



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Robert L. Green
Director

PRRS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 7, 2018 @ 7:30am

Committee Members Attendance: Thomas DeGonia, Co-Chair; Angela Talley, Chief; Robert Green, Director DOCR; Ben Stevenson, Deputy Chief of Programs and Services; Ivan Downing, Deputy Chief of Security and Facilities; Tyrone Alexander, Reentry Services Manager; Tina Michaels, Pre-Trial Manager; Dominique Fontaine, PRRS Administrative Aide; Patricia Taylor, Former PRRS Work Release Coordinator; Sidney Katz, Councilmember; Matt Higgins, Councilmember Berlines Aide; Lisa Mandel-Trupp, Councilmember Chief of Staff; Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Government Relations; Bernita Johnson, Welcome Home Program; William Brown, PRRS Work Release Coordinator; Viviana Stevens, PRRS Work Release Coordinator; Catherine McAlpine, PRRS Behavioral Health Manager; William Gaskins, Resident Supervisor; Three (3) current PRRS Residents attended

Welcome and Introductions: Brief introduction of all attendees.

PRRS Division Chief's Report: Angela Talley highlighted the following items during the Report to the Community Advisory Committee:

- Promotion of 10year veteran, Alicia Jackson to RSIII position effective May 27, 2018
- Welcomed new RS, Alexander Voltz from Community Supervision (Probation)
- Currently 4 RS Vacancies- Recent solicitation closed on June 6, 2018. DOCR Recruitment-Ride-On Bus and social media advertisements. Advertisements feature staff members from all divisions and various classifications
- Fulltime Therapist for PRRS in interview phase
- Hometown Hero's bill passed approving Correctional Employee Income Tax Modification
- 45th Annual DOCR Awards ceremony held on May 5th, 2018- PRRS Employee of the Year, RSIII Jasper Ezeigbo. PTS Employee of the Year, Lab Tech Hashan Chowdhury
- State Academy Graduates, RS Steffi Thompson and CSIII Lisa Dawson
- DOCR Telestaff will roll out on June 11th, 2018- Training sessions conducted by coordinator Deputy Chief Ivan Downing
- Staff Training opportunity at the Maryland Criminal Justice Association (MCJA) Spring Conference on April 14th, 2018
- PRRS awarded Recognition of Achievement Award at Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (MCCS) on March 29th, 2018 for 100% compliance for State Audit completed October 31, 2017-November 3, 2018
- PREA re-accreditation completed with outstanding findings (March 7th-9th, 2018)
- Federal Bureau of Prisons unannounced inspection on May 9th, 2018 -Full Compliance
- Grand Jury visit scheduled for June 19th, 2018
- New PRRS Dietary Kitchen Project to begin in June 2018. DOCR Project oversight and coordination will be supervised by Deputy Warden, Gail David and Deputy Chief, Ivan Downing. Contractor for Kitchen project is Keller Construction

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- Construction will result in immediate loss of the courtyard and outside classroom. Alternate plans for resident recreational activities and classroom space are being finalized. No impact to Dietary operations.
- Design for ADA compliant medical suite completed. Pre-Bid tentative for Fall 2019
- Stress Wellness event for staff held at Community Corrections on April 24th, 2018. Staff also participated in LUPUS awareness walk on May 25th, 2018
- DOCR GED Graduation ceremony held on June 1st, 2018 at MCCF- PRRS had 2 graduates. New GED instructor, David Reed began on March 27th, 2018

PRRS Deputy Chief's Report: Ivan Downing highlighted the following items during the Report to the Community Advisory Committee:

- PRRS Dietary Kitchen Project will require that courtyard access be restricted for 18 months
- PRRS will purchase exercise bikes for each unit and offer recreational trips with Interns to various county parks
- Parking will be very limited during construction but once complete, Center will gain 24 additional parking spaces
- Construction will be a phase project- no interruption to kitchen operations

PRRS- Work First Philosophy: Discussion/Questions with former Pre-Release Center Patricia Taylor and Division Chief Angela Talley

- PRRS program previously included a 3-week full schedule for residents before residents were permitted to seek employment. Based on programming changes and to permit residents to seek employment opportunities earlier, program shifted to one week of programming and a work first philosophy.
- With the evolution of the population at PRRS, program became more concerned with placing residents in employment and transitional jobs.
- Employers and job seeking strategies changed, especially with increasing use of on-line applications.
- Work Release Coordinators, Pat Taylor, Angela Talley and Hillel Raskas developed idea for a Career Resource Center (CRC) to expand resources and aid PRRS residents' employment search efforts. It provided residents access to the internet to seek employment, submit on-line applications, complete resumes, participate in job skills assessments and allowed for resident to become familiar with the use technology- Career Resource Center was created as a one stop shop.
- Career Resource Center (CRC) initially received some resistance as residents gained access to internet, however effective IT controls, policies and staff oversight to monitor resident's activities were established to minimize risks and address concerns.
- PRRS program has historically maintained almost 80% employment rate, however job retention 60 days post release averaged about 50%. Today that statistic is not tracked.
- Feedback from some staff that focus to work first philosophy without addressing core issues (substances, criminal activities) was not the best approach for resident's long-term success.

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Hot Topic Discussion: Resident Use of Cell Phones

- Cell Phone policy implemented in 2011 and began in July 2012
- Cell phones were a way to maintain accountability (Reduction in community of available pay phones), safety and employment
- Cell phones continue to pose security risks for correctional facilities
- PRRS -problem with contraband phones (Smart phones/unauthorized and multiple phones) by residents. Management has reviewed other options to eliminate unauthorized phones in the Center while maintaining cell phone use to residents.
- In discussion with Verizon to offer a cell phone program- PRRS will issue, monitor and maintain all cell phones with limited capabilities. Initial cost to implement new cell phones would be absorbed by DOCR. Residents would pay for service once employed.

Feedback from Residents

- Residents expressed positive feedback of PRRS providing cell phones
 - Indicate hard to find approved device in the community
 - One resident agreed that residents do not need additional apps or access to internet on their phones
 - Residents have asked that GPS options be placed on cell phones as another method rather than the current GPS ankle devices
 - Residents have expressed the need for more pay phones on the Pre Placement Unit (Unit 2) as new residents do not have access to cell phones once they arrive
- Additional Resident Feedback
 - Residents believe “Thinking for a Change” should be a weekly program offered

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

2018 CAC Quarterly Meeting Dates: Theme for the Year: Forty Years Forward

Thursday, September 6th, 2018
Thursday, December 6th, 2018

PRRS Today-Changes and Challenges
PRRS-Moving Forward

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