



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

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### PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report *Issued 6/4/15 (Updates since March 13, 2015)*

#### Highlights

- 1. Federal and State Accreditation:** On 5/28/15, the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (MCCS) voted to award the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center a certificate of 100% compliance with all seventy-six state standards based on the recommendations of its auditors who inspected the PRC in February. All state correctional facilities are required to obtain this certification. On 4/28/15, PRRS received its final report from the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit conducted in February which found the program in full compliance with its forty-six standards. The Washington Post applauded the DOCR for achieving PREA compliance in all three of its correctional facilities in an editorial dated 5/13/15.
- 2. Governor's Office recognizes PRRS Restitution and Victim Services as State Model:** PRRS has significantly increased its collections of restitution payments in compliance with a change in state law in 2013. Recently, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention asked PRRS staff to discuss with state officials its restitution and victim services practices at the request of the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center. Related, the DOCR participated in an extensive survey of its services by the County's Victim's Services Advisory Board.
- 3. County Behavioral Health (mental health and substance abuse) Improvement Processes:** PRRS/DOCR is engaged in several initiatives to improve behavioral health services to justice-involved individuals. They include a new \$600K federally funded community-based case management program; a new detention services division -led \$30K state grant to promote medication-assisted-treatment for addiction, and several collaborative planning efforts with other agencies and organizations. PRRS staff members are participating in the Behavioral Health Task Force of Healthy Montgomery and the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Initiative.
- 4. Approval of MD cost-sharing of PRRS \$7 million Dietary Center:** In the last legislative session, the state's capital plan was approved and included nearly 50% cost sharing of the planned renovation of the Pre-Release Center kitchen and cafeteria area. Design work on this project will begin in FY'16 with construction commencing the following fiscal year.
- 5. DOCR Annual Awards:** On May 5, DOCR held its annual awards ceremony and several PRRS volunteers, program partners, and staff members were recognized for providing outstanding services to our residents. Those receiving the Special Recognition Certificate included: Volunteer Literacy Tutor Wendy Williams; Volunteer Job Coach Karen Chopra; Future Link's Mindi Jacobson (Montgomery College-based Prep Program); and D.C. Central Kitchen's Sara Riley (culinary arts training program). Work Release Coordinator Joyce Reimherr received an Outstanding Performance Certificate for revamping the PRC Career Resource Center. The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation (RAMEF)'s Alison Vukmer received a Special Recognition Medallion for her organization's partnership with PRRS that has helped train

PRRS Residents for careers in food services. Outstanding Performance Medallions were offered to Correctional Dietary Supervisor Robyn Quillens for initiating a food service training program for all PRRS kitchen workers and for Correctional Specialist III Ashley Spencer for her role in de-escalating a critical incident at the PRC involving a mentally-ill former Resident of the program. Finally, Work Release Coordinator Erica Nelson received the PRRS Division Employee of the Year for her collective efforts to significantly improve employment services and outcomes.

- Hillel Raskas Memorial Annual Employee Service Award:** On May 28, Work Release Coordinator Goldsborough K. (Kenny) Sterling, Jr. was recognized for his outstanding service to Residents during his decade with PRRS. The award is given in honor of the late Work Release Colleagues Hillel Raskas' to the employee who best fulfills Hillel's oft stated refrain that "We are Here to Serve." In particular, Kenny was cited for improving veteran services at PRRS and his efforts to engage the employer community.

**Quarterly Performance Indicator Table**

Program Utilization	90%	Increase prev. quar	Assumes 182 is 100% utilization assuming 20 female Residents and 20 on Home Confinement. Different from design capacity of PRC and HC.
Work Force Engaged	77%	Increase	Point-in-time count each month of individuals working or assigned inside details.
Released with Employment	69.3%	Increase	% of individuals successfully released from PRC with private sector employment. Some individuals released without employment were at PRRS for short stays (<30 days), were in full-time education or treatment programs, or were on a non-working status due to disability or retirement.
Released with Housing	94%	Increase	Some individuals released to shelters purposely to get certified as homeless and thus eligible for certain housing assistance.
Program Completions	75.6%	Decrease	Previous 3 months was 78.1%. Measures percentage of individuals exiting program in month successfully. Different from cohort analysis of of successful completion.
Program Removals	31	Increase	Includes revocations and administrative removals. Previous three months total was 30. Of 31 this month, 20 were disciplinary revocations.
Facility Emergencies	0	Same	Facility malfunctions that adversely affect PRRS operations
PREA Incident	1	Same	Resident-on-resident sexual harassment. Claim was substantiated through investigation and the perpetrator was revoked from program.
Critical Security Incidents	0	Decrease	No critical security incidents that affected operations. Two incidents had occurred in the prior three months.
Escapes	0	Same	No escapes in fiscal year or calendar year 2015
Recidivism	30.9%	Decrease	Three-year post-release conviction and parole/probation return to incarceration rate. Cumulative data from July 2013. Down from 31.4% when measured till February 2015. One-year recidivism rate is 9.7% also decrease. Rates are 40% below national averages
Resident Exit Survey Results	TBD	N/A	On exit PRRS Residents indicate that they are very satisfied with Case Management, medical care, and services (CBT program in particular). They are least satisfied with the rules and grievance policies.

**Program Developments**

- Federal Bureau of Prisons Monitoring Visit (3/25-27):** FBOP representatives conducted a quarterly monitoring visit of PRC. They inspected the building, and rooms that housed federal Residents, interviewed the federal Residents, and reviewed case files. No deficiencies were noted in their final report but they did ask for better accounting of billing information related to the FBOP contract with the DOCR.
- Pre-Placement Employment Unit:** PRRS will create a unit for all unemployed Residents that will allow PRRS to focus greater resources and services on these clients. Once employed, these Residents will move to other units and receive greater privileges. Reentry Services Manager Tyrone Alexander is spearheading this proposal. The proposal originates from a site visit to

another community correctional residential center in Ohio last year conducted in conjunction with the International Community Correctional Association conference.

3. **PRRS IT System:** DOCR and the County's Department of Technology Services are revamping the current IT system used for case management at PRRS. The current stand-alone database will be converted to an integrated database with the County's other justice system. In the process, the system will be significantly improved to support PRRS operations.
4. **Sexual Offender Management Team:** PRRS participates in this bi-monthly review of issues regarding convicted sex offenders in Montgomery County along with the police, probation/parole, DOCR Pre-Trial and Records staff, and others. On June 2, Reentry Services Manager Tyrone Alexander lead a review of the progress of sex offenders who had been released from PRRS.
5. **Conflict Resolution Center (CRCMC):** provides mediation services to PRRS residents. After a hiatus of services, the program staff returned to PRC on 4/23/15.
6. **Montgomery College Educational Bridge Counselor:** The College has deployed a staff member who comes to PRRS weekly to assist Residents enroll in credit and non-credit courses offered by the college on their Germantown, Rockville, and Silver Spring campuses.
7. **Smoking Cessation:** The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has provided a grant to the county's HHS Cancer & Tobacco program to provide this program. Residents are referred to this program through the PRRS Nurse.
8. **Community Service:** On May 18, PRRS Residents provided community service and helped build a playground for the homeless in a project organized by the Coalition for the Homeless.
9. **Drug Court Graduation:** During the May 13 Drug Court graduation, Judges Rupp and Quirk praised the critical role that PRRS plays in housing and providing reentry services to all new Drug Court participants, and in providing weekend drug testing to all clients.
10. **Research Projects:**
  - American University Senior Capstone project: What ideas do PRRS residents have to ending recidivism, curtail the school-to-prison pipeline, and to reduce community violence.
  - American University study with a partnership with Bethesda Cares: How does foster care affects young homeless adults 18-24?
  - BETAH Associates through the Community Foundation for National Capital Region and Montgomery College: Survey assessing academic and workforce development needs of black/A-A youth 14-24.
  - Walden University (Minneapolis, MN) proposed Dissertation Study: Examining the perceptions of correctional facilities, particularly reentry staff and female offenders regarding the impact of Medicaid expansion and enrollment.

### **Security**

1. **Complete Program Search:** PRRS conducted a security operation on May 19 and searched all residents, all rooms, and all common areas for contraband. It enlisted the assistance of the DOCR 20-member Emergency Response Team, two DOCR gang officers, and the Sheriff's K-9 unit. During the operation, one Resident was returned for higher custody for attempting to discard drugs

during movement. No weapons or major drugs were discovered in the operation but excess property and food were removed from Residents rooms.

2. **MOSHA Inspection:** On April 29, the County's Division of Risk Management conducted a thorough safety inspection of PRC. The inspector noted fourteen items that needed remediation and PRRS is working with DGS to address all of the concerns. They include replacing ceiling tiles, room screens, putting new collars on some fire sprinkler heads, eliminating several roof leaks, and addressing non-standard electrical devices and junction boxes, placement of fire extinguishers in outside sheds, labeling bottles with non-toxic chemicals, replacing a broken skylight, and others.
3. **Review of Disciplinary Suspensions:** In April, Deputy Chiefs Murphy and Stevenson conducted a review of those recently suspended in light of a spike in suspensions. They found:
  - Residents who were suspended mirrored general population's LSI-R scores and general population's jurisdiction (no noticeable trend)
  - Average age of suspended resident 31 (average age of resident admission in March 35)
  - 76% of suspensions had substance abuse disorder
  - 40% of suspensions diagnosed historically or currently with a mental health disorder.
4. **Video Surveillance System:** PRRS recently upgraded its system and software to enhance the use of this system as an investigatory tool.
5. **Computer Labs:** PRRS conducted a full assessment of security vulnerabilities in its three computer labs that are accessed by Residents. The County's Department of Technology Services is working with DOCR IT in the review, and has begun to implement improved security features.
6. **Lighting:** PRRS has improved lighting in the cafeteria, on units, and in Resident bathrooms.

### **Personnel Changes**

**Case Manager Positions:** As part of FY'16 budget reductions, PRRS transferred two Correctional Specialist III positions from Pre-Trial and in return received two Correctional Specialist II positions. The Correctional Specialist II Case Managers will be deployed to support the Pre-Placement Unit. The positions will also provide a career advancement stepping stone for Resident Supervisors.

### **Visits to Pre-Release Center**

1. March 13: Filmmaker Bryan Reisberg.
2. March 13: ACLU staff members.
3. March 31: Social Work class of University of Maryland at Baltimore County.
4. April 17: Staff members from the American Correctional Association's national headquarters.
5. April 20: Prison chaplains from Brazil.
6. May 8: County Senior Executive Assistants for Department Directors as part of Correctional Employees week.
7. May 18: Prison chaplains from Cuba.
8. May 20: Federal Grant technical assistant providers from Council of State Government.
9. May 28: Assistant Director and other senior managers from Federal Bureau of Prisons.