

Chief's Report

(February 1, 2008 to April 24, 2008)

Highlights

- **Eleanor Walker Retirement:** After 23 years of committed service to the residents of Montgomery County in both DPWT and DOCR, Facilities and Support Manager Eleanor Walker retired on February 28. Two days earlier, PRRS staff transformed the outside classroom into an elegant ballroom and threw her a fun and lively lunch to recognize her service and her warm friendship. The event was packed and attended by current and former DOCR staff as well as by her former colleagues in DPWT.
- **Believe, Succeed, And Achieve:** Five successful former residents of PRRS were recognized for their achievements before an audience of 30 current program residents and staff on a Saturday afternoon on March 15. Organized and conceived by Resident Supervisors Andrea Baker and Kenny Sterling, the program taps the ex-resident community for advice and guidance for the benefit of current residents. Each of the former residents who were recognized made powerful and moving remarks about the paths that they have traveled and how the PRRS program assisted them. Acting Unit Manager Patricia Braun and Work Release Coordinator Chris Johnson provided important support.
- **Winning Fathers:** The County's HHS Winning Fathers Project at PRRS kicked off its first class on March 29th with three residents and their wives as participants. The couples are spending time with the project facilitator to focus on ways to sustain healthy marital and child/parent relationships. This is a federally-funded program that is sited in six locations in the state. On April 2, federal and state contract monitors visited the program and expressed their excitement about the potential of the program at the PRC.
- **Second Chance Act of 2007:** On Wednesday, April 9th, President Bush signed into law the Second Chance Act of 2007 which aims to support the development and study of reentry programs in correctional systems throughout the country. Montgomery County played a small but important role to ensure that the legislation would include jail-based reentry programs. DOCR staff participated in a number of ceremonial and celebratory events including the presidential signing and an event that attracted six senators and numerous congressional representatives.

Programmatic Updates

- **Welcome Home Program:** The Welcome Home Program marked its one year anniversary date with some impressive numbers: over 54 committed volunteers have contributed over 1813 hours; over 63 program residents received direct services, and dozens of others have benefited from group computer instruction and supervision in the career resource center; thirteen training programs have served over 85 individuals; Coordinator Mary Mulholland

**PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee
February 1, 2008 to April 24, 2008**

and Father Michael Bryant have recruited at 17 parishes; and the program has made important outreach to other faith-based and social service organizations.

- **Integrating Community Health Providers:** In early April, Case Manager Kendra Jochum provided a program overview to the medical and treatment staff at Adult Behavioral Health Services, which is the county's program that provides therapeutic and psychiatric services to county residents without private insurance. Over the past several months, she has referred female residents to this program and has helped troubleshoot some of the challenges that have surfaced in transitioning her clients to this community-based provider. On April 17, she arranged for a follow-up meeting at the Pre-Release Center with ABHS psychiatrists, Dr. Gus Weiland and Therapist Ms. Doina Adams.
- **Integrating Health Care in Jails (cont'd):** DOCR staff attended a meeting on March 10 of an initiative by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation, and the Community Oriented Correctional Health Services to discuss opportunities and challenges in connecting jail health and community health services. The meeting was held in the D.C. at the National Press Club.
- **Crime Victims' Rights Compliance Visit:** The Victim Rights Compliance Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention met with DOCR senior staff on March 13 to review the Department's efforts to ensure that it complied with all measures to ensure the rights of victims. The follow-up report was very complimentary of the Department and particularly cited some of the measures adopted by PRRS over the past year.
- **Montgomery County Victims Services Advisory Board:** The Division Chief met with fourteen members of the VSAB on February 28 to discuss some of the changes that PRRS has made in the program over the past year to improve responsiveness to victims including verifying the accuracy of the state victim notification system, collecting restitution, and working with victim advocate representatives in the police department.
- **Spanish AA Meeting:** The Pre-Release Center is now hosting a Spanish AA meeting beginning on Saturday, March 8th. The organizers of the meeting had explained that they lost the use of their prior location and asked PRRS for assistance. As several of the program residents directly benefit from this program, PRRS agreed to provide meeting space from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. on Saturdays until the group finds a permanent home.
- **Offender Workforce Development Specialist:** Hillel Raskas, Work Release Coordinator, on Unit 4 is completing the training for the National Institute of Correction's Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) program on April 24, and will be certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator. Hillel is the third PRRS WRC to complete this 185-hour training program, following Work Release Coordinators Angela Talley and Patricia Taylor. Ms. Taylor is currently on contract to the Department of Justice. The Department will seek to enroll Chris Johnson, the Work Release Coordinator for Unit 3, in the next OWDS training.

**PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee
February 1, 2008 to April 24, 2008**

- **Newspaper Articles on Home Confinement Placement:** The Montgomery County Sentinel and the Montgomery County Gazette both wrote articles during the week of April 14th that were critical of the placement of a PRRS participant on Home Confinement. An internal review of the decision found that the Department exercised its authority appropriately, and the Department is using the case to examine its policies and protocols concerning its collaboration with other Criminal Justice Stakeholders.
- **Capital Improvement Project (Dinning Room and Kitchen):** The County Council approved the renovation and expansion of the Pre-Release Center's kitchen and cafeteria on the Capital Improvement Budget on February 21. Planning and design will commence in FY'10, with construction to follow in succeeding fiscal years.
- **Disciplinary Review Committee:** The Disciplinary Review Committee met on February 7 and March 13 to analyze PRRS disciplinary infraction data over the past several months. In February, the committee compared the types of sanctions meted for major and minor infractions by unit, and in March, the comparison was made of the infraction rates by unit.
- **De-Escalation Committee:** The committee met on March 19 and announced that it would kick-off a full-day de-escalation training session that will be facilitated by an individual from the training section of the County's Office of Human Resources in June.
- **Families and Reentry:** Acting Unit Manager Patricia Braun and the Division Chief visited an organization in New York City on April 2 that has pioneered the full involvement of family members in reentry. Family Justice established a program called La Bodega de la Familia that works closely with probation and parole and with families to make use of the strengths and resources that family can provide to individuals under supervision. PRRS solicited a proposal to receive technical assistance to further develop its program.

Events/Visits

- **University of Maryland (April 16):** Unit Manager Stephanie Hall provided a tour for half-a dozen students from a criminology course taught by Dr. Shawn Flower. Shawn is also a member of the CAB and is currently involved in a recidivism research project for DOCR.
- **University of Maryland Baltimore County @ Shady Grove (April 15):** Unit Manager James Shannon provided a three-hour lecture on reentry to a combined class of students from the schools of psychology, criminal justice, and nursing.
- **Urbana High School Visit (April 9):** Twenty-eight students from as Frederick County high school social studies class visited the Pre-Release Center and received a program overview, a tour, and had a chance to speak to several residents. Acting Unit Manager Patricia Braun coordinated the visit with the teacher who was a former PRRS intern.
- **Howard University (April 8):** Social Work Professor Janie Jeffers National Institute of Corrections Jim Barbee of the Jails Division visited PRRS and met with the DOCR director and other PRRS program staff.

**PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee
February 1, 2008 to April 24, 2008**

- **Just Faith (April 5):** Case Manager Tyrone Alexander greatly assisted Welcome Home Coordinator Mary Mulholland to provide a program overview and to arrange for three residents on Unit 3 to speak about their experiences. The group expressed their great pleasure with the visit.
- **American University (April 4):** Sixteen students from the Washington Semester Justice Program visited PRRS. Acting Unit Manager Patricia Braun coordinated the visit with Assistant Professor Beatrix Siman Zakhari.
- **Correctional Education Roundtable (March 31- April 1):** MCCF Warden Robert Green and the Division Chief participated in a two-day national meeting on correctional education held at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Organized by the College and the Urban Institute, the event brought dozens of practitioners, program providers, and policy makers together to discuss the challenges and benefits of developing correctional education programs in the nation's 5,000 jails and prisons. As part of the conference, seven papers were solicited and presented.
- **University of Maryland (March 30):** Ten graduate students from a class on criminal justice policy visited PRRS.
- **University of Maryland (3/11):** Stefan LoBuglio was a guest lecturer in Dr. Shawn Flowers criminology class.
- **Transition from Jail to the Community (TJC) Advisory Group (March/6-7):** DOCR Director Arthur Wallenstein participated in a two-day meeting hosted by the Urban Institute of the Advisory Board of this project that seeks to develop a national reentry model for jails. The project is funded by the National Institute of Correction.
- **Office of the Inspector General (2/29):** The Deputy Inspection General visited PRRS, MCDC, and MCCF to discuss its review of overtime usage within DOCR. The audit is part of a multi- year effort to better understand overtime usage in public safety organizations.
- **U.S. Parole and Probation (2/29):** Five Agents from U.S. Parole and Probation toured the facility to become better acquainted with the program. As part of PRRS' contract with the Federal Bureau of Prison, the program does accept several federal probationers each year.
- **D.C. Corrections (2/29):** – Eight staff members from the District of Columbia Corrections Department and the City's Department of Employment Services toured the one-stop career center at MCCF and the career center and work release program at PRRS.
- **National Committee on Community Corrections (2/01):** PRRS staff attended a meeting of efforts by law enforcement agencies to participate in reentry programs.

**PRRS Chief's Report to Community Advisory Committee
February 1, 2008 to April 24, 2008**

Personnel Changes

- Karla Rhodes joined PRRS as a Resident Supervisor on March 16. Previously, she was a correctional officer at MCCF in a program unit, and she brings to the position a wealth of experience both in institutional corrections and in community-based programs, and in specific settings that have provided intensive treatment services. She currently possesses an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice, and is currently pursuing her Bachelors in Science in Criminal Justice and the University of Maryland's University College program.
- Case Manager Shaunda Legg transferred to a Case Manager position in DOCR's Pre-Trial Division at the end of February. At PRRS, Shaunda distinguished herself as an energetic and thorough case manager on Unit 4 who provided excellent services to her clients. She began with PRRS as Resident Supervisor and then earned a promotion to a case manager position. PRRS gave her a send-off luncheon on 2/25 to wish her well in her new position. as

Escapes/Court Dispositions

- **# on Fugitive Status: 0**
- **# of Escapes to date in CY 2008: 2**
 - **James McNair** escaped from the Pre-Release Center on February 29, 2008. He was apprehended in Washington, D.C. on January 4th and extradited to Montgomery County on February 27th. He was indicted by the Grand Jury on April 10, 2008.
 - **Lisa Lawrence** left the Center on February 13, 2008, at approximately 5:30 P.M. on an approved pass to Goodwill Industries in search of clothing and shoes and did not return at 7:00 P.M. Staff found her at her victim/former boyfriend's home. Inmate Lawrence was apprehended within hours of her leaving the center and was charged with escape and also with violating a protective order.
- **Sentenced Escape Cases:**
 - **Gerardo Torres (2/14):** sentenced by Judge Eric Johnson to eight years, suspend all but three years, in the Maryland Division of Corrections. He escaped from the Pre-Release Center in December of 2005 and was apprehended in September 2007 in Tennessee and extradited to Montgomery County.
 - **Christopher Streams (3/14):** sentenced to 30 month sentence to the Maryland Division of Correction by Judge Paul Weinstein. He escaped on October 6, 2007 and apprehended by Rockville Police on October 16, 2007.
 - **Jose Benitez (3/11):** sentenced to 18 month by Judge David Boynton. He escaped on August 14, 2007 and was apprehended eight days later (August 22nd) at the home of the victim of the governing charge.