



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Robert L. Green
Director

PRRS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING **December 7, 2017 @ 7:30am**

Committee Members Attendance: Diane Scott-Jones, Co-Chair CAC; Thomas DeGonia, Co-Chair; Angela Talley, Chief; Ben Stevenson, Deputy Chief of Programs and Services; Ivan Downing, Deputy Chief of Security and Facilities; Tyrone Alexander, Reentry Services Manager; Tina Michaels, Pre-Trial Manager; Dominique Fontaine, PRRS Administrative Aide; Sidney Katz, Councilmember; Marc Elrich, Councilmember; Mara Parker, Aide Councilmember Elrich; Matt Higgins, Aide Councilmember Berliner; Bernita Johnson, Welcome Home Program; Marcia Durant, RN, Medical; Michael McGregor, PRRS Case Manager; William Brown, PRRS Work Release Coordinator; Lotte Lent, GWU; Catherine McAlpine, HHS Behavioral Health Manager; Tanya Sanchez, Social Worker Intern MCCF; Dr. Elwood Gray, Peace in the Valley Baptist Church; Four (4) current PRRS Residents attended

Welcome and Introductions: Brief introduction of all attendees.

PRRS Division Chief's Report: Angela Talley highlighted the following items during the Report to the Community Advisory Committee:

- County has implemented a budget reduction savings plan, Director Green will establish a plan to address budget for DOCR.
- State audit completed in 2 ½ days and found to be in 100% compliance. Auditors impressed with the merging of Pre-Trial services and Pre-Release Center facilities and received positive feedback.
- Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) took effect on October 1, 2017- no immediate impacts on program. Restitution payments ordered, program has protocols in place.
- Gary Awkward, Resident Supervisor III, retired on December 1, 2017 after 25 years of service
- Currently have 5 Resident Supervisor vacancies; current budget reduction plan will not affect filling these positions.
- Community Corrections welcome new staff members, Catherine McAlpine, Behavioral Health Manager and Dominique Fontaine as a PAA.
- There will be a PREA Audit scheduled for February 2018.
- New roof construction project 100% complete.
- New kitchen construction should break ground winter 2018.
- 6th Annual Gift Giving Campaign sponsored by National Coalition of Prison Ministries for PRRS residents' children will be held December 15th, 2018.

Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division

11651 Nebel Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850-2591 • 240/773-4200, TTY 301/816-0043, FAX 301/468-4420

Professional Relationship-Employers

PRRS resident participant feedback

- Expressed appreciation for working with employers who were understanding and supportive of their situation and making them feel like part of a team
- Attitude and beliefs about their abilities to perform the job helped overcome initial fears they had about negative employer perceptions/views
- Believe a positive attitude plays important part in building relationships
- Residents returning to previous employment and those who gained employment very soon after transfer to PRC indicated they had fewer negative experiences with employers, as they had established good relationships with employers prior to their incarceration. Their advice to residents seeking employment is to be honest with employers.
- Residents were appreciative that the Pre Release Center provides opportunities for individuals to work
- Viewed working environments as positive and looked forward to going to work.

Work Release Coordinators and other program staff feedback

- Residents who obtain employment feel a sense of accomplishment.
- Employers rely on PRC residents and believe PRC participants are more reliable and productive employees due in part to support from PRC staff.
- Work Release Coordinator, Will Brown, stated that he encourages and teaches social skills to residents to secure and maintain employment and counsels those having issues at work.
- Employers have positive relationship with the program and continue to provide job opportunities for residents. Many contact PRC to fill vacancies.

County Council Members

- Expressed interest in tracking the progress of released PRC residents. Employment follow-up was previously tracked 60 days post release. Program will review current protocols in place to track this information.
- Appreciated the comments from current residents on their work experiences

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.