

## **PRRS Chief's Report**

*August 20, 2009 to November 19, 2009*

### **Highlights**

- **H1N1 Protocol:** The DOCR has worked closely with the County's public health officials and other agencies to develop vaccination plans for individuals in custody in the County's three correctional facilities as well as for line staff members in the Department. The plans target the populations most at-risk of H1N1 complications as determined by the public health officials. Individuals in custody at PRRS suffering from H1N1 symptoms will receive immediate treatment and isolation at the detention center for the duration of their illness.
  
- **Recent Promotions:** PRRS is proud to recognize the following individuals who have been promoted at PRRS. Each individual listed participated in a highly competitive and highly structured interviewing and hiring process, and was the consensus choice of interviewing panels that were composed of a diverse group of individuals throughout the DOCR.
  1. Angela Talley – promoted from Work Release Coordinator to Unit Manager
  2. Tina Michaels – promoted Correctional Screener to Assessment & Quality Services Mgr.
  3. Kendra Jochum – promoted from Case Manager to Reentry Assessment Specialist
  4. Sylvia Hernandez – promoted from Case Manager to Work Release Coordinator
  5. Carlos Mellott – promoted from Resident Supervisor to Work Release Coordinator
  6. Andrea Baker – promoted from Resident Supervisor to Case Manager
  7. Andrew Lautar – promoted from Resident Supervisor to Case Manager
  8. Kayi Somado-Hemazro – promoted from Intern to Resident Supervisor
  10. Eduardo Santana – promoted from Correctional Officer to Resident Supervisor
  
- **Senator Cardin's Visit to the Pre-Release Center:** On November 2, Senator Cardin and several of his staff members toured the Pre-Release Center, and spent almost two hours meeting with staff members and residents (Co-Chair Diane Scott-Jones represented the CAC). As he explained, he wanted an opportunity to visit a reentry program in preparation for a hearing that he chaired on November 6 on behalf of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs. At the hearing, titled "The First Line of Defense: Reducing Recidivism at the Local Level," Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio was one of six panelists invited to speak and he described the PRRS program. The Senator was extremely complimentary of the program, and was impressed by the residents who spoke to him during a private meeting. The visit was the subject of an article in the Gazette newspaper which can be accessed at [http://www.gazette.net/stories/11042009/montnew192608\\_32527.shtml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/11042009/montnew192608_32527.shtml)
  
- **White Flint Sector Master Plan:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission submitted a zoning master plan to the County Council of the region in which the Pre-Release center is located. The Plan envisions a new urban core around the White Flint Metro Station with thousands of units of housing, hotels, and new retail centers. Public hearings on the plan were held three weeks ago, and were attended by PRRS staff. While the

plan has garnered considerable support from the business community and some residents, others expressed concerns about too much density and too little explanation of the transportation financing. On November 4, the plan did earn the top distinction as the best Urban Plan in Maryland (<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/whiteflint/>).

### **Program Developments**

- **Addiction Recovery Meeting Proposal:** Unit Manager Patricia Braun is exploring the development of a substance abuse treatment program at PRRS that would be led by two volunteers, one of whom is a licensed social worker. Both have been members of the Welcome Home Program (WHP) although this effort would remain separate from WHP. As conceived, it may provide an aftercare component for those residents who were participating in the Substance Abuse Therapeutic programs at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF).
- **SAMSHA Grant Proposal:** PRRS is exploring a grant program that is targeted at the substance abuse needs of returning prisoners. The grant solicitation is due in January, and awardees can receive as much as \$400K in each of three years. PRRS is exploring several program models including one that would expand the number of state inmates who would be placed at PRRS, who are within four months of release, and who are returning to a Montgomery County address.
- **Welcome Home Program:** Currently, there are 47 volunteers mentoring men and women as they transition back to the community and eight recently trained mentors are waiting to be matched with a resident at the Pre Release Center (PRC). Of the 47 current pairs, 31 of them meet their mentees in the community, post-release. There are also seven volunteers with Prison Outreach Ministry (POM) 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; helping residents create job resumes, supervising activities in the Career Resource Center, teaching an ESOL class, teaching a computer class, and offering residents assistance as they look for employment. Since July 1, 2008, volunteers have spent more than 2,700 hours of positive social role modeling and service. Since the program's founding almost three years ago, mentors have provided PRRS with over 5,000 hours of service.
- **PRRS Strategic Planning Process:** The 16-member Core Planning Committee continues to move forward with the Division's Strategic Planning Process. Currently, the committee is working on a first draft of the plan that will identify seven areas where the program can concentrate its efforts to develop truly cutting edge practices in employment services, family support, program & community support, culture, technology/facility, public safety, and research. The plan should be finalized in January.
- **Policies and Procedures:** PRRS staff including managers and union representatives worked to finalize new policies and procedures on the Division's Dress Code, Leave Practices, and Resident Supervisor's duties. Several educational sessions were conducted on the new dress code policy that aims to ensure that all staff dress appropriately both as role models for our residents and as representatives of the County. During summer months, the dress code will relax the requirement for men to wear ties.

- **Accreditation:** PRRS is preparing for an audit by the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards on December 4 to evaluate the program's response to two deficiencies found out of 76 standards during its audit in April. The standards in question relate to tracking syringes and controlled medications, and PRRS has taken several significant steps to improve its compliance with these standards. Nurse Practitioner Lynn Williams has worked closely with Unit Managers to put in place new practices. In addition, Resident Supervisors Karla Rhodes and Jaspas Ezeigbo are playing leadership roles to prepare our facility for the audit.
- **Staff Meetings:** In order to further communications within the Division, the weekly staff meeting was made open to all staff members beginning October 29. The meeting time and day was changed to Thursday at 1pm to allow more staff to attend.

### Personnel

- **Nurse Practitioner:** Lystra ("Lynn") Williams was selected for this newly created position after a competitive interviewing process. This position replaces a nursing position that has long existed at PRSS. Nurse Practitioners can attend to the basic nursing needs of patients, but also have authority to diagnose, manage and treat health issues. The new position will allow the Department to provide a higher level of care at lower costs by reducing our reliance on contract physicians. Ms. Williams has been a registered nurse since 1994 and has practiced as a certified registered adult nurse practitioner since 2004, operating clinically shortly after she graduated with her Master Degree from the University of Maryland
- **Intern Appointment:** Rafael Franco joined PRRS on October 29<sup>th</sup> as part of the county's Customized Employment Public (CEP) Intern Project. In these challenging fiscal times, the DOCR has proactively sought to identify resources outside of the Department's budget that might assist us carry our mission. Rafael will assist the front desk Resident Supervisor by answering the phones, providing general information to visitors, residents, and contractors, and doing some data entry. He was born in Lima, Peru and has been in the United States for thirteen years. He is bi-lingual, has computer skills, and has experience as a nursing assistant for five years and an electrician's assistant for nine. The CEP Project was created to address the challenge recognized by the County that people with disabilities often have difficulty accessing County government positions.

### Facility

- **Solar Panels:** The County's Department of General Services (DGS) is funding a project to reduce energy usage at the PRRS which will include replacing the solar panels on top of the building which have not been used for decades. Additionally, the facility will undergo a modest weatherization improvement.
- **Fire Alarm System:** The County's Department of General Services (DGS) is funding a \$174,000 project to upgrade the center's fire alarm system. The new system will have smoke/heat detectors in all rooms and locations in the building, and will provide audible and visual notification of alarms.

- **Generator:** DGS is planning the replacement of the PRC's back-up generator which failed last fall, and which necessitates a portable backup generator now located in the parking lot. The new generator will provide better back-up of safety and security systems and will cost over \$150,000.
- **Sewer Right of Way:** The County and the LCOR development company are planning to lay a new sewer pipe in an easement between the Pre-Release Center and the Washington Gas Company. The project will require the removal of a number of trees in the back of the parking lot, but new trees will be planted as part of a well-conceived landscaping plan.

**Other Visits/Events/Meetings:**

- **China Delegation of Wardens (11/13/09):** PRRS Division Chief addressed 20 wardens from China who were participating in the University of Maryland's Office of International and Executive Programs with the assistance of a translator.
- **Planning Meeting (11/13/09 & 10/23/09):** Senior managers from PRRS met on two occasions with Consultant Brenda Jones for wide-ranging planning meetings.
- **Montgomery College (11/12/09):** PRRS staff hosted a tour of nearly 20 students from Montgomery College who are studying corrections and criminal justice.
- **OASIS (11/11/09):** PRRS staff held a tour for 13 senior citizens living in Montgomery County who are participating in an educational program taught by State Attorney John McCarthy and sponsored by Macy's Home.
- **Congressional Tour of D.C. Youth Detention Facilities (11/9/09):** The Division Chief participated in a tour of the D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services' brand new detention facility located in Laurel Maryland. The facility, called New Beginnings, houses 60 juveniles and replaces the Oak Hill Youth Detention facility that was decommissioned in May of 2009. Both facilities are located in Laurel Maryland.
- **American Society of Criminology (11/4/09):** Assessment and Quality Services Manager Tina Michaels participated in a prestigious panel at the ASC conference in Philadelphia on recidivism. She provided an overview of PRRS and spoke about the recent recidivism study undertaken by the Department with the assistance of Craig Uchida, President of Justice & Security Strategies. Craig chaired the ASC panel which also included a Chief Statistician from the U.S. DOJ's Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- **Congressional Quarterly Researcher (10/27/09):** Peter Katel, a senior reporter for CQ Researcher, spent a day visiting PRRS as part of his research for an article that he is writing on prison reentry. The article is expected to appear in this widely read journal.
- **Singapore Delegation (10/12/09):** An eight-member delegation from Singapore led by Senior Parliamentary Secretary visited PRRS and MCCF and included representatives from three Ministries (equivalent to national executive agencies), the Singapore Prison Service, and two representatives from an Islamic charitable organization. The Secretary explained

that the purpose of their visit was to gather new ideas to further the reentry work that this small island nation in Southeast Asia started ten years ago.

- **Vice-President's Office (10/8/09 & 9/22/09):** PRRS and DOCR staff have participated in several meetings arranged by staff members of Vice-President Biden's office. The Vice-President's staff members have explained their interest in learning more about the landscape of correctional reform and reentry. The meetings were held both in the old and new Executive Office Buildings.
- **Victim Services Advisory Board (9/24/09):** ASQM Tina Michaels attended this meeting and represented PRRS/ DOCR. The board meets regularly to ensure that victims' rights are respected, and to identify resources that can assist victims. The Department will seek legislative changes to ensure that DOCR is made a permanent and required member of the board given its commitment to and involvement with victims.
- **State's Mental Hygiene Administration Meeting (9/24/09):** Darren McGregor, Director of Trauma and Jail-Based Programs visited PRRS and explained the two programs that he oversees: Maryland Community Criminal Justice Treatment Programs (MCCJTP) that is in all of the state's county jails except for Baltimore City and Montgomery County and Trauma Addictions Mental Health and Recovery (TAMAR) which is piloted in 8 jails.
- **Ramadan (9/10/09):** Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas coordinated an effort where PRRS residents assisted in the set-up of a Ramadan event held at the Executive Office Building. The program organizers expressed gratitude for the assistance of the program and for the hard work of the residents.
- **Kent County (9/8/09):** PRRS staff hosted a visit from five individuals who work at Michigan's Kent County Correctional Facility's Community Reentry Center. Kent County, which encompasses Grand Rapids, has an excellent reputation for its correctional programs, and they were referred to us by a correctional consultant working on a grant program funded by the Department of Justice.
- **Council of State Governments (9/2/09):** PRRS Staff participated in a day-long work session on developing a planning and implementation guide for awardees of the federal Second Chance Act grant. Two guides are being developed, one for state and local government recipients of reentry demonstration grants (under Section 101 of the Act) and one for nonprofit recipients of mentoring grants (under Section 211 of the Act).
- **Congressional Staff (8/27/09):** The Council of State government arranged for several congressional staff members to tour MCCF and PRRS. The visit involved a program overview by senior staff, a tour of the facility, and a meeting with the residents.

**Population Served**

	August	September	October
<b>Local ADP</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Federal ADP</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>State ADP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total APD</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>PRC ADP</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Home Confinement ADP</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>

**Escapes/Court Hearings (Two escapes in CY'09; both individuals apprehended and in custody)**

- **Daniel Grant** - Judge Weinstein sentenced Daniel Grant to four years in state prison for his escape from the Pre-Release Center on June 2, 2009 after only two days on the program. He was apprehended by Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputies in the Columbia Mall in Howard County on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, less than 24 hours after the escape. Because of his long criminal history, the sentencing guidelines called for a sentence between five (5) and ten (10) years, and the defendant did agree to a plea bargain of four years. Unit Manager Angela Talley and PRRS Chief LoBuglio appeared in Court to testify about the harm done to PRRS by the escape of Daniel Grant. The Court fully recognized the value of our program and the need to sanction sternly individuals who escape. During Mr. Grant's remarks, he did offer an apology to PRRS.

**Community Advisory Committee Proposed Meeting Dates for 2010 (All Meetings start at 7:30 A.M. and end at 9:00 A.M.)**

- Thursday, January 21, 2010
- Thursday, April 22, 2010
- Thursday, July 22, 2010
- Thursday, November 18, 2010