



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

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### PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report

*March 7, 2013 (Covering December 6, 2012 to March 6, 2013)*

#### **Highlights**

- 1. Accreditation:** On January 31, the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards issued PRRS a 100% achievement award for compliance with the 76 state standards required for correctional facilities. On December 11, 2012, MCCA had conducted a follow-up audit and determined that PRRS had fully corrected the eight deficiencies found in the audit conducted in February 2012. On April 15, 16, PRRS will undergo an audit for national accreditation with the American Correctional Association. It must comply with 35 mandatory standards and comply with 90% of 217 additional standards. PRRS aims to achieve 100% compliance with all 252 standards. Special Accreditation Officer Karla Rhodes and Deputy Chief of Security and Facility Ben Stevenson oversee all accreditation processes and deserve considerable credit for the thoroughness and success of their efforts to ready PRRS for accreditation.
- 2. USDOE Federal Grant Submission:** Montgomery College, in collaboration with DOCR, submitted a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education on December 21 that would further the deep partnership between these agencies. Called "Transforming the Pipeline from Prison into Educational Bridges to Employment," the proposal would bring the Community College's assessment and counseling services directly to the County's jail and pre-release facilities, provide opportunities for incarcerated individuals to address educational deficits and to receive college-level training and coursework both in the correctional facilities and on the college campuses, and provides job placement assistance and longer-term employment support and counseling at the County's one-stop career centers. On December 20, PRRS hosted United States Assistant Secretary of Education for Adult Education and Vocational Training and several staff members. During the visit, they met with GED students and spoke about the new initiatives at USDOE to further correctional education programs.
- 3. PRRS Programmatic Information and Performance Statistics – Online:** PRRS has begun placing much more programmatic and performance information online with the goal to improve community engagement, operate with full public transparency, and reduce printing costs. All monitoring reports from the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards and the Federal Bureau of Prisons are also posted. The Department's website is scheduled for a major facelift in the next several months, but the current site does contain a wealth of information. It is at: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cor/PRRS/Index.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cor/PRRS/Index.html)

#### **Program Developments**

- 1. Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Programming:** On February 25, PRRS implemented a new CBT program called "Thinking for a Change." This program, developed over the past decade by

the U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections, has proved effective in reducing recidivism by teaching individuals how to develop improved problems solving and coping skills. All Residents who enter PRRS will receive the core module of this program which is taught over four hour-long sessions. Individuals who are assessed at needing the additional two modules will complete the additional 20 sessions in the following four weeks of their stay. Case Manager Douglas Ingram is teaching this program and has also worked to revamp the curriculum of several other programs offered at Pre-Release for Residents and their families.

- 2. Improving Employment Assistance:** PRRS is in the midst of a significant enhancement of its job assistance services. Through the reallocation of existing staff to work release duties, increased focus on short-term and long-term career development, revamping of job readiness curriculum including developing new workshops, improved incentives for adherence to reentry planning, and implementation of a same-day pass policy, Residents should obtain employment more quickly and also develop realistic long-term education and career plans. Deputy Chief Shannon Murphy is overseeing this change and is in the midst of finalizing the proposal in concert with Work Release Coordinator Joyce Reimherr, Reentry Services Manager Tina Michaels, and Work Release Coordinators Sylvia Hernandez, Don Meyers, Erica Nelson, and Ashley Spencer. Many changes have already occurred, and the full implementation of the plan is scheduled for March 25.
- 3. Special Program Time:** On February 4, all PRRS Program participants became eligible to receive the maximum number of diminution credits (10 days per month off their executable sentence) if they fully comply with the rules of the program, find employment, and follow their reentry plan. The change aims to provide greater incentives for Residents to fully take advantage of the program's services.
- 4. Serving <30 Day Residents:** PRRS now reviews individuals with sentences below 30 days for program enrollment. Previously, individuals with such short sentences were not eligible for PRRS. The new policy requires that they have a minimum of 5 days to serve on the program.
- 5. Intake Procedural Changes:** Case Managers at PRRS have assumed full responsibility for conducting the intake interview and risk needs assessment for new Residents, and maintaining the case files. The changes will improve the quality of the information gathered on intake and the reentry plan formulated by the Case Manager. The plan is developed in collaboration with the program participants and their families. It also frees up the Reentry Assessment Specialists to conduct more assessments and to attend to their duties to manage the disciplinary process.
- 6. World Religions Class:** On the fourth Sunday of the month beginning in January, the National Coalition of Prison Ministries – an organization representing 23 faith organizations in Montgomery County -- began offering a program to introduce participants to different faith traditions. The PResident of NCPM, Rev. Dr. Elwood Gray, Jr. is organizing this program and invites clergy members from different faith-traditions to speak to the class. On January 11, he spoke to approximately 70 Residents at a 8am morning meeting and encouraged them to participate in the program.
- 7. Christmas Party:** On December 15, the National Coalition of Prison Ministries held a Christmas party that included gift giving, remarks from some of the half-a-dozen ministers in attendance, and singing by parish members. Approximately 60 Residents attended the event which was held in the

cafeteria and also enjoyed light refreshments provided by the coalition. The Washington Post wrote a story about the party that appeared in the On Faith column on December 21. The link is: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-holiday-party-with-a-divine-purpose/2012/12/21/0e5fd50c-4956-11e2-820e-17eefac2f939\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-holiday-party-with-a-divine-purpose/2012/12/21/0e5fd50c-4956-11e2-820e-17eefac2f939_story.html)

- 8. Volunteers:** Deputy Chief of Programs and Services Shannon Murphy is developing a pool of volunteers who would provide one-on-one GED and Adult Basic Education tutoring.
- 9. Veterans:** PRRS is developing a closer partnership with The Way Station for Incarcerated Veterans' and will attend a monthly information workshop scheduled for 03/14.
- 10. Second Chance Act Grant:** PRRS submitted revised quarterly reports of the federal grant program called Workplace Digital Literacy Skills. The reports are posted online.

**Work Release Statistics (January 2013)**

Work Release Performance Measures														
2/8/2013														
Employed Residents										Unemployed Residents				
Unit	Wed 12am Count	FT Employment > 32 Hours Per Week	PT Employment 31- 25 Hours Per Week	PT Employment < 25 Hours per Week	PRRS Work Assignment (FN 2)	Approved Alternative Placement (FN 3)	Total	Employed %	Work Release Engaged %	Transfer < 21 Days	Transfer > 21 Days	Total	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate Net New Arrivals
1	11	2	2	3	0	0	7	63.6%	63.6%	2	2	4	36.4%	22.2%
2	27	12	2	4	1	0	19	66.7%	70.4%	3	5	8	29.6%	20.8%
3	43	17	7	3	4	0	31	62.8%	72.1%	9	11	20	46.5%	32.4%
4	51	16	9	3	11	0	39	54.9%	76.5%	6	5	11	21.6%	11.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>32.6%</b>	<b>20.5%</b>

Footnote 1: Data collection on first Wednesday of the month using midnight count and inclusive of releases later that day. (Data entered in green cells only)

Footnote 2: Individuals are assigned to inside worker status for programmatic and security reasons.

Footnote 3: Individuals approved for education or community service due to education needs and/or medical/disability/retirement factors

**Security/Facility**

- 1. Major Security Operation:** On January 22, PRRS arranged for 25 correctional officers of the Department's Emergency Response Team, and Gang Response Team to join PRRS staff and conduct a full search of all rooms in the building, all common areas, outside grounds, and vehicles along with personal searches of all participants. Four police officers from the Second District were on hand to assist as well. The operation was a routine security measure to ensure the safety of the program for Residents and Staff. In the course of the search, contraband in the form of cigarettes and smart phones were found, but no weapons or drugs were discovered.
- 2. Criminally Charging Residents who bring Drugs into PRRS:** PRRS has improved its protocols to charge criminally individuals who bring illicit substances into PRRS. The Department's lead on these criminal prosecutions, Corporal Douglas Carranza, arranges with the testing of the substance with the police lab, and confers with the State Attorney's Office, once the results of the testing are determined. He tracks the cases and keeps the Division Chief and Deputy Chief of Security and Facility informed of the cases' progress. PRRS maintains a zero tolerance for the usage and presence of illicit substances at the Pre-Release Center. On March 5, a Resident was charged with bringing a substance resembling synthetic marijuana (street name K2) into the facility.
- 3. Facility Improvements:** Resident Supervisor Danny Chamorro, who is serving as a Special Assignment Maintenance and Work crew Supervisor, coordinated the painting of the interior of PRRS with skilled Residents. This was a major project that would have cost tens of thousands of

dollars if contracted out, and was done for less than \$1,000 in materials. Additional improvements at the facility include painting common areas and individual rooms, addressing HVAC issues, creating two new staff bathrooms and locker areas, assembling and installing new furniture in the units and rooms.

## **Personnel**

### **1. Arrivals**

- Ms. Ashley Spencer joined PRRS as a Case Manager/Correctional Specialist III on January 14. In the seven years prior, she worked as a Rehabilitation Specialist, Clinical Case Manager, and Mental Health Worker for three organizations: Community Connections in Washington D.C., Sheppard Pratt Health System in Howard County, and Arundel Lodge in Annapolis, Maryland. She earned her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Wesley College and her Masters of Arts in Mental Health Counseling from Bowie State University. This year, she is expecting to receive the credential as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. At PRRS, she is assigned to the Women's Unit (Unit 1) and will provide both case management and work release services to female Residents. In addition, Ashley will also work with a small number of short-term male Residents who are assigned to PRRS for periods under 30 days.
- Ms. Erica Nelson joins us as a Work Release Coordinator/Correctional Specialist III on January 14. During the six years prior, she began her career as a correctional officer before rising to the positions of Classification Counselor, Acting Supervisor, and Community Corrections Work Release Coordinator with the Baltimore County Department of Corrections. For the last year and one-half, Erica remained in the Baltimore County jail but worked for the Baltimore County Community College as a Center for Adult and Family Literacy Career Counselor. Erica earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Coppin State University and her Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Baltimore. She is assigned as the Work Release Coordinator to Unit 3 Residents.
- Ms. Xochilit Vargas joined PRRS as a Resident Supervisor on 12/16/2012. She transferred to PRRS after five years of service as a Correctional Officer at MCCF where she attained the rank of Corporal. At MCCF, Corporal Vargas performed many security roles including supervising housing units, inmate visits, program activities, food services, and recreation. She has most recently been assigned as a member of MCCF's Central Control Team, which prepares her to work with the daily management of PRRS Residents. Xochilit is a graduate of Towson University where she received her Bachelor of Science in Communications. In addition, she is currently seeking a graduate degree at Towson University in Professional Journalism.
- Mr. Brian Davis joined PRRS as a Resident Supervisor on February 25. Over the last dozen years, his professional experiences has included serving as an Addiction Therapist with Second Genesis, a Community Supervision Officer with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), a Mobile Crisis Specialist in Prince Georges County, a Community Supervisor Manager for Prince Georges County Circuit Court/Drug Court, and most recently as an Employment Specialist with the Arbor Education and Training agency. Brian earned his Bachelors Degree in Sociology and a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Bowie State University. Brian has a second Masters from Marymount University in Forensic Psychology, and also two years at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

- Ms. Joanna Henriquez joined PRRS as a Principal Administrative Assistant on January 14. Bi-lingual with excellent computer skills and possessing an Associate's Degree from Gibbs College, Joanna had worked for nearly four years as a Courtroom Clerk in the District Court in Montgomery County.
- Mr. Thomas Bryant joins PRRS temporarily in a light duty assignment at the front Desk of PRRs. Corporal Bryant is a Correctional Officer at MCCF and is helping maintain building control.
- Mr. Timothy Richardson will join PRRS as a Community Correction Intern beginning Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a concentration in Crime and Deviation from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and has experience in the courts and criminal justice systems as a Case Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), a liaison for children in need. In his position, Timothy will support PRRS's Assessment section.
- Ms. Takiyah Coleman will join PRRS as a Community Correction Intern beginning Monday March 18th. She graduated from St. John's University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology, and has worked with the Pentagon Force Protection Agency. Takiyah will be work on Unit 4 under Case Manager Fritz Jadotte's supervision.

## **2. Departures**

- Ms. Loretta Gilmore served as a temporary Administrative Assistant at PRRS for 18 months. She is a graduate of Hofstra University with a bachelor's degree in psychology, and is now temporarily assigned to MCCF. During her 18 months at PRRS, Loretta played a critical role in providing administrative support to the program and its Residents.

## **3. Vacancies**

- Program Specialist Position: PRRS is currently recruiting for this position which oversees accreditation and also has an office management program for the program. The position was recently created by abolishing and upgrading an Office Service Coordinator position. The creation of this position reflects the critical need to vest accreditation and office management duties within a permanent position at PRRS, and, in doing so, will free up a line staff position which will improve staff coverage, program safety, and reduce overtime.

## **4. Professional Development**

- Case Manager Stephen Carter completed the state Correctional Academy on 12/20/12.
- Resident Supervisor Chris Massad completed the state Correctional Academy on 1/25/13.
- Case Manager Douglas Ingram, Work Release Coordinator Joyce Reimherr, and Deputy Chief of Programs and Services Shannon Murphy completed three days of training on the Cognitive Behavioral Training curriculum. The training was sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections and was held in Franklin County, Massachusetts.
- PRRS staff members have conducted over 800 hours of online testing in correctional topics. The new online training system allows PRRS to customize training including incorporating our policies and procedures in course offerings that staff can access from their computers.

**Escapes (Last 12 months)**

Eight escapes to report in Calendar Year 2012, none in 2013

Escape Date	Return Date	Last Name	First Name	Description	Disposition
4/11/2012	4/11/2012	Canarte	Michael	Unauthorized Departure from PRC	10/2/2012: Plead guilty; 18 month sentence
7/27/2012	7/28/2012	Butler	Lamar	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	9/26/2012: Plead guilty; 1 year sentence.
10/16/2012	10/16/2012	Graham	Mark	Attempted Escape: Restrained by RS staff	12/6/12: Sentenced to 6 months. Under appeal in Circuit Court
10/17/2012	10/17/2012	Calliham	Antuan	Shoplifting while on Authorized Community Pass	12/3/12: Guilty – 3 years suspend all but 45 days
11/16/2012	1/25/13	Williams	Gino	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	Sentenced to 6 months on 2/25/13.
11/30/2012	1/15/13	Pope	Donte	Failure to return from Authorized Community Pass	Original hearing 2/8/13, Rescheduled trial in Circuit Court TBD

**Population Served**

Month	Dec	Jan	Feb
<b>PRRS Average Daily Population</b>	148.5	137.1	139.6
<b>Local Jail Resident Subgroup</b>	124.9	106.9	104.6
<b>Federal Resident Subgroup</b>	23.6	30.3	35
<b>Female Subgroup</b>	13.9	9.4	10.9
<b>Home Confinement Subgroup</b>	14.0	11.5	15.0

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

- 12/11/12: Attendance at a Future Link graduation which included a PRRS participant.
- 12/18/12: Luis Cardona, Director of Street Outreach Network, visited PRRS.
- 1/8/13: County Information Office Dan Hoffman visited with new Countystat Director.
- 1/16/13: Review of program emergency procedures with MC police.
- 1/18/13: Meeting with affordable housing developer and manager.
- 1/22/13: Meeting with new Division Chief of Crisis Center.
- 1/24/13: Meeting with consultants on Master Confinement Study.
- 02/1/13: Director and program staff from Howard County Corrections visited PRRS.
- 1/29/13: Meeting with Full Plate Ventures, an organization which support organic food.
- 2/14/13: Meeting with staff from Street Outreach Network and Identity, which manages the County's two Youth Opportunity Centers in Tacoma Park and Gaithersburg.
- 2/26/13: Visit from Justice and Public Policy class from American University.
- 2/26/13: Meeting with The Moss Group and Fairview Halfway House about new national standards on the Prison Rape Elimination Act.
- 2/27/13: Class from American University visited PRRS.
- 2/28/13: Electronic Monitoring vendor conducted training for PRRS staff.
- 2/28/13: PRRS' Shannon Murphy attended County's Victim Services Advisory Board.
- 3/01/13: Visit by senior level administrators from Montgomery College
- 3/5/13: Meeting with new Department physician.