



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

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County Executive

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PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report
March 1, 2011 to June 7, 2012

Highlights

- 1. Remembering Hillel Raskas:** PRRS Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas passed away Monday, May 28 after a long illness. Hillel was a dedicated and wonderful colleague who contributed much to PRRS during the 16 years of his service. The Department and many county officials had an opportunity to recognize Hillel on May 9 as he attended the Department's annual awards ceremony at which he was presented the PRRS Divisional Employee of the Year Award for 2011. Despite his poor health, Hillel came to the event and, in subsequent days, spoke to his family and work colleagues about his appreciation for the deep reservoir of support, respect, and affection he enjoyed with us. He is missed and continues to inspire us in our commitment to our mission.
- 2. DOCR Annual Awards:** On May 9, several other PRRS staff and community members were recognized for their distinguished service in 2011. They included: Case Manager Cynthia Boyd and Principal Administrative Assistant Patsy Burns who received Outstanding Performance Medallions; volunteers Julia Albrecht, Floyd Price, Anthony Rene, Janina Roncevic, and Mary Ann Sestili who received Volunteer Special Appreciation Medallions; and Thomas DeGonia, II, Diane Scott-Jones, and Larry Tremonti who received Volunteer Special Appreciation Certificates.
- 3. PRRS Population Count Low/Unit 2 Closed/Renovation Funds Sought:** The DOCR has experienced a 15% lower count of its population that has allowed PRRS to close a male housing unit. The closing of the unit has saved overtime expenses and has allowed the Department to paint and clean the unit. The Department is currently seeking immediate renovation funds to renovate a number of subsystems (e.g. HVAC, bathrooms, locks) in the entire building to take advantage of the opportunity to more speedily accomplish the work on vacant units.
- 4. Resident Supervisor III:** Six veteran staff members – Gary Awkard, Andre Stepp, Jasper Ezeigbo, Mark Myrick, Ivan Downing, and Ja Rowe – were selected for this new working supervisor classification at PRRS. Created in collaboration with MCGEO, the RS III position will be deployed on all shifts and on all days to ensure that essential duties are performed, and will take the lead in emergency and staffing issues.
- 5. Emergency Response:** On Sunday, June 3, Resident Supervisors Kenny Sterling, Shon McCall, Ivan Downing, Will Gaskins, and Chis Massad responded as a team to assist a resident who had collapsed on a unit. Staff administered CPR, called 911, and secured the unit in textbook fashion according to their training, and the resident regained consciousness and has returned to the program after medical clearance.

Program Developments

- 1. Accreditation Report:** On May 24, the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards accepted the report by state auditors that found the PRRS program in compliance with the majority of state standards but with deficiencies in eight standards and needed recommendations in 5 others. Department Director Arthur Wallenstein, Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio, Deputy Chief Ben Stevenson, and PRRS Accreditation Specialist Karla Rhodes attended the meeting, and the Director and Chief spoke and fully accepted the accuracy of the audit findings and pledged the Department's resources and efforts to ensure compliance with all standards when the auditors return in December.
- 2. Weekender Program:** DOCR's Detention Services has begun a program that allows individuals incarcerated to weekends in jail to perform community service in the White Flint area. The program runs Saturday and Sunday out of the Pre-Release Center, and involves 8-10 individuals who are engaged in activities such as litter and graffiti removal. The program is supported by Ken Hartman who is Regional Director the Bethesda-Chevy Chase, North Bethesda-White Flint, Potomac, Rockville in the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships.
- 3. District Court Judiciary Meeting:** Administrative Justice for the District Court Eugene Wolfe invited PRRS staff to meet with the judiciary and provide an update on the eligibility criteria of the program and the pre-sentence review service that informs judges whether the program will accept an individual prior to a sentencing hearing. PRRS provided the judges with a four page letter that fully describes the screening processes.
- 4. Social Security Documentation:** Acting Deputy Chief of Programs and Services Tina Michaels and MCCF Reentry Manager Gale Starkey convened a meeting with officials from the Social Security agency to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would allow PRRS and Social Security to work more closely to assist residents apply for and obtain their social security cards. This MOU piggybacks on one already in existence at the state level. Tina and Gale visited a state correctional facility as part of their research documenting the needed protocols.
- 5. Short-term Proposal:** PRRS is developing a proposal for Departmental review that would allow the program to serve individuals with shorter sentences (under 30 days) through expedited administrative procedures and specialized case management services.
- 6. State Inmates Returning through DOCR Test of Concept:** The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the DOCR have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to move forward with a small "test of concept" that would transfer five individuals incarcerated at the State level to MCCF or PRRS when they are within 120 days of release. The goal is to identify the administrative procedures, programming, and funding that would be required if brought to scale.
- 7. Screening and Assessment:** Case Manager Tyrone Alexander served with distinction in a one-year assignment as Acting Reentry Assessment Specialist in May. Subsequently, he and Case Manager Fritz Jadotte were selected to help with intake interviews that are used for eligibility and admission determinations to PRRS.
- 8. Revamped Orientation of New Residents:** Acting Reentry Services Manager Kendra Jochum worked with the Case Managers to codify the orientation for new residents on a power point

presentation. The new orientation format ensures greater consistency in the information presented on the program's rules and expectations. Following the orientation, residents are given a tour of the facility.

- 9. Strengthening Incentives for Reentry Efforts:** RSM Jochum developed a proposal to recalibrate incentives to encourage Residents to engage fully in their reentry plans. Under the proposal, Case Managers will have the authority to award Special Program Time off in an amount of 5 days per month if Residents demonstrate full compliance with their reentry plans for the first 30 days of their stay. Thereafter, they will earn Special Program Time only if they are working and completing their reentry requirements.
- 10. Cell phone and smoking policy reviews:** PRRS is developing policy proposals for Departmental review that would allow residents to keep and use cell phones at the Pre-Release Center. The phones would have no recording capabilities and would serve to assist residents contact their families, help with their employment searches, and increase the ability of the Pre-Release program to contact individuals in the community. The policy will also alleviate some of the problems at PRC caused by the phasing-out of pay phones by the new corporate owner of pay phones in the Mid-Atlantic area. On another issue, PRRS is looking to develop a policy that would allow residents to smoke in a pre-determined area on the grounds of the PRC in compliance with County and state laws. Deputy Chief of Security and Facility Ben Stevenson and Resident Supervisor Gary Awkard conducted a site visit on 6/6/12 to a halfway house program in West Virginia that has implemented these policies.
- 11. Employer Forum on Hiring Individuals with Criminal Histories:** Jobs Opportunity Task Force, PRRS, and Montgomery Works' Workforce Solution Group are planning a forum at the Pre-Release Center intended to educate employers on the challenges and opportunities of hiring individuals with criminal histories. The forum is scheduled for September 13 from 12:30pm to 2pm, and will feature presentations by experts in legal issues related to the use of criminal records in hiring and promotional decisions.
- 12. Consolidation of Base Files:** Office Service Coordinator Andrea Gardner organized an effort to relocate all current resident files to a new location in the building. The new location will more effectively use interns from the Customized Employment Program already at work at PRC.
- 13. Psychiatric Contract:** PRRS is mailing a solicitation to all psychiatrists practicing in Montgomery County seeking interest in a provider of 3-5 hours a week of community-based psychiatric services at the Pre-Release Center.
- 14. PRRS Performance System:** DOCR IT Specialist Janet Quarcoo continues to refine and update the new database she developed for PRRS. The database is replacing several stand-alone databases in the program.
- 15. Workplace Digital Skill Training Program:** This federally-funded grant has provided residents with needed computer skills through training offered at PRC and at Montgomery College. The program currently has demonstrated the effectiveness in delivering skill training in an eight-hour orientation program offered to residents when they first come to the center (called Tier 1). Also, Tier 3 classes that provide residents with the opportunity to attend longer term training classes at

Montgomery College that lead to the award of industry-recognized certificates are working. In the remaining months of the grant, the three program partners – PRRS, Workforce Solutions Group, and Montgomery College – are focusing on the content and delivery mechanism of a Tier 2 intermediate skill training program promised in the grant. While several Tier 2 classes were held which taught advanced concepts of Microsoft Word and Excel, the sessions were found to have limited appeal and applicability to the population. The program is now considering using an open classroom pedagogy to allow more individuals at different skill levels to pursue individualized workplace digital skill training.

16. Nursing Position: DOCR's Health Service Administrator Tony Sturgess will redefine the full-time medical position at PRRS as a Community Health Nurse from its current classification as a Nurse Practitioner. The change will lead to better services to residents at PRRS at reduced costs in the longer term by better aligning job duties with position classification.

Work Release Statistics

Work Release Performance Measures														
DATE: 4/4/12 (FN 1)														
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	12	3			1		4	25.0%	33.3%	5	3	8	66.7%	42.9%
3	46	22	6	6	4	2	40	73.9%	87.0%	7	2	9	19.6%	5.1%
4	44	10	11	1	8	0	30	50.0%	68.2%	8	6	14	31.8%	16.7%
Total	102	35	17	7	13	2	74	57.8%	72.5%	20	11	31	30.4%	13.4%

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 for education or community service due to education needs and/or medical/disability/retirement factors

Personnel

1. Arrivals

- Resident Supervisor Chris Massad joined PRRS on 4/23. He is completing his Master's Degree in Legal Studies at John Hopkins University where he is writing his thesis on crime prevention and rehabilitation strategies. He is a graduate of Northeastern's Criminal Justice program and worked for a well-regarded community correctional organization in Boston
- Three new interns joined PRRS recently. Tamarra Brewster is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Sociology at The University of Maryland University College. Christina Morton is working towards a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland College Park. And Christina Brown recently graduated from UMD at College Park with her criminal justice bachelor's degree. At PRC, interns work 24 hours a week and have many responsibilities including assisting resident supervisors on housing units, bringing residents on recreational trips, and performing accountability onsite verifications at AA/NA meetings.

2. Departures

- Accountant Auditor Dawn Downing accepted a budget position within DOCR beginning March 26 and moved her office location to MCCF. Dawn has been with the county 20 years, of which the last 15 of them were spent at the Pre-Release Program. During her last week, she was feted with a potluck lunch where staff thanked her for her many contributions to PRRS and wished her well in her new position.

3. Professional Development

- Case Manager Fritz Jadotte and Reentry Services Manager Kendra Jochum completed a 40-hour Mental Health First Aid Training offered by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions.
- Case Managers and Work Release Coordinators participated in a number of webinars sponsored by the Council of State Government and U.S. Department of Justice.
- Case Manager Fritz Jadotte and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio attended a seminar on Addiction by one of the chief researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Security/Facility

1. **Renovation Funds:** PRRS has met with representatives from the County's Department of General Services to develop a detailed estimate and scope of work to renovate the four living units at the Pre-Release program. Due to the age and use of the building as a correctional facility, the estimate will be over \$1 million for HVAC, plumbing, electrical, painting, tiles, locks, and other subsystems, and will be finalized on 6/12/12. The Department is working with DGS and OMB to free up some funds to allow immediate work to occur given the opportunity to perform work with a low population count.
2. **Building Evacuation:** PRC was evacuated in response to the detection of gaseous odors coming from Unit 1. Fire and Rescue responded and cleared the building for re-entry.

Escapes

Three escapes to report in Calendar Year 2012

- On March 13, Deonta Williams plead guilty to a first degree felony for his escape from the Pre-Release Center on 1/12/12, and was sentenced to 18 months.
- On May 30, Larone Smith plead guilty to a first degree felony for his escape from the Pre-Release Center and was sentenced to 4 years to the state prison system.
- Michael Carnate is facing first degree felony charges for his escape from the Pre-Release Center on 4/11/12.

Population Served

Month	Mar	April	May
PRRS Average Daily Population	127.8	110.4	105.4
Local Subgroup	109.6	98.1	87.1
Federal Subgroup	18.1	12.4	18.3
Female Subgroup	9.2	10.4	11.3
Home Confinement Subgroup	14.7	8.1	9.0

Visits/Events/Meetings

1. 3/02/12: PRRS staff participated in a meeting on Low Income workers at Montgomery College sponsored by Jobs Opportunity Task Force.
2. 3/06/12: A representative from the County Board of Elections assisted PRRS residents with voter registration.

3. 3/16/12: 20 members of Asbury Methodist Senior Community toured the PRC.
4. 3/20/12: The One-Stop Career Center representative of Baltimore County visited the PRC.
5. 3/22/12: PRRS staff attended the monthly meeting of the Victim Services Advisory Board.
6. 3/30/12: Visit to PRC by Rory Geoghegan, Research Fellow, Crime and Justice Institute, Policy Exchange, a think tank organization in Great Britain.
7. 3/30/12: Department meeting with senior leadership of Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.
8. 4/05/12: Class from American University visited PRC.
9. 4/06/12: Unit 2 closed.
10. 4/11/12: Labor Management Relations Committee Meeting.
11. 4/17/12: Visit from correctional official from Hawaii.
12. 4/19/12: PRRS staff participated in training session at Judicial Training Conference in Annapolis.
13. 4/24/12: Visit from representative from Talbot County Drug Court.
14. 4/25/12: PRRS staff attended county Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee meeting.
15. 4/26/12: Tour of PRC by staff from Central Region of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) .
16. 4/26/12: PRRS staff attended county's Victims Services Advisory Board monthly meeting.
17. 4/30/12: Senior staff from DPSCS's Community Supervision (formerly parole and probation) North region toured PRC
18. 5/01/12: PRRS staff attended the graduation of two residents from the college and vocational preparatory program called Future Link which is based at Montgomery College.
19. 5/08/12: PRRS attended presentation of new criminal justice data system in Allegheny County.
20. 5/09/12: DOCR held its annual awards ceremony.
21. 5/15/12: PRRS staff attended Maryland Correctional Administrators Association meeting.
22. 5/16/12: Meeting with DGS to develop PRC Unit renovation proposal.
23. 5/16/12: Interviews for PRRS Accountant/Auditor position.
24. 5/22/12: Meeting with DGS to develop PRC renovation proposal.
25. 5/23/12: PRRS attended focus groups and workshops at Second Chance Act conference.
26. 5/24/12: PRRS Staff and Department Director attend meeting of Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.
27. 5/25/12: Meeting with co-chairs of PRRS Community Advisory Committee.
28. 5/29/12: Interviews for Accountant/Fiscal Assistant position at PRRS.
29. 5/29/12: Meeting with OMB representatives to tour PRC and discuss PRC renovation needs.
30. 5/29/12: PRRS staff reviewed performance software developed for agencies that provide workforce development services.
31. 5/30/12: PRRS staff testified at Larone Smith escape hearing.
32. 5/30/12: PRRS staff attended the Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Initiative meeting.
33. 5/30/12: Meeting of partners of Second Chance Act grant.
34. 6/01/12: Meeting on procedures to allow PRRS to serve short-term offenders.
35. 6/06/12: PRRS staff visit halfway house in West Virginia to explore cell phone and smoking policies.
36. 6/07/12: PRRS Community Advisory Committee meeting.
37. 6/07/12: Singapore delegation visit the PRC.