

PRRS Chief's Report

January 21, 2010 to April 22, 2010

Highlights

1. **FY'11 PRRS Budge Reductions and Reorganization:** PRRS will lose five positions (two Unit Managers; two vacant case manager positions, and one Principal Administrative Assistant) under the FY'11 budget reductions. The cuts will lead to changes to the PRRS' organization, services, and accountability mechanisms. In 1978, the program was one of the first correctional institutions in the country to adopt a Unit Management approach that over the intervening 32 years has become the state-of-the art practice for managing correctional populations in the country.

The reductions of two Unit Managers from four (4) to two (2) will cause PRRS to adopt the traditional organizational structure of a jail. Instead of four units, the PRRS population will be managed as a single unit with four housing locations. One MIII will become the Deputy Chief of Facility and Security (DCFS) and one MIII will become the Deputy Chief of Program and Services (DCPS).

2. **Welcome Home National Award:** The Prison Outreach Ministry/Welcome Home Reentry program received national recognition by the Defendant/Offender Workforce Development (DOWD) Conference for its successful partnership with the PRRS. The program was selected to receive the Migdalia "Miggie" Baerga-Buffler Award which recognizes a faith- or community-based organization that promotes offender workforce development through partnerships with local, state or federal agencies, and advocates for policies and practices that support successful reentry.
3. **Family Reentry Grant:** The DOCR was selected as one of two correctional systems in the country to participate in a federally funded grant program designed to further the involvement of family members in the reentry process. Run by the New York-based Vera Institute with funding from the USDOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the "Close to Home Initiative will provide staff members from PRRS and MCCF with additional tools and training developed over the past decade by the New York-based Family Justice organization. The second jurisdiction is Green Lake County Correctional Facility in Wisconsin which runs a small rural jail that currently holds 35 and that will be moving into a larger facility that can hold 100.
4. **News Coverage:** PRRS continued efforts educate citizens and employers about its program. An interview between Dan Hoffman, the President of the Randolph Civic Association and the PRRS Division Chief appeared in the March 2010 Newsletter of the association's newsletter http://randolphcivic.org/echos/echo_mar_10.pdf .

On March 18, 2010, an article appeared in El Pregonero, a Spanish weekly published by the Archdiocese of Washington that focused on our work release program and which quoted PRRS Work Release Coordinator Sylvia Hernandez. In the next month, Sylvia and her colleague Work Release Coordinator Carlos Mellott will appear on two Hispanic cable television shows: Que Pasa hosted by Betty Valdes and Revista Semanal, hosted by Gracie Rivera-Oven.

Also, Montgomery County Cable has indicated its interest in a developing a long-format video project focusing on PRRS that would include interviews with staff, inmates, and families of those in the system. The three individuals who would tape, narrate, and edit the story met with PRRS staff on March 19.

Finally, PRRS received significant news coverage in late March and April over the placement of an individual of note from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The program has had a relationship with the Federal Bureau of Prison for over two decades, and currently provides services to over 35 individuals from the federal system. PRRS followed standard procedures in evaluating this candidate for our program, and he and all residents are afforded all of the program's opportunities as well as its responsibilities.

To handle media issues and operational issues, PRRS convened several desktop planning sessions with other agencies including the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Court Supervision Offenders Services Agency, and the Montgomery County Police to review policies and procedures and areas of interagency assistance.

In an article in The Washington Post on Wednesday, April 7, an FBOP official provides a strong statement of support and confidence in our program.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/06/AR2010040603969.html> Further, the story was covered by TV channels 4 and channel 9
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=99685>

Program Developments

- 1. Resident Dress Code (Implementation date 5/31):** Unit Manager Angela Talley has led a task force of staff to develop a more specific dress code for residents at PRC. The code aids to improve the appearance of our residents at the center during business and non-business hours, and to habituate them to wearing appropriate clothing in public places and employment sites.
- 2. Cellular Home Confinement Equipment (4/15):** Resident Supervisor Ja Rowe arranged a meeting with a representative from PRRS' vendor of electronic monitoring equipment to address a bottleneck in PRRS' ability to place individuals on home confinement. PRRS has required individuals to have a traditional "copper" telephone line (POTS) in the home to allow for verified location and Caller ID

services. However, fewer PRRS residents have homes with POTS and instead either have bundled service with Voice Over Internet Protocol (Comcast, FIOS, Vontage) or rely entirely on a cell phone. At the meeting, PRRS found that new cellular products are available to address this problem, and after a review of pricing data, will move forward to begin using this equipment.

- 3. Ford Foundation Innovation's Award (4/13):** PRRS submitted an application to this program that awards \$100,000 for innovative government programs in all spheres of activities. Administered by the Ash Institute of John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, this program is widely regarded as the most prestigious and most rigorous of its type and aims to disseminate information about innovative programs nationwide and world wide. PRRS' application was solicited by the program for its 41 year history of providing work release and reentry services to over 15,740 clients.
- 4. Drug Court Testing Protocol (4/12):** PRRS is assisting Drug Court in their efforts to adopt a new randomized seven-day a week drug testing protocol. Under the protocol, all drug court clients living at PRC will be tested on Friday and also either on Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, PRRS and Drug Court will be modifying the electronic drug record system to privilege each other to view drug tests on those clients shared by both agencies.
- 5. Cell Phone Policy (4/9):** PRRS now asks visitors of residents to leave their cell phones at the front desk during their visits where they will be safely and securely stored. The policy was adopted to reduce the number of unauthorized cell phones at PRC and to address concerns that individuals are using phones to take pictures of them selves.
- 6. Restrictions on Food in Rooms (April 1):** PRRS adopted a new policy that restricts residents from storing food and drinks in their rooms. The purpose of the policy is to improve the overall cleanliness of rooms, reduce the opportunity for contraband, and eliminate a source of food that was attracting rodents and ants. PRRS did arrange for the installation of several vending machines in the cafeteria and all food and beverages must be consumed in the cafeteria.
- 7. Maryland State Reentry Task Force (3/8):** PRRS Division Chief was sworn in as a member of the governor's appointed reentry task force. The group is just forming and has not had its first meeting.
- 8. Tools for Change (3/1):** PRRS changed its teaching model of the cognitive skills program offered during the first and second weeks of orientation. Previously, two Case Managers were responsible for teaching all of the classes. Due to staff cutbacks, all Case Managers now share in this teaching responsibility, and three groups of three Case Managers each teach a week at a time.

9. **PRRS Screening Intake Packet (3/1):** PRRS' Assessment section introduced a new intake screening form that gathers up more information in a new format that will provide a better assessment of prospective client's reentry needs. Additionally, the section has developed an updated Resident Guidebook and an updated Federal Manual.
10. **Abused Person Program (2/26):** HHS' Dudley Warner and DOCR's Pre-Trial Chief Sharon Trexler met with Unit Manager Patricia Braun and the Division Chief to explore the feasibility of developing a modified APP for PRRS residents at PRC. Funds from a grant may be available to develop this program.
11. **MCCS Accreditation Recognition Event (2/16):** DOCR Director and the MCCF Warden who is also a member of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards joined PRRS staff members to recognize the program's receipt of the 100% achievement award for compliance with MCCS standards on 1/28.
12. **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition (2/12):** Betsy Sharon, J.D. and Reentry Assessment Specialist Kendra Jochum arranged a visit between staff members of the two organizations at PRC to renew the over five year collaboration that has led to the successful placement of female residents in permanent apartments.
13. **US Probation (2/4/10):** U.S. Probation Agents David Allen and Margaret Moskal from the US District Court Western District of Virginia visited PRRS and met with staff and residents. Due to the closing of a halfway house in Virginia, several federal residents from southern Virginia have been placed at PRRS. The purpose of the visit was to ensure good communication between agencies.
14. **Welcome Home (Quarterly Update):** Currently, 39 volunteers mentor men and women as they transition back to the community. Of these, 22 meet with their mentees in the community, post-release. There are also 5 volunteers with Prison Outreach Ministry who are not involved in a one-on-one mentoring relationship with a mentee but volunteer their time at PRC in a variety of capacities. These include helping residents create job resumes, supervising activities in the CRC, teaching a Bible class, teaching a computer class and offering residents assistance as they look for employment. Since January 1, 2010 volunteers have spent more than 1000 hours of positive social role modeling and service.

In 2010, an orientation/training session for new volunteers was held on February 13th. Eight new mentors were trained. They are in various stages of the process to be matched with a mentee. An ongoing support session was held on March 1st. This was offered as a spiritual retreat for the mentors and mentees. Sister Rose Mary Dougherty, spiritual director and retreat leader, offered an evening of reflection for those who have spent time as members of the Welcome Home Reentry Program.

Finally, long-term Welcome Home Mentor Robert Tenney has switched his hours from morning to evening and now offers a five-week Basic Computer Class for residents to introduce computer concepts.

15. **Welfare Fund (Ongoing):** Unit Manager Chris Johnson and Accountant/Auditor Dawn Downing are organizing a Council of Residents at PRRS that will participate in a planning process to spend approximately \$25,000 that is in a restricted fund to be used exclusively for the benefit of residents. The fund includes money donated to the program over the years. Some of the potential ideas for the application of the money include expanding the career resource center and adding computers, as well as installing some outside recreational equipment.

Visits/Events/Meetings:

1. **Montgomery County Bar Criminal Law Committee (4/20):** Assessment and Quality Services Manager Tina Michaels and the Division Chief provided a brief program overview and its selection criteria to 15 members of this committee all of whom were defense attorneys. All of them indicated their support for the program, their appreciation for the responsiveness of our assessment section, and the benefits that their clients have received through participation. However, they also provided several ideas about ways for PRRS to improve its processes, and highlighted the need for the program to better educate judges and the State Attorney's Office about the specifics of the program and the screening/placement process.
2. **Staff Training on Mental Health Issues (4/20):** Dr. Gus Weiland, who provides 10 hours of psychiatric services at PRRS weekly, provided hour-long trainings to approximately 20 staff members on the topics of Depression (4/20) and Anxiety (2/23). During these presentations, he provides an overview of these mental health conditions, the treatment regimen, and ways that staff and the program can support individuals with these conditions. Previously, he has presented on Bi-Polar.
3. **St. James AfterCare (4/10, 17, 24; 3/20, 27):** The St. James Prison Ministry uses a class room at PRRS for mentor training. The mentors are being trained to work with individuals at PRRS and at MCCF. Ideally, the training prepares a volunteer to connect with an inmate in the correctional facility and then follow that person into the community. St. James has been providing mentors to PRRS for many years.
4. **Case Manager Roundtables (Bi-weekly):** On alternate Thursday afternoons, Unit Manager Patricia Braun and the Case Managers meet on a variety of topics. During this quarter they met 5 times on the following topics:
 - **4/15:** Stefan LoBuglio, Chief PRRSD; Discussion and clarification of the "work first philosophy"; Check in regarding community service providers;
 - **4/12:** Lynn Williams, PRRS Nurse Practitioner; Discussion of medical procedures and protocols;

- **3/18:** Samantha Lyons, Drug Court; Presentation on drug court philosophy and discussion around interface between PRC and Drug Court staff and clients;
 - **3/4:** Ed Powell, Child Welfare Services Information regarding the Child Support "amnesty" program
 - **2/18:** Continuation of discussion of reentry plan for FBOP clients returning to Southern VA.
 - **2/4:** Finalize programming plans and discuss the influx of BOP residents from Winchester Virginia in terms of home passes, work etc
- 5. Let's Talk Employment (4/15, 3/11, 2/11):** PRRS Work Release Coordinators and Unit Manager Chris Johnson meet monthly with workforce development staff from other agencies in the county that work with hard-to-employ individuals. The meetings involve upwards of 20 individuals and include representatives from the County Shelter, Drug Court, Parole and Probation, Montgomery Works, PRRS, Multicultural Youth Centers, and the Maryland Department of Economic Development Workforce Investment Board, and serves as an excellent networking opportunity. At the last meeting, the group adopted the name of its organization as "Moving Up."
- 6. American University's Law and Society Class (4/15):** Unit Manager James Shannon gave a guest lecture to 40 students in this class taught by Professor Richard Bennett.
- 7. Oasis of Montgomery County (4/13):** Sixteen visitors from this organization toured the Pre-Release Center and met with residents in the program. Oasis serves county residents who are fifty-five years and older and interested in local community issues, and the tour was led by Resident Ivan Downing with assistance from the Division Chief.
- 8. American University's Washington Semester Program (4/14):** Unit Manager James Shannon hosted a class of 15 students from American's Washington Semester program taught by Dr. Beatrice Simons at the Pre-Release Center. This class attracts students selected from states all across country and also includes some international students. PRRS is one of their regular locations to visit in addition to the Supreme Court, CSOSA, and the Maximum Security Penitentiary in Baltimore.
- 9. Community Re-Entry: Working with Justice Involved (4/9):** Unit Manager Patricia Braun and AQSM Tina Michaels presented on a panel at the Maryland Hygiene Agency's Adult Service Conference. The panel focused on reentry programs and tools to enhance the safety of the consumer, the provider, and the community.
- 10. Census Count (4/9):** Unit Manager Patricia Braun facilitated the activities of several census workers who came onsite and filled out census forms for individuals in residence at the Pre-Release Center on April 1.

- 11. Volunteers of America (4/9):** Eight members from a Reentry Residential Center located in East Baltimore and run by Volunteers of America Chesapeake visited PRRS. Case Manager Andrea Baker and Work Release Coordinator Carlos Mellot provided the program overview and led the tour with the assistance of the Division Chief.
- 12. Oasis of Montgomery County (3/26):** PRRS staff spoke at the Oasis center and provided an overview of prisoner reentry in the United States.
- 13. Innovations in Community Supervision (3/25):** Case Manager Andrew Lautar attended a meeting sponsored by the Urban Institute and the Washington Office on Latin America titled "Reducing Drug Abuse, Crime, and Incarceration: Innovations in Community Supervision and the Future of Drug Courts." He took copious notes and shared the substance of the meeting with fellow staff members.
- 14. FBOP Contractor Meeting (3/23):** The Bureau convened a national meeting of its contractors from around the country that met in its downtown office for two days of updates and training. PRRS was represented by AQSM Tina Michaels and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio. At the meeting, FBOP Director Harley Lappin spoke and specifically highlighted the chronic shortage of halfway houses, and used as the example Northern Virginia which is currently served by the PRRS.
- 15. White Flint Master Plan Approved (3/23):** Montgomery County Council approved a new Master Plan for the White Flint Sector in which the PRC resides. The sector is 430 acres and the plan projects 50,000 workers in the area, an increase of home units from 2,400 to 12,400, an increase in office space from 14 million to 20 million; and accumulated tax revenues of over \$7 billion over 20 years.
- 16. Investiture of Joseph Quirk (3/19):** PRRS staff attended the swearing-in ceremony of Former Welcome Home mentor Joseph Quirk as a Circuit Court judge in Montgomery County.
- 17. Workforce Investment Act (3/17):** PRRS Work Release Coordinators and other staff met with three representatives from the United States Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE). The federal officials visited PRRS as part of their efforts to gather information to assist them in their efforts to seek reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and to ensure that federal legislation serves clients involved in correctional systems.
- 18. Landscaping Plan (3/16):** The Montgomery County Master Gardeners assisted PRRS develop a landscaping plan for the area of land between the parking lot and the Washington Gas property. Due to a new sewer line, most of the existing pine trees will be removed. After the new pipe is laid, the plans calls for planting native Oak trees and carefully chosen underbrush.

19. **Cedar Lane Unitarian Church (3/14):** AQSM Tina Michaels gave a general presentation about PRRS to members of this faith-based organization.
20. **Delta Sigma Thet (2/24):** PRRS staff members met with Mrs. Ruby Rubin and other representatives of this sorority that is focused on community service and serving the African-American community. The purpose of the visit was to explore community service opportunities at PRRS for sorority members.
21. **Justice Reinvestment Grant (2/22 & 2/23):** PRRS Division Chief presented to a meeting sponsored by the Urban Institute to support reentry at the local level. Judges, prosecutors, human service workers, and correctional officials from three counties across the country -- Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; Alachua County, Florida; and Travis County, Texas were in attendance and are participating in a federal grant program
22. **Employment Retention Forum (2/3,4):** Unit Manager Angela Talley attended this event sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and convened by the Urban Institute. The Forum aimed to help NIC shape a training curriculum for employment specialists who implement workforce development services oriented to offender reentry
16. **National Summit on Justice Investment (1/27):** PRRS staff members attended this event which was sponsored by the Council of State Government and which focused on recently introduced bi-partisan legislation on justice investment. The legislation would provide states with technical assistance to assist them review how reevaluate the allocation of public safety dollars to the courts, corrections, probation and parole, and police. The event was held at the Capital's visiting center.
23. **Correctional Education Research (1/21):** Former FBOP Researcher Gerry Gaes presented a paper on the effectiveness of Correction Education programs which was attended by a PRRS staff member. The meeting was held at the US. Department of Education.

Personnel

1. **Welcome Home Coordinator Melissa George** will graduate from the University of Maryland on May 21st with her Master's in Social Work. Her internship, working with high school children with emotional and behavioral difficulties at the Rock Creek Academy in D.C., will continue through June.
2. **Work Release Coordinator Sylvia Hernandez** earned an Offender Employment Specialist Certificate through a three day training co-sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections
3. **Position Abolishment:** As part of FY'11 budget reductions, PRRS will lose five positions described earlier in this report of which only two are currently vacant.
4. **Resident Supervisor Positions:** The County restored two unfunded RS positions that were slated to end on July 1 as a stop gap measure to reduce overtime until a

formal Net Annual Work Hour Analysis can be conducted to determine the needed complement of Resident Supervisors.

Facility

1. **Generator (4/1)** The County's Department of General Services arranged for the installation of a second generator at PRRS to provide back-up for circuits that provide power to security equipment, RS offices throughout the building, and the kitchen's two freezers and one refrigerator. On February 13, RS Wendy Qassis and JA Rowe conducted a review of the existing emergency back-up circuits with the Division Chief.
2. **PRC Kitchen Renovation (2/25):** The County Council has approved the plans to expand the PRC kitchen as part of the FY'11 Capital Improvement projects. The current kitchen dates to the opening of the PRC in 1978 and was designed to serve a population half of which currently exists at the Pre-Release Center. In FY'11, the County will hire an architectural design firm.
3. **Solar panels (2/28):** The Department of General Services has selected the renovation of the solar hot water system at the pre-release center as an Energy CIP project. The intent is to provide domestic hot water as needed to support building needs.
4. **Break room (2/18):** PRRS established a break room for staff near the end of the building. The room is used by staff during lunch and breaks.
5. **Fire Alarm System (March):** Three fire marshals came onsite to review the newly integrated fire alarm system at PRRS. Due to several problems with the system design, the new system was not approved to be placed online, and the vendor is in the process of addressing the marshall's concerns. The new system has smoke/heat detectors in all rooms and locations in the building, and will provide audible and visual notification of alarms.

Population Served

	January	February	March
Local ADP	119	114	109
Federal ADP	35	36	38
State ADP	9	7	8
Total APD	163	157	155
PRC ADP	153	146	143
Home Confinement ADP	10	11	12

Escapes/Court Hearings: One escape to report in Calendar Year

1. **Escapee Tyrone Vilange Slade:** This former resident escaped on Saturday, March 27 at 6:30pm and was on fugitive status for 62 hours. He was apprehended on March 30, 2010 at approximately 8:00AM by the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, and the multi-jurisdictional team of six officers was led by Sergeant Troy Plummer from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. In speaking to Sergeant Plummer, he indicated that the information that PRRS provided to the Sheriff's Department was the key to the quick apprehension.
2. **Escapee Joseph Randolph (1/29):** This former resident went before a three judge appeal panel to seek a reduction in his eight year sentence for his escape from PRRS on June 11, 2008. The Division Chief attended the hearing, and the original sentence was sustained.