



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

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Director

PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report
September 13, 2012 to December 6, 2012

Highlights

- 1. PRRS staff foil escape:** On 10/16/12, former PRRS Resident Mark Graham attempted to flee the Pre-Release Center, but was physically restrained by a controlled use of force by PRRS staff members. Specifically, Resident Supervisor III Ivan Downing – alerted by his radio that the Resident was running down the hallway-- positioned himself at the front of the building, tackled Graham, and brought him to the floor at which point other staff members assisted in fully securing the Resident. Graham was immediately transferred to the jail and now faces charges for Attempted Escape. Fortunately, neither he nor any staff members were injured in this event. A full critical debriefing of the event was held and the final report commended the superb actions of staff in carrying out the agencies policies and procedures.
- 2. Employer forum on September 20:** PRRS hosted an outreach effort to employers to educate and encourage them to hire individuals with criminal histories and to follow fair and appropriate hiring practices that meet federal EEOC guidelines. The event, organized with Jobs Opportunity Task Force, attracted over 100 attendees and included employers, program providers, and correctional staff from around the region. The three panelists included a former PRRS client who is now the manager of a retail establishment, a top federal official who helps support President Obama's Inter-agency Task Force on Reentry, and an expert on interpreting criminal histories. While the number of employers who attended was small, the event signaled a more aggressive outreach by PRRS and community partners to the business community.
- 3. PRRS residents meet U.S. DOE Secretary Arne Duncan:** Four PRRS residents participated in a meeting of 20 youth with the U.S. DOE Secretary to discuss programs and strategies that can assist youth who are "at risk" for deepening involvement in the criminal justice system. The residents were accompanied by PRRS Work Release Coordinator Joyce Reimherr and PRRS GED teacher Tony Payne. In an unexpected surprise, Reverend Jesse Jackson also joined the meeting and spoke to the participants.
- 4. Montgomery College to lead reentry education grant with DOCR:** The college, in partnership with the DOCR, and the county's operator of one-stop career centers, will take the lead in a \$400,000 grant proposal titled "*Transforming the Pipeline to Prison into Educational Bridges to Employment.*" The grant will deepen the strong relationship between the college and DOCR and extend counseling, assessment, courses, and training to incarcerated individuals in the County jail and at the Pre-Release Center. Significantly, the 30-month project will address inadequacies in the community infrastructure that supports this population's ability to earn alternative secondary

diplomas such as the GED. The grant is due December 26, and the U.S. DOE will announce awardees in January 2013.

- 5. Workplace digital skill training program award:** DOCR, and its partners Montgomery College and Workforce Solutions Group – the operator of the County's One-Stop Career Centers, received a national achievement award from the National Association for Counties (NACO). Funded by a \$351,000 "Second Chance Act" federal grant in 2010, the program has served every PRRS resident since June 6, 2011 -- well over 500 participants -- who have received basic instruction on the use of computers and the internet to conduct job searches and develop career goals in a curriculum developed by the college. Additionally, the grant has allowed nearly a dozen individuals to pursue training classes at Montgomery College that lead to industry-accepted certificates such as Microsoft Certified Help Desk Support Technician. County Executive Isiah Leggett presented the award to the program representatives on Tuesday, December 4, 2012.

Program Developments

- 1. Revamping and Improving Employment Assistance to Residents:** As part of PRRS efforts to address a significantly more challenging job market for individuals with criminal histories (i.e. in 1995, 50% of all employers conducted criminal background checks; currently, over 95% do so in a much poorer economic climate), PRRS has reallocated and increased Work Release Coordinator positions from 3 to 4.5 without additional cost. Beginning in January, WRC Coordinator Joyce Reimherr will be assigned full-time to coordinate all activities in our Career Resource Center (23 internet-accessible computers, instructional classroom, additional resources); each of the three 50-bed male housing units will have an assigned Work Release Coordinator, and the female housing unit (average daily population of between 11-17) will have a half-time dedicated Work Release Coordinator. Concurrently, the program has ratcheted up expectations that Residents will find jobs within 42 days of arrival or face disciplinary actions.
- 2. Revamping and Improving Onsite Programming:** Case Manager Douglas Ingram was selected to lead the effort to choose, develop, and implement a new Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) educational program at PRRS. In the evidenced-based literature, CBTs have shown significant effectiveness to reduce recidivism by improving thinking processes and coping skills through a standardized curriculum that includes role playing pedagogy. Doug has also begun to revamp and teach the initial orientation meeting to residents, the twice-weekly evening Sponsor group sessions which focus on assisting family members assist their loved ones with reentry, and morning meetings offered at the facility at 8am to all unemployed residents Monday through Friday. The morning meetings aim to encourage and support Residents as they begin their day focused on searching for jobs. Besides these programs, PRRS offers a GED class, and nearly a dozen volunteer and mentoring programs. Philosophically, as a community correction program, PRRS actually seeks to send Residents to programs based in the community, and only develops onsite programs that are unavailable in the community and are evidenced-based to be effective.
- 3. Preparing for Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards Re-Audit Revisit:** On December 11, MCCS auditors will re-audit PRRS in 13 standards found deficient or needing improvement in its February inspection (Deficiencies: 1. Improved inspections of security equipment and inspections; 2. Improved key control; 3. Improved documentation of facility and vehicle searches; 4. Improved disaster plans and more frequent fire drills; 5. Improved resident property management procedures; 6. Weekly inventories of controlled medication and better

handling of prescription medication entering the PRC; 7. Weekly sanitation inspections; 8. Improved documentation for the receipt of residents' legal mail. Recommendations: 1. Medical documentation following Use of Force; 2. Disposal of expired medication; 3. Improved syringe control sheets; 4. Medical Release Screenings; 5. Improved program documentation). Special Accreditation Officer Karla Rhodes has led the effort to document the improved practices and compliance in all thirteen areas, and PRRS staff over the past nine months have worked steadily and diligently to prepare thoroughly for this re-audit. In April 2013, PRRS will also undergo accreditation auditing by the American Correctional Association. Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Prisons inspects the Pre-Release Center quarterly.

- 4. Victim's Service Advisory Board Presentation:** On Thursday evening, October 25, Records Manager Bernard Woodard, Deputy Chief of Programs and Services Shannon Murphy, and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio presented DOCR's policies and strategies to ensure that victim's rights and interests are considered and respected at all stages of the Department's work. They prepared a handout which has been placed on the Department's website.
- 5. Drug Court Graduation:** On 11/14/12, Judges Nelson W. Rupp, Jr. and Joseph M. Quirk presided over one of the largest graduation classes of the drug court program since its beginning. During the ceremony which was attended by over 150 individuals include the graduates, their families, current enrollees along with County Council Members, the State Attorney, and many members of the judiciary, PRRS was recognized by the judges for its strong support. Currently, many new drug court clients are housed at the Pre-Release Center to help stabilize their lives as they begin the treatment program. In his remarks, one of the graduates specifically mentioned the help he received from Work Release Coordinator Don Meyers in securing employment. Judge Quirk also mentioned Don's excellent work with the program participants in a conversation with me right before the program began.
- 6. Online Training Service:** PRRS has subscribed to an online training service affiliated with the American Correctional Association. The service offers hundreds of hour of on-line training in correctional security and programmatic areas that staff can access at PRRS. Additionally, the program allows for PRRS to customize content including adding our own policies and procedures. The system will improve PRRS ability to track training compliance with a variety of state and national correctional standards.
- 7. Child Support and Parenting:** The County's HHS is providing one of its senior staff members in Family Services to spend one day a week at the Pre-Release Center meeting and counseling all residents with child support orders and also offering an evening parenting class. The collaboration also involves the state agency overseeing Child Support Enforcement, and the program seeks to increase the monetary contributions of PRRS residents towards their child support obligations. The HHS staff member, Ed Powell, began the program 11/14/12.
- 8. Children of PRRS Report:** George Mason University Graduate Student Lauren Revier conducted a study exploring the relationship between PRRS residents and their children, and more specifically, their hopes and strategies to ensure their children's success. She has completed a draft of the study, and when completed, will provide a presentation to PRRS staff on her findings.

9. **National Coalition of Prison Ministries Christmas Gift Event:** Reverend Dr. Elwood Grey, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Prison Ministries, has included PRRS residents in its organizations annual gift-giving event. The organization, composed of 23 faith-based organizations, assists incarcerated individuals provide gifts for children in their care. The gifts are donated through its member churches and also through the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots program. On December 15, the NCPM will sponsor a Christmas event featuring singing, dancing, and light refreshments that will be open to all residents. The gift exchange will occur afterwards.
10. **Grand Jury Report:** Each year according to statute, the County's Grand Jury must visit the county correctional facilities and write-up a report on its observations of the physical plant and its impressions of services gleaned from interviews with incarcerated individuals. The report this year was complimentary of the services provided to the Pre-Release Center but did note that the physical plant – particularly the roof, cafeteria, and resident rooms – were in need of significant attention (see below on PRRS building maintenance proposal).
11. **PRRS Performance System:** DOCR IT specialist Janet Quarcoo continues to refine and improve the database she developed to support the PRRS program. Also, PRRS continues to participate in a multi-year project to develop a new correctional management information system for DOCR.

Work Release Statistics

Work Release Performance Measures														
Unit	Wed 12am Count	Employed Residents						Unemployed Residents						
		FT Community Employment > 32 Hours Per Week	PT Community Employment 31- 25 Hours Per Week	PT Community Employment < 25 Hours Per Week	Inside Employment (FN2)	Approved Alternative Placement (FN3)	Total	Community Work Employed %	Work Release Engaged %	Transfer < 21 Days	Transfer > 21 Days	Total	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate Net New Arrivals
1						9	58.3%	75.0%			3	25.0%	25.0%	
2						20	52.0%	80.0%			5	20.0%	16.7%	
3						24	35.4%	50.0%			24	50.0%	40.0%	
4						30	52.9%	58.8%			21	41.2%	14.3%	
Total	136	49	10	5	17	2	83	47.1%	61.0%	25	28	53	39.0%	25.2%

Footnote 1: Data collection on Wednesday using midnight count and inclusive of releasees later that day. (Data entered in green cells only)

Footnote 2: Individuals are assigned to inside worker status for programmatic and security reasons.

Footnote 3: Individuals approved due to medical/disability/retirement factors

Security/Facility

1. **Re-opening of Housing Unit 2:** On September 17, PRRS re-opened Unit 2 due to increases in the DOCR population. The Unit was temporarily closed in April when the program population dropped, and the closure allowed PRRS to paint and clean the unit and saved on overtime costs.
2. **Building Maintenance Proposal:** PRRS has a \$1million proposal to address deferred maintenance issues that have accumulated over the course of the building's 34 years. The funds would fix the roof, replace locks, renovate resident bathrooms, create ADA-accessible rooms and bathrooms, and much more. The Department Director has signed the proposal which has been presented to the County's Office of Management and Budget.
3. **Facility Improvements:** Over a dozen dumpsters worth of broken and non-functioning equipment in the PRC along with debris on the grounds has been removed from the facility over the past nine months in a concerted effort to upgrade living and working spaces in the facility. New metal storage lockers were installed in Residents' rooms in Units 2 and 3 and provide secure storage of

property. They replaced worn and broken fiber-board furniture dating back to the opening of the facility in 1978. Old and broken lounge furniture was discarded, and some "new/used" furniture was purchased as replacements. New metal bunk beds are on order to replace replaced broken wooden beds. A soon-to-be implemented policy will remove all TVs from Resident rooms and is aimed at creating more orderly and functional space in Resident quarters.

4. **File Storage:** OSC Andrea Gardner has radically overhauled PRRS ancient filing system which contained tens of thousands of records in dozens of filing cabinets. Working with facility staff, administrative support personnel, and Customized Employment Interns, she archived files older than three years offsite, relocated and consolidated the file room, and developed new systems that improve the effectiveness of filing processes.
5. **Storm Event:** PRRS staff prepared fully for Hurricane Sandy. Emergency procedures including checking generators, stocking up on water and easily-prepared foods, and preparing for a staffing plan that allowed staff to sleep at the Pre-Release Center. All Residents were kept in the building during the height of the storm. While the storm did result in some damage to trees and significant leaks in the building, PRRS suffered no long term damage. As a follow-up to the storm event, PRRS has begun to initiate facility changes that would allow other county agencies to use its facility as part of a Continuing Operations Plan (COOP).
6. **Electronic Monitoring Equipment:** PRRS's electronic monitoring contract now allows the use of new integrated technologies for GPS, Alcohol monitoring, and curfew enforcement. RS III Ja Rowe is the lead agency official on Electronic Monitoring and now has trained other staff to assist including RSs Chris Massad, Will Gaskins, Kenny Sterling, Aisha Brown, Gary Awkard. On 12/5/12, the Electronic Monitoring vendor conducted a day long training of staff on some of its new equipment.

Personnel

1. Arrivals

- Carol McCloud joined PRRS as a Resident Supervisor on October 8. Previously, she was a Correctional Officer at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility and also an Agent Assistant with the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation for one year. She earned her Master's at John Jay College in New York City.
- Amirrah Peterson joined PRRS as a Resident Supervisor on October 8. Previously she was an intern at PRRS, and also worked briefly with the state's Juvenile Justice agency. She has her Bachelor of Art in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland College Park.

2. Departures

- Intern Josh McCants completed his year internship and left to focus on graduate school (he has a bachelors' from Towson and is now working on his Masters). In his year with PRRS, Josh demonstrated his flexibility in assisting the screening department and case managers to handle multiple requests with eagerness, competency, and good cheer. He developed an excellent rapport with our clients and always puts in the extra effort to help them.
- Corporal Natasha Goodridge returned to Detention Services after a 60 day temporary assignment at PRRS. She assisted PRRS greatly at the front desk during a time that PRRS was in the midst of hiring and training several new Resident Supervisors. She brought stability to

the programs staffing and specifically to the building control function of the front desk position.

3. Promotions

- Resident Supervisor Forest Pettigrew was promoted to RS II.
- Office Service Coordinator Andrea Gardner was promoted to Senior Executive Administrative Aide to the Director of the Department of General Services, and will begin in her new position on December 17. The SEAA is the County's highest level position in the administrative support classification. On December 13, PRRS staff will recognize Andrea's enormous contributions to PRRS over her 30 month tenure.

4. Professional Development

- Case Manager Fritz Jadotte completed a seven week state Correctional Academy on 10/25/12
- Case Manager Stephen Carter is currently enrolled in the seven-week state Correctional Academy.

Escapes (Including attempted escapes and unauthorized activities on pass)

Eight escapes to report in Calendar Year 2012

Escape Date	Return Date	Last Name	First Name	Description	Disposition
9/9/2011	9/13/2011	Williams	Deonta	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	3/13/12: Plead guilty; 18 month sentence
9/26/2011	9/26/2011	Mosby	Geoffrey	Shoplifting while on Pass	7/13/12: Found guilty: 7 Years (Back-up) State DOC
1/8/2012	2/7/2012	Smith	Larone	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	5/30/12: Plead guilty; 4 year sentence state DOC
1/12/2012	1/14/2012	Williams	Ronnie	Unauthorized Departure from PRC	6/25/2012: Plead guilty; 3 years State DOC
4/11/2012	4/11/2012	Canarte	Michael	Unauthorized Departure from PRC	10/2/2012: Plead guilty; 18 month sentence
7/27/2012	7/28/2012	Butler	Lamar	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	9/26/2012: Plead guilty; 1 year sentence.
10/16/2012	10/16/2012	Graham	Mark	Attempted Escape: Restrained by RS staff	12/6/12: Preliminary hearing
10/17/2012	10/17/2012	Calliham	Antuan	Shoplifting while on Authorized Community Pass	12/3/12: Guilty – 3 years suspend all but 45 days
11/16/2012	12/7/2012	Williams	Gino	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	In custody awaiting prosecution
11/30/2012	1/15/13	Pope	Dante	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	In custody awaiting prosecution

Population Served

Month	Sept	Oct	Nov
PRRS Average Daily Population	121.1	138.3	141.2
Local Jail Resident Subgroup	99.3	118	123.3
Federal Resident Subgroup	21.8	20.3	17.8
Female Subgroup	12.0	13.2	11.8
Home Confinement Subgroup	12.1	11.2	12

Visits/Events/Meetings (exclusive of those mentioned before)

1. 12/3-5: PRRS staff offer workshop on Electronic Monitoring at Corrections Conference in D.C.
2. 11/30 & 10/11: PRRS Staff participated in a small roundtable meeting at Rutgers University focused on best practices in community corrections and halfway houses.
3. 11/29: PRRS staff provide a guest lecture to a class at American University.
4. 11/19: PRRS staff presented to a Correctional Education Summit at the US DOE.
5. 11/17: Welcome Home hosted a meeting for a group of social justice committee members from a number of churches who meet as part of a group called Just Faith.
6. 11/15: PRRS staff represented at an afternoon symposium hosted by the National Institute of Health on Prison Reentry and Community Health.
7. 11/15: PRRS hosts visit from class from American University and Montgomery College.
8. 11/7: PRRS hosts visit from UMBC Social Work and Policy Class.
9. 11/1: PRRS attends meeting with state and county officials on child support.
10. 10/25: PRRS hosts visit from class from American University.
11. 10/16: PRRS hosts senior Pakistan police officer who is a U.S. State Department's Hubert Humphrey Fellow
12. 10/12: PRRS hosts visit from delegation from Travis County, Texas.
13. 10/12: PRRS hosts visit from Saudi Delegation of Correctional Officials.
14. 10/3: PRRS staff visit Drug Court staff.
15. 9/28: PRRS staff meets with Adventist Behavioral Health care to discuss collaboration.
16. 9/25: Allen Miller sentenced to two years for assault on DOCR and contractor staff.
17. 9/18: PRRS hosts visit from Montgomery County Grand Jury.
18. 9/18: PRRS hosts visit from delegation from Shanghai, China.
19. 9/13: DOCR/PRRS staff brief the Grand Jury.