



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

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PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report

Issued 3/6/14 (Updates since December 5, 2013)

Highlights

- 1. PRRS Cell Phone Legislation:** Montgomery County Delegate Kathleen Dumais submitted a bill on behalf of PRRS that exempts the Pre-Release Center from a state law banning incarcerated individuals' from possessing cell phones in correctional facilities. PRRS introduced a cell phone policy in July 2012 that allowed Residents to use pre-paid telephones to assist their search for employment and to maintain contact with family members. For 20-months, this policy has proved successful and the Department received an achievement award from the National Association of Counties for this innovative policy that improved services at no cost to the county. However, further research revealed a conflict between this policy and state law. This bill – which has the support of the full Montgomery County delegation – will amend the statute to permit the PRRS cell phone policy at the Pre-Release Center only.
- 2. \$6.8 Million Pre-Release Renovation:** On January 16, the County Executive announced his six-year Capital Budget which included a \$6.8 million plan to expand and renovate the Pre-Release Center kitchen and cafeteria area, as well as to improve the energy efficiency of the building. As proposed, the final design of the project will occur in FY 16 & 17 and construction would commence in FY'18 (beginning July 1, 2017) and completed in FY'19.
- 3. Co-Occurring Federal Grant:** The County's Departments of HHS and DOCR plan to submit a federal grant application for a 24-month/\$600,000 demonstration project that addresses the frequent and repeated incarceration of individuals with co-occurring behavioral health disorders. More specifically, the project creates a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team that would allow the diversion of over 120 of the highest risk to recidivate individuals from jail to the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center (PRC) followed by placement into permanent housing. The FACT team would be based at the PRC, and would continue to provide wrap-around evidenced-based services to these clients post-release.
- 4. Master Confinement Study:** The DOCR received a final report from a year-long \$250K study to project the correctional bed needs of the county for the next 20 years. The Master Confinement study concluded that no new additional beds were needed in spite of expected strong population growth in the county. It cited the success of the County's extensive use of jail diversion programs including PRRS. It documented that the County has among the lowest incarceration rates for any major jurisdiction in the Country due to the strength of its programs and collaborations. The report also focused on possible opportunities for PRRS to better utilize the Pre-Release Center to help divert individuals suffering from co-occurring behavior disorders who could be managed safely and legally in the community. Additionally, it encouraged the Division to further develop onsite programs to support a "Day Reporting Function" that could be of use to other individuals in the criminal justice system who may not reside at the Pre-Release Center.

Program Developments

- 1. Second Chance Act Grant Closeout:** In February, PRRS closed out its federal Second Chance Act grant which provided \$351K in funding to develop a workplace digital skill training program at PRC in collaboration with Montgomery College and the County's One-Stop Career Center. Although funded as a one-year grant, PRC was 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.
- 2. Welcome Home Mentoring Program:** Mr. Fred Chandler was selected by Catholic Charities as the coordinator of its Welcome Home Mentoring program based at the Pre-Release Center. In his previous capacity as an employment counselor for the County's One-Stop Career Center, Fred has worked closely with PRRS staff for over five years to assist PRC residents secure and obtain employment and training. In his new role, Fred will oversee this program that recruits volunteers from the community to help mentor and tutor individuals at the Pre-Release Center
- 3. Montgomery County Homeless Census:** PRRS represented DOCR in the County's annual census of homeless individuals conducted on 1/29/2014. Bethesda Cares organized the census and sent out dozens of teams across the county to count all homeless individuals living in the streets (or woods), in shelters, and in the county and state correctional facilities.
- 4. Servsafe Training:** PRRS hosted a two-day training conducted by the Restaurant Association Maryland Education Foundation on safe food handling practices on February 17 and 18. The training prepares individuals to earn a Servsafe certificate which is valued in the food services industry.
- 5. Whole Foods Nutritional Awareness:** Resident Supervisor Amirrah Peterson coordinated a nutritional awareness program run by Whole Foods for PRC Residents. The Whole Foods representative various food items high in nutritional value for the Residents to sample. This program was developed by former Resident Supervisor Wendy Qassis.
- 6. DC Central Kitchen:** On January 10, PRRS staff attended the graduation ceremony of students who had completed a 6-week training program with DC Central kitchen. The class speaker was a former PRC Resident who had enrolled in the program while at PRC.
- 7. Future Links:** On December 11, a current PRRS Resident served as the class speaker for the graduation class of this college preparatory program run at Montgomery College.

Recidivism Statistics:

| Release Index | # of Records in Timespan | # of Individuals with >=1 Convictions | Average Days to Charge | Conviction Rates |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Year | 194 | 21 | 152 | 10.8% |
| 3 Year | 241 | 70 | 436 | 29.0% |
| Notes | | | | |
| 1. Descriptive data analysis presented; methodology prevents its use for program evaluative purposes. | | | | |
| 2. Data gathering began 7/13 using monthly data from 7/2012 and 7/2010. Each month, the criminal histories of PRRS released one and three years ago are | | | | |

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| reviewed for post-release criminal convictions. |
| 3. Criminal Justice data used from MD Judiciary Case Search, County CJIS, FBI NCIC, and other data accessible through the MD METERS CJ portal. |
| 4. Only convictions during the time span are recorded. Pending matters are not included. |
| 5. Probation before Judgement, non-incarcerable traffic, and charges that are Nolled, dismissed, or result in a not guilty finding are not treated as convictions. |
| 6. Independent variables captured include DOB, custody status (local/federal), gender, and CJ identifiers. Additional program and demographics will be added. |
| 7. Data analysis aims to answer two questions: was released PRRS Resident convicted of a crime over a specified period of time, and if so, when? |

Work Release Statistics (November 2013)

| Work Release Performance Measures | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| DATE: January 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employed Residents | | | | | | | | | | Unemployed Residents | | | | |
| Unit | Wed 12am Count | FT Community Employment > 32 Hours Per Week | PT Community Employment 31-25 Hours Per Week | PT Community Employment < 25 Hours Per Week | Inside Employment (FN 2) | Approved Alternative Placement (FN 3) | Total | Community Work Employed % | Work Release Engaged % | Transfer < 21 Days | Transfer > 21 Days | Total | Unemployment Rate | Unemployment Rate Net New Arrivals |
| 1 | 18 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 77.8% | 83.3% | 1 | 2 | 3 | 16.7% | 11.1% |
| 2 | 34 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 29 | 70.6% | 85.3% | 1 | 6 | 7 | 20.6% | 17.6% |
| 3 | 32 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 28 | 68.8% | 87.5% | 2 | 2 | 4 | 12.5% | 6.3% |
| 4 | 49 | 20 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 31 | 59.2% | 63.3% | 7 | 7 | 14 | 28.6% | 14.3% |
| Total | 133 | 59 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 3 | 103 | 66.9% | 77.4% | 11 | 17 | 28 | 21.1% | 12.8% |

Footnote 1: Data collection on Wednesday 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 due to medical/disability/retirement factors

Fiscal Statistics (Calendar Year 2013)

- \$1,614,642 Earned Gross Income
- \$302,008 Income Taxes returned to the Community (Avg. \$25,167/month)
- \$285,234 program fees collected (avg. \$23,770/month)
- \$1,627,234 Federal Revenue (avg. \$135,603/month)
- Average of \$16,854 in monthly family support

Security/Facility

1. **Critical debriefings:** Deputy Chief of Security and Facility Ben Stevenson conducted two critical debriefings on major security issues. These debriefings – conducted with staff members involved in the incident and others – serve as a formal review to ensure policies and procedures were followed in incidents that affect the operations of the center. On December 10, a debriefing was held concerning the escape incident of Tobias Johnson who was tracked down in the community by PRRS staff and arrested by Montgomery County Police. On March 5, a debriefing was held on a use of force incident which occurred during a disciplinary transport of a PRRS resident on 1/23/14 Both debriefings concluded that staff exercised great discretion and restraint, followed policies and procedures, and accomplished all goals without injury or material damage.
2. **Snow Emergencies:** PRRS continued to operate during both snow emergencies in Montgomery County (February 12, 2014 and March 3, 2014). Due to conditions and the declared state of emergencies, visiting and some other programs were cancelled, and Residents were only allowed to travel to work after verifications occurred ensuring that the workplace was open and that the Resident has a safe transportation route.
3. **Dumpster Pad and Fence:** PRRS installed a concrete pad and a 50' rolling fence to shield several dumpsters from public view and to address persistent rodent problems.
4. **Recycling:** Recycling Education Specialist (and former PRRS staff member Wendy Qassis) and her colleague Jessica Towell conducted a 30 minute presentation on Recycling and Waste Reduction on January 29, 2014 to PRC residents.
5. **Drug Testing:** In January 2014, PRRS conducted 1,175 drug tests none of which tested positive.

- 6. Food Services:** CDO Supervisor reported that PRRS provided an average of 351 meals per day and accommodated 12 individuals with special diets.

Personnel

1. Promotions

- Mr. Tyrone Alexander was promoted to Reentry Services Manager, effective 01/13. Tyrone is a 17-year veteran of the program (as well as a military veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves), and in the course of his career demonstrated leadership and competence as he rose through the ranks from a Resident Supervisor. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Legal and Ethical Studies from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and his Master of Arts in Legal and Ethical Studies from the University of Baltimore in 2011. In 2011, he received the Montgomery County Department of Correction Employee of the Year for his work as Case Manager and Reentry Assessment Specialist.
- Mr. Ayodeji Durojaiye was promoted to the PRRS Correctional Specialist III position on January 13, and had served as a Correctional Specialist II for the Pre-Trial Division for five years. All totaled, he has over 21 years of law and correctional experience. He earned his Bachelor of Laws, Barrister-at-Law and Master of Laws at Universities in Nigeria, and his Master of Laws from the University of Baltimore.
- Mr. Goldsborough Sterling was promoted to a temporary Work Release Coordinator position effective January 26. He has worked in corrections since 1995 and joined DOCR as a correctional officer in 2004. In April of 2013, he retired from the Air National Guard after 24 years on service in the military reserves. He currently is pursuing his Master's in criminal justice management at the American Public University, and had earned his bachelor's degree in human services from Sojourner Douglas College with a concentration in Criminal Justice.

2. New Postings

- CS III Daniel Keener was selected as the new Reentry Assessment Specialist (RAS). Dan brings with him 25 years of correctional experience in community-based settings and had previously served as a CS III Case Manager where he distinguished himself through the quality of his services to his clients and their families. Dan is also the recipient of the first Hillel Raskas Memorial Annual Employee Service Award in May 2013. Dan has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Wheeling Jesuit University, a Philosophy degree from St. Fidelis College Seminary and a Master of Divinity from the Washington Theological Union.

3. Interns

- Community Correction Intern Jasmyne Johnson joined PRRS on January 13. Ms. Johnson is a graduate of the University of Tampa with a BS in Criminology and Psychology, along with an MA in Forensic Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Her recent experience has been in DC charter schools, working with at-risk elementary and middle school children.
- Two spring Semester Academic Interns joined PRRS from American University in January. Andrew Clary is a senior majoring in Justice, Law and Society and his focus is in public policy and law and held a previous internship with the New Democratic Network. William "Randy" Collins is also majoring in Justice, Law and Society. Randy is a Navy veteran and is focusing

his final independent study paper on employment, housing and education needs of incarcerated persons.

4. Departures

- Ms. Wendy Qassis was selected as Recycling Education Specialist with the County's Department of Solid Waste, and departed PRRS in early January after 13 years with DOCR, most of them as a PRRS Resident Supervisor. During her tenure, Wendy spearheaded the center's recycling efforts and developed the PRRS' Gardening Project.
- Mr. Douglas Ingram resigned as Correctional Specialist III effective 1/31/14 after three years with PRRS. Doug piloted the National Institute of Correction's Thinking for Change Curriculum at the Pre-Release Center for over a year, and set the stage for a full implementation of this program in the fall of 2014. He plans to return to his native Delaware to pursue his entrepreneurial activities in food services.

5. **Vacancies:** PRRS is in the process of hiring two Resident Supervisors and three Correctional Specialist IIIs. Interviews were completed and announcements will be made soon.

6. Professional Development

- Case Manager III Ashley Spencer completed 7-weeks of training at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Academy on February 28. She was elected by her class to serve as the class speaker.
- Resident Supervisor IIIs Jasper Ezeigbo and Andre Stepp completed two weeks of train-the-trainers training at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Academy on February 27.
- Reentry Services Manager Tyrone Alexander completed the CN5 NCIC Criminal Justice Information System training in February.
- Deputy Chief Ben Stevenson and Program Specialist Karla Rhodes participated in an accreditation mock audit of a state correctional facility to review its efforts to develop a paperless accreditation process.
- Resident Supervisor III Jasper Ezeigbo participated in a state audit of the Prince George's County Correctional Facility from January 14-17 as a Duly Authorized Inspector. Both he and Program Specialist Karla Rhodes have now received training to participate in audits of Maryland correctional institutions conducted by the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.

Escapes (Last 12 months) Three escapes in calendar year 2013

| Escape Date | Return Date | Last Name | First Name | Description | Disposition |
|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|---|---|
| 7/23/2013 | 7/23/2013 | Hayes | Dalton | Individual left for job interview and failed to return on time. He eventually did return. 2 nd Degree. Problem with warrant not served timely and case was closed. | Case will be Closed Administrative Sanctions |
| 12/10/2013 | 12/10/2013 | Johnson | Tobias | Ran out of building during a security transport. Tracked down by PRRS staff and arrested by MCPD. 1 st degree | Plead guilty. Sentencing 5/6/14 |
| 12/27/13 | 12/27/2014 | Martin | Damon | Attempted to steal video games while out on pass. 2 nd degree | Hearing rescheduled from 3/3/14 |
| 1/30/2014 | 1/31/2014 | Kazemzadah | Hassan | Arrested at workplace for selling cannabinoids in DC and held over. Charges dropped, released, and returned voluntarily to custody. | Charges to be dropped by State Attorney |

Population Served

| | Dec | Jan | Feb |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| PRRS Average Daily Population | 153.3 | 143.7 | 126.5 |
| Local Jail Resident Subgroup | 121.8 | 111.7 | 100.7 |
| Federal Resident Subgroup | 31.5 | 32 | 25.3 |
| Female Subgroup | 14.7 | 16.6 | 15.4 |
| Home Confinement Subgroup | 18.0 | 16.5 | 12.9 |

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

1. 12/11/13: Delegation of correctional officials from Morocco visited.
2. 12/11/13: Poetry night at PRRS arranged in conjunction with the Bethesda Writer's Center.
3. 12/14/13: National Coalition of Prison Ministries held its second annual gift giving exchange.
4. 1/6/14: PRRS receives NACO award for Cell Phone policy.
5. 1/14/14: PRRS staff attend Maryland Correctional Administrator's Association conference.
6. 1/30/14: Meeting with Ministers Williamson and Marable about developing a MC project empowerment.
7. 1/31/14: Cell phone hearing before the MC house delegation.
8. 2/5/14: Cell phone hearing before the MC senate delegation.
9. 2/10/14: Meeting with state CIP officials concerning DOCR's CIP projects.
10. 2/12/14: DOCR budget meeting with MC OMB.
11. 2/18/14: Cell phone hearing before House Judicial committee.
12. 2/19/14: Visit from DC Central Kitchen program staff to PRRS.
13. 2/21/14: Drug court stakeholder meeting.
14. 2/25/14: Visit from Social Policy Class from University of Maryland Baltimore County.
15. 2/28/14: DOCR appears before County Council public safety committee on CIP plan.
16. 3/3/14: Division Chief presents at NACO national conference on workshop about reentry effectiveness.
17. 3/4/14: Cell phone hearing before Senate Judicial Proceedings Meeting.
18. 3/5/14: Meeting with DGS on Records inventory project that will be piloted at PRRS.