tour the PRC, MCDC, and MCCF. Last week, the DOCR director and the Division Chiefs addressed the Grand Jury and provided an overview of the Department.

Policy and Research:

- **Community Correction Length of Sentence** – PRRS continues to push for and support county legislation that would allow residents to spend as much as 1 year in community corrections.
- **Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Initiative** – Two-year standing committee of professionals from HHS and corrections that are exploring whether PRRS can use some of its assets (notably the underutilized Unit 1 in PRC) to better address the needs of the mentally ill.
- **Integration of Home Confinement and PRC**—On June 26, these two programs were fully integrated and residents now maintain the same caseworker as they transition between the PRC and living at home.
- **Montgomery County Police and PRRS Training and Protocol** – On 8/16, PRRS staff met with Commander Jerman and Community Officer Denise Gill of the 2nd District in Bethesda to discuss ways to assist each other in providing security and safety at the center and in the community. PRRS and the police plan to develop an expedited protocol that will describe the authority that Police will have to transport residents from PRC to MCDC. Additionally, PRRS will provide the police with PRC building plans, roll call training, and complete assistance in criminal investigations that may involve our residents.
- **Internship Program** – Academic and Community Correction Internship programs are both administered by Jim Shannon who is providing a greater academic focus to their experience.
- **Sex Offender Policy Changes** – PRRS plans to place all sex offenders on GPS, develop a victim's impact program, ensure that sex offenders are immediately placed in treatment and counseling, and ensure that victims are properly notified of transfers of sex offenders to PRC above and beyond the requirements spelled out in the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system.

Presentations, Training and Notable Meetings:

- 9/24 presentation to the Archdiocese of Washington's meeting concerning its new initiative, "Welcoming them Home," which aims to train mentors from parishes to work with newly returned prisoners.
- 8/26 meeting with victim and family in a case that involved one of the residents at PRC.
- 8/22,23 training on the new risk/needs assessment instrument used at PRC called the Local Service Inventory Revised (LSIR) which involved multiple agencies.
- 8/17 training of PRC staff by representatives from the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles
- 8/8 ACA Conference in Baltimore
- 7/27 meeting with SOROS reentry work group.
- 7/26 meeting with Jennifer Davis and Summer Spencer of Goodwill Industries.

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- 7/20 meeting with officials from the University of Maryland Baltimore County at Shady Grove and UM graduate school about furthering internship program between PRRS and UMBC.
- 7/19,20 NIJ's Research and Evaluation Conference
- 6/29 meeting with Father Keuhner about the Archdiocese of Washington.
- 6/23 training with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections concerning reentry.

FY06 Budget:

- New Front Desk post position.

Security:

- On September 9, the PRC was evacuated due to smoke emanating from the basement underneath the kitchen. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue and police responded in full force. A binding compressor motor to an air conditioning unit was found as the cause of the smoke. No injuries or damage resulted from this incident.
- On July 14th, John Walden was found guilty of Malicious Destruction of Property and received a sentence of three years, suspend all but 30 days to be served consecutively to his current sentence. Mr. Walden will have two years of supervised probation and must pay \$1,277 in restitution for damages to the Pre-Release Center.
- Escapes-- A total of five Pre-Release and Reentry residents/clients have escaped since January 1, 2005. Two have been indicted by the Grand Jury, two have received additional sentences, and one remains a fugitive. The details are as follows:
 - Remoan Simpson did not return from work on April 4, 2005 and was charged with escape. He was sentenced on September 14, 2005 to one year, suspend all but six months consecutive to his current sentence by Judge Weinstein.
 - Michelle Thornton escaped from a D.C. halfway house while in PRC custody on November 2, 2004 and was picked up in Washington, D. C. August 19, 2005. She was transferred to Montgomery County on August 23, 2005 and awaiting disposition of escape warrant.
 - David Copeland escaped from PRC in 1997 and was finally apprehended and was indicted by the Grand Jury on August 18, 2005 for Escape.
 - Lloyd Brown was charged with escape on June 21, 2005 and was apprehended the next day. He was indicted for Escape on August 11, 2005 by the Grand Jury.
 - Mark Turner escaped from the CART Program on February 23, 2005 and on June 22, 2005 received a ten month sentence.
 - Joseph Rico escaped April 24, 2005 and was indicted for First Degree Escape by the Grand Jury on May 19, 2005.
 - Ana Meade escaped from PRC on April 5, 2005 and is still a fugitive.
- **Telephones** -- Due to unforeseen delays from the County's Communication Division, the Pre-Release Center is still waiting for the new telephone system. We just received notice that the system should be installed within a month. The new system will allow each staff

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member to have a direct telephone number and Caller I.D. Caller I.D. feature will ensure that when residents call in, they are at the location that they should be and will assist with accountability.

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