



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

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**PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report**  
**July 23, 2010 to November 18, 2010**

**Highlights**

- 1. \$352K Technology Training Grant:** PRRS was one of 167 of 1,000 agencies to receive an award under the **Second Chance Act of 2007**. Its grant application – titled “Work First, Train Concurrently” -- proposes a one-year employment-related computer skill training program that will be offered to all PRRS residents (application on website). Under the grant award, Montgomery College will provide three levels of computer instruction in a brand new computer lab at the Pre-Release Center, and students will receive employment and transition support from grant-funded positions with Workforce Solutions Group which operates the County’s One-Stop Career Centers. They will also receive extensive services from PRRS staff. Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas took the initiative in developing the Division’s application, and deserves great credit for the Department’s successful application.
- 2. K2/Spice:** PRRS has significantly increased efforts to combat the introduction of these new hallucinogenic drugs into its program. Referred to as synthetic marijuana, usage of these drugs has become widespread in the United States, and they can be legally purchased in many jurisdictions such as Maryland. Residents at PRRS have received warnings that these substances are contraband in our program, and several residents have been revoked for possession. PRRS is increasing searches, and has begun drug testing.
- 3. Hostage Taking/Gun-in-the-Building Emergency Procedure Review:** In response to the recent hostage taking event at the Discovery Building in Silver Spring, PRRS is undergoing a full review of its emergency procedures to respond to the possibility of a similar event at the Pre-Release Center. PRRS staff members have reviewed our policy and procedure (P&P 2000-7) that calls for moving residents and visitors behind sheltering in place and a 911 call. Deputy Chief of Facility and Security James Shannon has arranged a meeting with police in the coming weeks to refine procedures, and afterwards he will arrange a tabletop training exercise at the PRC with the DOCR Director and police present that will involve many PRRS staff members.
- 4. Ford Foundation Innovation’s Award:** PRRS advanced to the second round in the Innovations Award competition administered by the Ash Institute of John F. Kennedy’s School of Government at Harvard. Funded by the Ford Foundation, this prestigious competition selects innovative programs yearly from hundreds of applicants and awards them \$100,000, and assists them disseminate information about their programs throughout the world. Out of 675 applicants this year, 125 advanced to the second round. In January 2011, PRRS will learn if it will be one of five finalists for the award.

## **Program Developments**

- 1. Upgraded Resident Dress Code (10/4):** PRRS adopted a new Resident Dress Code that was explained to residents as an effort “to nurture the culture of respect and sense of purpose that we value so highly in this program...[and to recognize that]... the Pre-Release Center is a public building, and we want to demonstrate to visitors and to potential employers the diligence and seriousness of your efforts to use this program well.” The new dress code requires all residents to wear collared shirts and clean pants during business hours, and bans the wearing of white undergarment t-shirts and sloppy attire. It provides different expectations for dress during business hours (8am to 4:30pm) Monday through Friday from non-business hours, weekends, and holidays.
- 2. New Volunteer “Volunteer” Program Coordinator:** Loretta McClintock has agreed to serve as a volunteer coordinator for PRRS. Loretta has a decade-long association with DOCR and will help recruit and deploy volunteers at PRRS who may provide such services to residents as literacy training and supervision of the Career Resource Center. In coordination and assistance from Deputy Chief of Programs and Services Pat Braun, Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas, and Welcome Home Coordinator Melissa George, she held her first recruitment session involving six volunteers on November 4.
- 3. Computer Classes:** Montgomery County Oasis has begun offering cycles of basic computer classes for residents at PRRS. OASIS’s Executive Director Marcy Drozdowicz and Program Coordinator Marsha Weber arranged for volunteer instructor Ted Power to provide two cycles of classes that run for three one-hour sessions spread out over several days. The goal of the classes are to provide those PRRS residents who have only limited understanding of computers with the skills needed to use computers effectively to search for jobs and community resources.
- 4. Conflict Resolution Services:** The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (<http://www.crcmc.org/>) will resume providing services to PRRS residents with the benefit of an Americorp volunteer. Several years ago, this organization held several mediation sessions between clients and their families, and one between two residents.
- 5. Winning Fathers:** HHS’s Winning Fathers program is in its fifth year of a five-year grant, and recently received a national achievement award from the National Association of Counties for the quality of its programs. Since July, Winning Father graduated 32 residents from an 8-hour Healthy Relationship Workshop using a curriculum which explores relationships and marriages within “fragile” families. Additionally 33 residents attended one or more parenting workshops using the curriculum Inside/Out Dad. Further, 51 residents attended one or more four-hour workshops taught by staff from the County’s One-Stop Career Center. These workshops focused on concepts of achieving economic stability and included such topics as: Career Exploration; Interviewing practices; Effective Resumes, Applications, and Cover Letters; and Basic Skills & Workplace Behavior. In August, the program participated in a major evaluation process and researchers from the North Carolina-based Research Triangle Institute were onsite to interview program participants, instructors, and administrators.

- 6. Relapse Prevention:** Three volunteers are running a Relapse Prevention program for PRRS residents with substance abuse needs. One of the volunteers, Michael Bohamn is a licensed clinical social worker, and his colleagues Joe Doane and Ernest Sowada assist in providing these services to residents on a voluntary basis. Over the past several months, the attendance in the program has grown substantially.
- 7. PRRS Performance System (PPS):** DOCR's IT Specialist Janet Quarcoo is developing an operational database for PRRS that replaces three older databases. The new database will significantly improve record-keeping at PRRS and improve operations. It will serve as an interim solution until the Department's multi-million dollar CRIMs project is implemented at PRRS in 2012. A preliminary version of PPS was shown to staff at PRRS on 10/25, and a second version will be presented on 11/19.
- 8. Fraudulent Checks:** PRRS received notification that several fraudulent checks were deposited in banks in California that attempted to draw upon the Resident Welfare Account. Fortunately, the "Positive Pay" mechanism in place between the bank and PRRS caught these attempts and no funds were lost. PRRS Accounting Auditor Dawn Downing is monitoring the situation closely, and has involved the police.
- 9. Taskforce on Prisoner Reentry:** Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio was appointed by Maryland's Governor Martin O'Malley to the State Taskforce on Prisoner Reentry. At the first meeting on 7/23, Stefan was appointed chair of the Research and Performance Outcome Subcommittee. The larger Task Force met a second time on 10/25 and the subcommittee met on 9/8, 9/29, and 11/3. The task force will develop a statewide reentry strategic plan by December 2011.
- 10. Welcome Home Activities (5/5-6/28):**

  - Welcome Home Coordinator Melissa George attended the Out4Life Reentry Conference in Richmond, Virginia on July 26th and 27th. This was mobilized by Prison Fellowship and granted the opportunity to collaborate with various government agencies, community organizations, faith-based ministries, churches and others regarding reentry issues.
  - Dr. Donald McCrabb, Welcome Home Program consultant, facilitated another training session this past quarter for mentors (held at the Washington Theological Union in D.C.). The topic this time was a mentor triad session and Don focused on the ways in which a mentor can seek assistance and support from fellow mentors in the program, along with the coordinator. WHP will now begin to plan for future training sessions, based on the curriculum that Don developed and implemented in 2010, to begin in 2011.
  - An orientation session for prospective mentors was held on October 14th at PRC. Four prospective volunteers attended the session and are in various stages of the process to becoming matched mentors.
  - Two ongoing support sessions for current mentors were held this quarter. On August, 23rd, the WHP, along with St. James Prison Ministry volunteers, gathered to offer support to each other and to share their stories of 'mentoring'. On September 27th, the same group gathered to hear two Montgomery County criminal defense

attorneys (one private attorney and one public defender) speak about their experiences working in the criminal justice system. They offered great insight about the 'system' and the role they play with their clients.

- The WHP held its second mentee support group on August 28th. Ten mentees attended to discuss their progress within the program and with their mentors and to exchange ideas about how to remain successful when they return back home to the community.
- Melissa attended several recruitment events this quarter. She made a presentation about the program to the Montgomery Professional Service Association on August 25th. She attended St. Rose of Lima's Social Ministry Fair on October 17th. In addition, the WHP participated in recruitment fairs at St. Patrick's, St. Jane de Chantal and St. John the Evangelist.
- The Welcome Home Program held its Annual Liturgy of Thanksgiving and Blessing of Mentors on November 6th. The Archdiocese of Washington's Cardinal-designate Donald Wuerl presided over the Mass and gave out pins and certificates of recognition to each mentor and blessed them. He also welcomed the mentees who attended the Mass. (Please see handout~ article about the Blessing in the Catholic Standard Newspaper).
- At present time, the WHP in MC has 37 matched mentors and mentees (20 of whom are meeting in the community, post-release). We also have 2 volunteers who provide invaluable support to the PRC in various ways (writing resumes and providing support in the CRC). In addition, we have 5 volunteers waiting to be assigned to an appropriate mentee.
- Mentee/Mentor Spotlight: Janina helped Stacey to complete her lengthy application for D.C. Central Kitchen and find appropriate housing. Stacey's application was accepted and she began working there on a trial basis. Stacey is now residing in a room that she is renting in a larger home. This room is affordable, clean and in a safe neighborhood. Previously, Stacey was living in a home that was supposed to be vacant and didn't know from day to day whether or not she would be able to continue living there. She was also living in a high crime area and was robbed several times. Janina's persistence, follow-through and creativity helped to motivate Stacey to complete these necessary and important steps.

### **Visits/Events/Meetings**

1. 7/27: PRRS Division Chief was a Plenary Speaker at the Out4Life Reentry Conference in Richmond, Virginia sponsored by Prison Fellowship.
2. 7/29: PRRS met with Andre Duval, the new coordinator of correctional education programs in state prisons. She works for the state Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulations.
3. 7/30: PRRS hosted a visit of correctional professionals from Delaware County located in Media, Pennsylvania.
4. 8/3: The Division Chief met with County Council Senior Staff Member Linda McMillan and Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) Chair Michael Subin concerning an initiative to bring evidence-based decision making concepts in the county's CJCC.

5. 8/4,5: Prison Outreach Ministries conducted interviews for the Executive Director position at the Pre-Release Center.
6. 8/8: PRRS hosted a visit from a delegation of journalists from Bosnia and Serbia that was arranged by the U.S. State Department.
7. 8/17 Pat Braun presented at the recent American Probation and Parole Association Conference.
8. 8/20: Work Release Coordinators Sylvia Hernandez and Hillel Raskas met with two US Probation Officers -- Sharnell Howell and Jason Hyde -- from the Greenbelt office, District of Maryland to discuss PRRS's work release procedures.
9. 8/25: PRRS Work Release Coordinators arranged for 15 residents to attend the Intercounty Connection Job Fair.
10. 8/26: Case Manager Cindy Boyd, Pat Braun, Melissa George, and Stefan met with Nicole Smolter from the University of Delaware concerning her doctorate proposal to study what support services incarcerated females need. PRRS is supporting her efforts.
11. 8/30: PRRS female residents participated in an arts program sponsored by Art for the People.
12. 9/2: The Division Chief attended the investiture ceremony for the newest Circuit Court Judge Audrey Anne Creighton.
13. 9/9/14: PRRS staff provided a program overview and hosted a visit from the Montgomery County Grand Jury.
14. 9/14: The Division Chief attended the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association bi-monthly meeting which focused on the state's new sex offender laws.
15. 9/15: PRRS and MCGEO resumed Labor Management Relations Committee meetings after a hiatus of one year.
16. 9/16: Assessment and Quality Services Manager (AQSM) Tina Michaels and Stefan met with doctoral student Maggie Watts who is interested in a study to survey the attitudes and beliefs of incarcerated men who have a history of participating in domestic violence. The study proposal is on hold pending further review by the University of Maryland's School of Medicine.
17. 9/20: The Federal Bureau of Prison's new Contract Oversight Specialist John Mellendick visited PRRS staff and toured the program
18. 9/22: The Division Chief attended the bi-annual meeting of the National Committee on Community Corrections which focused on the topic of recidivism.
19. 9/23: PRRS honored former Office Service Coordinator Rebecca Fitzgerald for her 40 years of service with a luncheon at PRRS.
20. 9/23: PRRS and DOCR staff met to review the requirements of the computer lab to be developed at PRRS for the Second Chance Act grant.
21. 9/27: DC Shannon provided a lecture on Pre-Release Services to a Justice Course at American University taught by Professor Les Kaplan.
22. 10/1: PRRS managers and MCGEO stewards attended a LMRC Training program held at the Upper Regional Center in Germantown.

- 23.** 10/4: PRRS hosted a visit by Beryl Feinberg who is a senior official in the County's Office of Management and Budget
- 24.** 10/5: PRRS managers met with five U.S. Probation officials from the Eastern District which includes the Northern Virginia area. The visitors included Mary Anne Vogel, CUSPO Angela Scanlan, CUSPO Karen Heckenbach, SUSPO Joanne E. Marden, SUSPO Jeff Smihal, SrUSPO (Location Monitoring Specialist).
- 25.** 10/6: The Division Chief and the Deputy Chief of Facilities and Securities attended a meeting to review proposed standards for Electronic Monitoring in Maryland by the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards. MCCS Commissioner Howard Reyes held the meeting at the Prince George's County Detention Center.
- 26.** 10/15: PRRS hosted a visit of correctional professionals from Dutchess County, New York.
- 27.** 10/20: The Division Chief presented at the Maryland Judicial Conference's Ad Hoc Committee on Sentencing, Alternatives and Reentry meeting in Annapolis.
- 28.** 10/20: PRRS senior managers and DOCR Director provided a tour and program overview to Malcolm C. Young, attorney and adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law's Bluhm Legal Clinic, who was awarded a 2010 Soros Justice Fellowship from the Open Society Institute to develop and implement new approaches to address the problem of prisoner reentry.
- 29.** 10/20: The County's Office of Medical Services provided flu shots at PRC for staff.
- 30.** 11/1: DOCR Director, Division Chiefs, and PRRS managers met with two senior officials from Parole and Probation to receive an update about the many P&P organizational changes that have occurred in the past year.
- 31.** 11/3: Case Manager Cindy Boyd attended the Drug Court graduation ceremony held in the Circuit Court. PRRS houses nearly one fourth of all drug court participants.
- 32.** 11/4: PRRS and DOCR IT staff visited the Montgomery College business campus in Gaithersburg to gather ideas for the grant-funded computer lab at the PRC.
- 33.** 11/3: The Division Chief represented PRRS at the quarterly meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee during which the Police Chief provided a briefing of the hostage event at the Discovery Building in September.
- 34.** 11/4: PRRS hosted a visit from a delegation of journalists from Romania arranged by the U.S. State Department.
- 35.** 11/5: PRRS hosted a tour from the Washington Semester class at American University administered by Dr. Beatrice Siman. DC Shannon spoke to the group.
- 36.** 11/10: DC Shannon provided a two-hour lecture to a group of 25 Chinese Wardens at the University of Maryland's Advanced Prison Management Leadership Research and Development Program held at the College Park campus.
- 37.** 11/10: DOCR and PRRS staff were present at a meeting arranged by Congresswoman Donna Edwards' office on reentry held at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.
- 38.** 11/10: Welcome Home Coordinator Melissa George attended Maryland's Mental Health and Criminal Justice Partnership meeting which is a group that seeks to improve services for individuals with mental illnesses who become involved with the criminal

justice system. The focus of this meeting was on housing and several representatives from model housing programs in Baltimore were in attendance.

39. 11/11: Community Advisory Committee co-chairs Tom DeGonia and Diane Scott-Jones met with the Division Chief to plan for the 11/18 CAC meeting.
40. 11/1: PRRS hosted a visit from a Criminology class at Montgomery College taught by DOCR Director Arthur Wallenstein. DC Shannon coordinated this visit.
41. 11/11: DC Shannon provided a lecture to Dr. Bennet's Justice class at American University.
42. 11/12: PRRS Volunteer Coordinator Loretta McClintock, Welcome Home Coordinator Melissa George, and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio attended a Reentry Work Group meeting held at the Open Society Institute at which Senior USDOJ official Amy Solomon spoke about the activities of the Department to support reentry.
43. 11/15: PRRS hosted a visit from nearly 20 correctional professionals from the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia.
44. 11/17: PRRS hosted a visit from nearly 25 Chinese correctional professionals.
45. 11/18: PRRS is scheduled to have a follow-up meeting with Parole and Probation staff members.

## **Personnel**

### **1. Departures**

- Case Manager Andre Baker resigned in August to take a position with the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection. During her 6 ½ year tenure at PRRS, she advanced from an intern position to a resident supervisor position, and was promoted to a Case Manager last fall.
- Nurse Practitioner Lynn Williams resigned to accept a position with the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs. Licensed Practical Nurse Olivia Guzman-Escobar is providing excellent services on an interim basis until the Nurse Practitioner's position can be filled.

### **2. Arrivals**

- Resident Supervisor Aisha Brown joined PRRS in September. She is a five-year veteran of DOCR and previously worked as a Correctional Officer at MCDC's Central Processing Unit. Ms. Brown is a recent graduate of Bowie State University where she earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice. She has had extensive training in dealing with individuals with mental health issues.
- Resident Jessica Woods joined PRRS in October, and comes also comes with extensive experience in mental health. Prior to PRRS, she served as a Forensic Community Support Worker for the Green Door Jail Diversion team in Washington D.C. where she worked with consumers who had serious and persistent mental health illness, were dual diagnosed, and had complications with the justice system. She is a Magna Cum Laude in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York.
- Work Release Coordinator Joyce Reimherr joined PRRS at the beginning of November. She is a licensed social worker who has worked for eight years for the

organization that runs Montgomery Works -- the county's One-Stop Career Center system -- and her last five have been spent at MCCF helping start the nation's only one-stop career center located in a jail. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Bryn Mawr College and her Masters of Social Work at Howard University School of Social Work. Besides her LCSW-C, she earned the most widely recognized credential for public workforce development professionals called the Global Career Development Facilitator Certificate, and was an early graduate of the recently developed Offender Workforce Development Specialist Certificate program.

- Interns Stephanie Walker and Miria Hiria are seniors at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County who are pursuing their Bachelors of Social Work. They are onsite for two 8-hour days a week, and manage 2-3 cases under the supervisor of Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Deputy Chief James Shannon.
- In August, Community Correction Interns Ashlye Durrell and Rachel Brumback joined PRRS. Ashlye is a recent graduate from Hampton University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She has relocated to the area from California. Ashlye has had previous experience working with children as a Teacher's Aid at a YMCA summer camp program as well as years of customer service experience gained while working at various retail establishments. Rachel is also a recent college graduate from the University of Maryland, College Park with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Rachel brings to the position her experience gained through internships at St. Luke's House and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.

### **3. Training**

- **Electronic Monitoring (9/30):** Resident Supervisor Ja Rowe took the lead in arranging staff member training in a new software program used by our EM vendor BI. He provided one-on-one training to midnight Resident Supervisors and arranged group training for daytime Resident Supervisors and Case Managers on September 30, 2010. AQSM Michaels received approval for this testing to serve as "tested" training which means it counts count towards the 18 hours of training required by all line staff members.
- **Close to Home Project (10/ 13, 14, 21):** All PRRS staff participated in extensive training under this federally-funded project aimed to enhance skills and program procedures to more fully involve family members in the reentry process. Administered by the Vera Institute of New York, the trainings involved dozens of staff members at PRRS and at MCCF, and PRRS also invited case managers from partnership organizations to attend. Deputy Chief of Program Services Patricia Braun and AQSM Michaels coordinated this tested training for the Department, and the trainings were well received. The first three hour training was titled Introduction to Family Focused Corrections and was offered to all line correctional staff including Resident Supervisors and Correctional Dietary Officers. The more advanced 8-hour training on Genograms & Ecograms, and a Relational Inquiry Tool was offered to case managers.
- **Bloodborne Pathogen Training (10/15 & 11/17)** PRRS staff attended this training taught by OMS's Nurse Sally Miller.



- **First line supervisory training (10/18-10/29):** AQSM Tina Michaels participated in 80 hours of training provided by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission at its campus in Sykesville, Maryland.
- **Interviewing and Selection Procedures (10/26):** OHR's Karen Hochberg provided training to DOCR staff on the County's hiring procedures at the Pre-Release Center.. This is a mandatory training that is required of all staff members who sit on interviewing panels.
- **Gender Identify Disorder Training:** Case Manager Cindy Boyd participated in this training which is aimed to assist professionals provide services to transgender individuals.

## **Facility**

1. **Accreditation Office:** Resident Supervisors Karla Rhodes and Jaspar Ezeigbo have helped create an auditing office at the Pre-Release facility that was formerly the EMIT laboratory. They were assisted by CDO Denise Attai in her light duty assignment. This efforts signals renewed efforts to prepare for the next cycles of the triennial state and national accreditation audits scheduled in 2011. AQSM Tina Michaels is overseeing accreditation preparation with the support of the Deputy Chiefs and all staff.
2. **PRC Kitchen Renovation (10/28):** The County's Department of General Services' Capital Planning Division arranged a meeting of seven architects and engineers to review the proposal to design the expansion of the PRRS kitchen including the refurbishment of PRRS' solar collectors. DGS's Victor Sousa and Ahmed Naji are managing this \$3.45 million project and are overseeing the \$233,000 budgeted in FY'11 for design work. The current kitchen dates to the opening of the PRC in 1978 and was designed to serve a population half of which currently exists at the Pre-Release Center. PRRS CDO Supervisor Robyn McCormick, Deputy Chief James Shannon, and Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio also attended the meeting.
3. **Staff Break Room:** The former Unit 1 Team room was re-designated as a staff break room in which staff can take their meals.
4. **Air Conditioning Repairs:** The County's Department of General Services contracted with an outside vendor to address the persistent maintenance problems with the air conditioning units in the building. The vendor, Complete Building Solutions, is replacing many units with new ones and conducting preventative maintenance on existing units.

**Population Served**

	July	August	September	October
Local ADP	<b>114.2</b>	<b>123.1</b>	<b>108.3</b>	<b>118.4</b>
Federal ADP	<b>37.1</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>37.1</b>
State ADP	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Total APD	<b>178.9</b>	<b>164.5</b>	<b>154.5</b>	<b>155.4</b>
PRC ADP	<b>150.1</b>	<b>141.0</b>	<b>137.6</b>	<b>142.9</b>
Home Confinement ADP	<b>28.8</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>12.5</b>

**Escapes/Court Hearings: Two escapes to report in Calendar Year 2010**

1. **Escapee Thomas Taylor (6/19):** This former resident escaped from PRRS on 6/19 after he left PRC on an approved pass. He was caught shop lifting CDs at a big box retail store and resisted arrest. In the course of the arrest, he injured a store security guard. He is charged with second degree assault, malicious destruction of property, theft under \$100, and making a false statement to a Peace Officer. He was expected to accept a plea arrangement on November 1, 2010 where he would have received five years for the escape charge and 10 years with five years suspended for the second degree assault. This would have resulted in a 10 year sentence to the State Division of Correction, the first five of which would have been served without the possibility of parole. While he had agreed to this arrangement in advance, in court, he balked, and Judge Weinstein granted a continuance until November 22.
2. **Escapee Tyrone Slade (3/27):** This former resident escaped on Saturday, March 27 at 6:30pm and was on fugitive status for 62 hours. He was apprehended on March 30, 2010. He plead guilty in July and was sentenced to one-year in jail in addition to the good conduct time lost as a result of the escape.