



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

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PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report *Issued 6/5/14 (Updates since March 6, 2014)*

Highlights

- 1. PRRS Staff Awards:** On 5/22/14, Work Release Coordinator Don Meyers received the Hillel Raskas Memorial Employee Annual Service Award. The award recognizes the staff member who exemplifies Hillel's mantra "We are here to Serve," and Don's 13-year career with PRRS bespeaks of his commitment to help our clients achieve a better life for themselves and their families. At the DOCR Annual Awards ceremony on 5/6/14, Resident Supervisor David Luu received the 2013 PRRS Division Employee of the Year award. David, in his five years with PRRS, has demonstrated excellence in the performance of his front-line duties. Others recognized for their achievement to improve PRRS include: Program Specialist II Karla Rhodes (Accreditation); Principal Administrative Assistant Joanna Henriquez (Recidivism Study); Case Manager III Fritz Jadotte (Drug Court Liaison); HHS's James Sutton and Athena Morrow (Jail Addiction Services Aftercare at PRC), Job Search Volunteer Julia Albrecht (Resumes); PRRS Volunteer Natalie Goldberg (Career Resource Center); Montgomery College's Ed Palaszynski, Nancy Newton, and Donna Kinerney (Digital Literacy, College Counseling, GED); George Washington University's Lottie Lent (Museum Education Practicum), Judges Nelson Rupp & Joe Quirk (Montgomery County Drug Court); and Department of General Services Nancy Green, Steve Maggi, and Jan Wilson (PRC American with Disabilities Project).
- 2. PRRS Cell Phone Legislation:** On 5/14/14, Governor O'Malley signed a law that codifies the right of the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center to allow its residents to possess cell phones ([PRRS Cell Phone Maryland Law](#)). Montgomery County Delegate Kathleen Dumais sponsored this legislation, and the effort was ably assisted by County Attorney Dave Stevenson, and the County's Inter-Governmental Relations Division's Sara Morningstar and Melanie Wenger.
- 3. Thinking for Change:** PRRS will introduce a new Cognitive Behavioral program called Thinking for Change (<http://nicic.gov/t4c>) which was developed by the U.S. DOJ's National Institute of Corrections over the past 12 years and is a type of programming that the field's best evaluative research has shown reduces recidivism. PRRS will host training of approximately 35 staff from the PRRS, MCCF, Pre-Trial, Drug Court, and HHS from June 3-5.
- 4. Recidivism Study:** University of Maryland's Masters of Public Policy student Sarah Berday-Sacks conducted a recidivism study to examine the appropriateness of recidivism as a correctional performance measure and then used existing recidivism data to analyze recidivism by subgroups. She reanalyzed existing PRRS recidivism data for this project which was sponsored by the County's statistical performance agency called County Stat and PRRS. It also fulfilled her Masters of Public Policy degree requirements. She presented her report to over 20 DOCR staff members on May 21. The presentation and report are available on our website at: [S. Berday-Sacks Recidivism Analysis Presentation](#) / [S. Berday-Sacks Recidivism Analysis Final Report](#)

Program Developments

- 1. FBOP Monitoring Visit (4/23-4/24):** FBOP's Contract Oversight Specialist Carolyn Dunson conducted a two-day quarterly inspection of the PRC. Based on interviews with federal residents, room inspections, case reviews, Ms. Dunson provided a favorable and complimentary report. She noted that PRRS did correct the maintenance deficiency from the previous inspection (dirty and rusty bathroom vents) but she did cite one deficiency in the area of referral reviews. FBOP requests PRRS to review and provide an eligibility determination within five business days of a referral. PRRS has taken steps to meet this requirement but noted that due to missing information in the referral files from FBOP, some cases will require longer review periods. As part of the monitoring visit, FBOP did provide PREA training to 22 PRRS staff members.
- 2. Federal Inter-Agency Reentry Council:** On April 9, approximately 18 staff members from President Obama's Reentry Council visited the PRC and MCCF. The council, composed of cabinet secretaries and other high government officials was created several years ago to identify federal initiatives to assist individuals returning from incarceration. The timing of the visit coincided with a press release from Attorney General Eric Holder about his plan for the FBOP to upgrade treatment services in the more than 200 halfway houses it contracts for each year. While he did not explicitly mention PRC, the model he described was identical to PRC. See link at: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/March/14-ag-301.html>
- 3. Compressed Level system:** PRRS re-calibrated the program's Resident Level System to incentivize Residents to fully participate in the program. The changes included reducing the number of levels from 6 to 4 in order to increase the likelihood that a motivated Resident can achieve the highest levels of privilege through their performance in the program.
- 4. Servsafe Training:** PRRS continues to host a two-day training conducted by the Restaurant Association's Maryland Education Foundation on safe food handling practices. The training prepares individuals to earn a Servsafe certificate which is valued in the food services industry. Classes were offered on April 14 & 15 and May 19 & 20. Additionally, Correctional Dietary Supervisor Robyn McCormick teaches a Food Handler's safety class with the association's curriculum to all Residents working in the PRC kitchen.
- 5. Restitution:** PRRS renewed efforts to ensure that Residents with restitution orders begin paying their obligations as soon as they receive an income from working. In a snapshot conducted in April, 24 residents had restitution orders of whom more than half were working. Of this group, 42% were paying restitution, and PRRS seeks to increase this to 100%.
- 6. State Inmate transferred to PRRS:** In March, PRRS received its first state "inmate" in three years under a new pilot program that allow up to five state inmates to complete their final 90 days of their state sentence at MCCF and PRRS.
- 7. Eligibility Reports:** PRRS is working with the DOCR IT Manager Brenda Sims and Department of Technology Services Fay Bastin and Lisa Henderson to develop a report of all sentenced individuals in Detention Services who may be eligible for PRRS placement. This report will allow PRRS to serve more clients including those serving shorter sentences.

- 8. Affordable Care Act/ Health Insurance:** Over the past several months, PRRS has focused on ensuring that all releases from PRC have signed up for health insurance. As part of this effort, interns have taken Residents to meet with navigators in HHS's Germantown Health and Human Services center.
- 9. Sex offender treatment meeting:** PRRS managers met Forensic Associates clinicians to discuss the sex offender treatment services they provide to PRRS clients. Forensic Associates will provide a full training to PRRS Case Managers and Work Release Coordinators in August.
- 10. Federal Grant on Mental Health Diversion:** On March 18, HHS and DOCR submitted a federal grant to develop a Rapid Reentry program for individuals with co-occurring behavioral health concerns. HHS's Athena Morrow took the lead on this project. See grant abstract and narrative at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COR/PRRS/Resourcesinformation.html>
- 11. Circuit Court Judges Meeting:** On Monday, April 7 PRRS staff provided circuit court judges with an update on PRC programming and eligibility. They discussed ways that the PRRS can be more responsive to the Courts' decisions regarding placement of sentenced offenders at PRC. PRRS particularly seeks quicker response times in order to serve individuals with short sentences.
- 12. Second Chance Act Grant Presentation:** On 5/15/14, Montgomery College, Workforce Solutions Group, and PRRS co-presented their successful partnership grant program called the Workplace Digital Literacy Initiative at the national Second Chance Act Conference held at the National Harbor. The presentation provided an overview of the significant performance achievements of the grant program and lessons learned in developing the program. Although funded as a one-year grant, the grant partners were able to stretch the funding to four years and serve more than triple the number of clients promised in the grant proposal. In the course of the grant, PRRS expanded its career center lab from 10 computers to 23, and the College created an 8-hour digital literacy curriculum that has been provided to all PRRS clients since June 6, 2011. Additionally, the funding allowed more than thirty individuals to pursue training in more advanced technology areas with Montgomery College.
- 13. PRRS Workforce Academy:** Career Resource Specialist Joyce Reimherr has attracted over 20 employers to visit PRRS to speak with them about considering individuals with criminal histories for employment and to speak directly to residents about their expectations for their employees. She has been working extensively with the Division's other three Work Release Coordinators to conduct greater outreach and job development with potential employers. Recently, one of the region's largest construction companies hired three PRC Residents.
- 14. DGS Inventory Project:** Since March, PRRS has worked with DGS's Nicole Ferris, Richard Taylor, and Edward Buchanan to develop a retention and disposal schedule for all PRRS records. This is part of a county effort to ensure that records held by agencies are properly maintained, stored, and destroyed according to a defined schedule. PRRS served as a pilot project for DOCR, and DGS has begun to work with detention services.

Security/Facility

- 1. Synthetic Cannabinoids:** PRRS is working with police and the State Attorney's Office to file criminal charges against five revoked residents who were found with synthetic cannabinoids on

their person. Called K2 and Spice, these substances are widely available and have significant adverse health and behavioral effects. PRRS has ramped up its searches and testing to maintain the orderliness and drug-free nature of the facility. Several weeks ago, all Residents were tested for synthetic cannabinoids and four tested positive. Additionally, Case Managers conducted evening unit meetings on May 27 to remind residents of PRRS no-tolerance policy with regard to drug usage and possession.

2. **Centralized Checkout Review:** On 4/3/14, Deputy Chief of Security and Facility Ben Stevenson presented a six month review of PRR's policy to centralize resident check-in and out to the Department Director and 25 DOCR staff members. On 10/1/13, PRRS discontinued its practice to check-in/out residents on each of the four units and instead created a centralized check-in/out office in the lobby of the building. The review demonstrated that the policy change has improved safety, building control, resident accountability, accreditation readiness.
3. **Critical debriefings:** DCSF Stevenson conducted two critical debriefings since the last quarterly CAC meeting. On May 8, the debriefing focused on the escape and apprehension efforts with regard to Ontae Butler who was charged with escape from PRRS on 4/23/14. He was apprehended within 12 hours. On 6/2/14, DCSF conducted a debriefing on the incident involving revoked Resident Arnold Martin. On May 21, Mr. Martin was arrested and charged with attempted escape and carjacking all-of-which occurred during a fire drill on the midnight shift. The debriefings confirmed that PRRS staff operated within policy and exercised good judgment in both situations.
4. **Chemical Storage Dispensers:** PRRS has installed automated chemical dispensers in the utility closets on all of its four units in order to better track the usage of non-caustic chemicals used to keep the facility clean. Over the years, PRRS has moved to cleansers that pose a lesser risk of misuse for both safety and accreditation reasons.
5. **Storage Locations:** PRRS has installed new shelving and organizational systems in its three sheds, tool room, maintenance closet, and inventory room. The improved organization will ensure better tracking of tools, equipment, and supplies. Working with DGS, PRRS is piloting an automated electronic record inventory system.
6. **PRC Beautification:** PRRS is using the talents and skills of its Resident population to ensure the PRC grounds and facility are clean and aesthetically pleasing. Recently, Residents have helped develop new flower beds at PRRS in the front of the building and in the court yard, and are in the midst of planting an expanded garden.
7. **Recycling Award:** PRRS received a recycling award from the County for its efforts to encourage residents and staff to recycle waste materials at PRC. Former Resident Supervisor Wendy Qassis played the critical role in helping develop the recycling program at PRRS (she now works for the County's Department of Environment Protection in the section that promotes and enforces recycling).

Personnel

1. **Resident Supervisors:**
 - On March 10, Resident Supervisor Claudia Rivas joined PRRS after serving two months as a Correctional Officer at MCCF. Prior, she served as a PRRS Community Correctional Intern for

eight months. Ms. Rivas completed her Bachelor in Criminal Justice from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia in May 2012.

- On April 6, Resident Supervisor Amadu Sowa joined PRRS. For the past 16 months, he served as a Correctional Officer at MCCF. Mr. Sowa has both a Bachelor in Social Work and a Master Degree of Arts in Applied Sociology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- On May 5, 2014, Resident Supervisor Godfred Ababio joined the PRRS division. Previously, Mr. Ababio worked in Colorado for over 6+ years in various roles within the criminal justice system. Mr. Ababio has a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in Criminal Justice from Medaille College and also a Master of Science Degree in Criminology from the Regis University.

2. Correctional Specialists III

- On March 10, PRRS Correctional Manager III Karalynn Davis joined PRRS. She is an eleven-year veteran with the DOCR and began her service as a Correctional Officer. For the last eight years, she has served as a Correctional Manager II at MCCF. Ms. Davis received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Morgan State University.
- On March 24, PRRS Correctional Manager III Ada Bartley joined PRRS. She is a four year veteran of DOCR and actually began her career as a Resident Supervisor at PRRS. For the past two years, she has served as a Correctional Specialist II position in the Pre-trial Services Assessment Unit. Ms. Bartley holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Clark University.
- On March 24, PRRS Correctional Specialist III Cynthia Boyd rejoined PRRS. She has 25 years of correctional experience beginning as a parole and probation agent for the state in Gaithersburg and 16 years as a Correctional Case Manager Specialist and a Psychology Associate II Associate in a state prison. In 2007, she joined PRRS as a Correctional Specialist II and later transferred to MCCF as a Correctional Specialist II. She has a Master of Arts with a Human Science concentration in Psychology from Hood College, a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, from the University of Baltimore in Baltimore City, and an Associate of Arts in the Administration of Justice at Hagerstown Junior College.

3. Departures

- Resident Supervisor Danilo Chamorro resigned his position at PRRS in March after accepting a promotional job position with the Department of General Services as an MRI Specialist (Maintenance, Renovation & Inspection). PRRS was lucky to attract Danny several years ago during County-wide budget cutbacks and he is now returning to the agency where he has spent the majority of his county career. During his tenure with PRRS, Danny played an invaluable role in helping maintain the facility and took the lead on a number of projects.

4. Interns

- Kiara Taylor joined PRRS as a Community Correction Intern. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a B.A. in Psychology. She is pursuing her M.S. in Forensic Studies-Investigations from Stevenson University.

- Academic Intern Emily Deyo from Elon College began her summer internship with the PRRS Career Center on Monday, June 2. She will receive supervision from Joyce Reimherr.

5. GED Teacher: PRRS welcomed new Montgomery College GED instructor Maxine Brown in May. Ms. Brown is an Adjunct Professor of Religion and Humanities for Strayer University and also a GED instructor for Academy of Hope at Sasha Bruce charter school in DC. Ms. Brown has a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Master's in Divinity. She has 14 years of educational experience in college and public school settings.

6. Professional Development

- Resident Supervisors Taylor Dye and Christina Brown completed a 6-week correctional academy run by Baltimore County on May 2. The academy fulfilled state training requirements for these two new correctional professionals, and both individuals distinguished themselves during the course of their instruction.
- PRRS continues to use online training to allow staff to complete some of their required training on shift. On April 1, all staff completed several core correctional courses.
- Correctional Dietary Supervisor Robyn McCormick earned her Associates Degree in Biology from Baltimore County Community College.

Visits/Events/Meetings (exclusive of those mentioned before)

1. 3/11/14: Labor Management Relations Committee meeting at PRC
2. 3/13/14: White Flint Public Safety Committee
3. 3/24/14: Investiture of District Court Eric Nee
4. 3/25/14: American University class toured PRC
5. 3/26/14: Delegation of Correctional Officials from the Kingdom of Morocco
6. 3/31/14: Offsite meeting of Sex Offender treatment
7. 4/9/14: Federal Interagency Reentry Council staff members tour PRC
8. 4/21/14: MacArthur Foundation president and staff visit PRC
9. 4/29/14: Gallaudet University class visits PRC
10. 5/8/2014: White Flint Public Safety Committee
11. 5/14/14: Drug Court graduation attended by several PRRS staff
12. 5/16/14: Second Chance Act conference attended by PRRS staff at National Harbour
13. 5/23/14: Freelance Reporter Tracy Velasquez conducted interviews with staff and residents for a publication she is writing for the National Institute of Correction
14. 5/30/14: Delegation of correctional officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

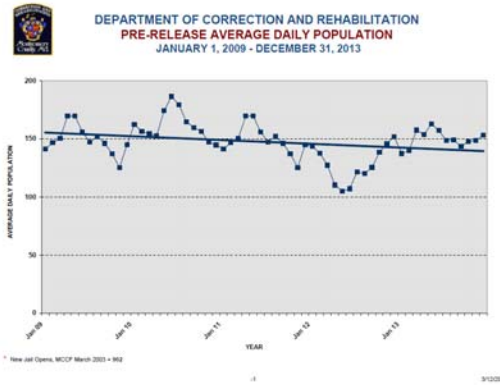
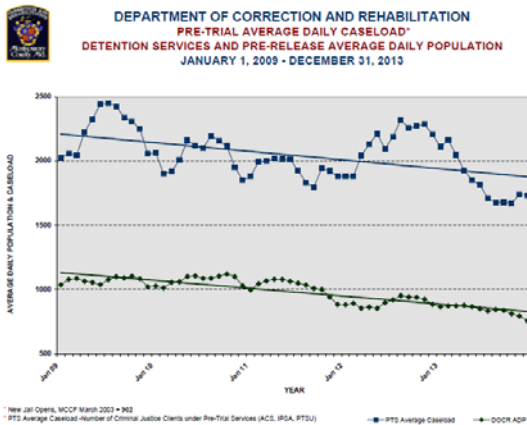
Program Statistics

Population Served

	Mar	April	May
PRRS Average Daily Population	127.1	119.5	128.5
Local Jail Resident Subgroup	100.8	102.9	99.6
Federal Resident Subgroup	26.3	23.5	28.9
Female Subgroup	18	16.6	14.0
Home Confinement Subgroup	12	9.1	9.4

Figure 1

Population Trends in DOCR and PRRS



Escapes (Three escapes in calendar year 2014)

Escape Date	Return Date	Fugitive Days	Escape Charge	Last Name	First Name	Description	Disposition
12/10/13	12/10/13	0	1 st Degree	Johnson	Tobias	Fled PRC during a security transport. Tracked down by PRRS staff and arrested by MCPD with 45 minutes near White Flint Metro stop.	Plead guilty. Sentenced 5/6/14 to 22 months
1/15/14	1/15/14	0	2 nd Degree	Martin	Damon	Stole video games at retailer on Rockville Pike while out on approved pass for AA meeting. Arrested and charged with escape as he was not approved to be in the store	Found guilty. Sentenced 4/10/14; 6 month sentence
4/23/14	4/23/14	0	2 nd Degree	Butler	Ontae	Failure to return from approved pass. 12 hours unaccountable. Finally located at Holy Cross Hospital. 2 nd degree escape.	6/3/14 Plead guilty; 6 month sentence
5/21/14	5/21/14	0	1 st Degree	Martin	Arnold	Fled PRC during fire evacuation at 11:40pm previous evening. Attempted car jacking and secured by PRRS on Nebel Street. Arrested by MCPD. Self-reported under the influence of K2	Trial Scheduled 6/20/2014

Figure 4

Program Exit Statistics

PRRS Program Exit Statistics (March, April, May 2014)															
2014 Month	Exits by Resident Type				Program Exit Type									Median Length of Stay in PRRS	Employment % for Time Served Released
	Total	Local	Fed	Drug Court	Time Served	%	Revocation	%	Admin Removal	%	Escape	%			
March	39	29	6	4	34	87.2%	2	5.1%	3	7.7%	0	0.0%	91	64.7%	
April	41	28	7	6	36	87.8%	4	9.8%	0	0	1	2.4%	83	77.8%	
May	39	26	8	5	30	76.9%	6	15.4%	2	5.1%	1	2.6%	87	90.0%	
Total	119	83	21	15	100	84.0%	12	10.1%	5	4.2%	2	1.7%	87	77.5%	

Figure 5

Work Release Statistics (April 2014)

Work Release Performance Measures								
DATE: April 2014								
Employed Residents					Unemployed Residents			
Unit	Wed 12am Count	Total	Community Work Employed %	Work Release Engaged %	Total	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate Net New Arrivals	
1	6	5	66.7%	83.3%	1	16.7%	0.0%	
2	32	28	65.6%	87.5%	3	9.4%	6.3%	
3	37	29	62.2%	78.4%	8	21.6%	13.5%	
4	37	27	67.6%	73.0%	10	27.0%	16.2%	
Total	112	89	65.5%	79.5%	22	19.6%	11.6%	

Footnote 1: Data collection on Wednesday using midnight count and inclusive of releases later that day. (Data entered in green)
Footnote 2: Individuals are assigned to inside worker status for programmatic and security reasons.
Footnote 3: Individuals approved due to medical/disability/retirement factors

Figure 6

Income Earned by Program Participant

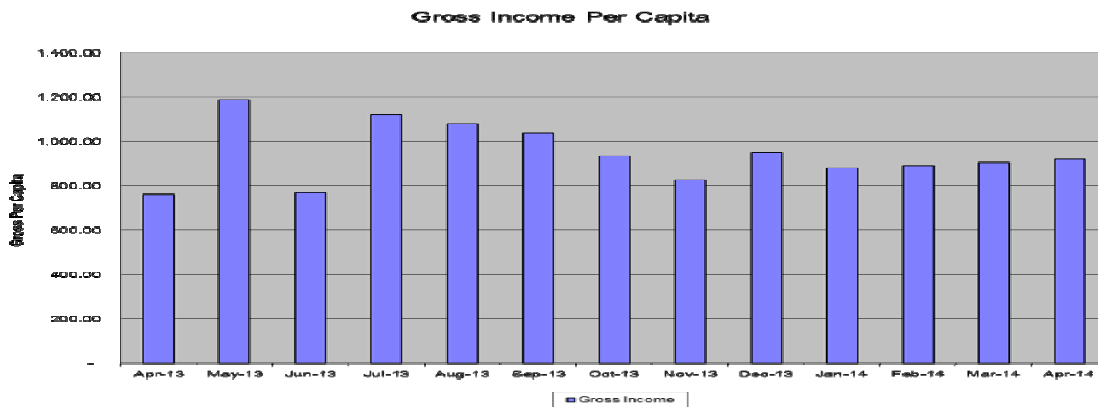


Figure 7

Recidivism Statistics (April 2011 & 2013 data last reported for May 2014 Analysis)

PRRS Reconviction Indices					
Release Index	Months/Years of Release	# of Records in Timespan	# of Individuals with >=1 Convictions	Average Days to Charge	Conviction Rates
1 Year	7/12 - 4/13	299	32	140	10.7%
3 Year	7/10 - 4/11	323	95	424	29.4%

Notes

- Descriptive data collected monthly to compute 1 year and 3 year indices: not for program evaluative purposes.
- CJ data used from FBI NCIC, MD Judiciary Case Search, State METERS Portal, & County CJIS.
- Convictions & VOPS during the time span are included. Pending matters are not included.
- Charges that result in PBJ, Nolle, dismissed, not-guilty, or non-incarcerable traffic convictions not included.

Figure 8