



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

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Director

ZB02

Local Jails and Detention Centers Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Capital Budget Summary Responses

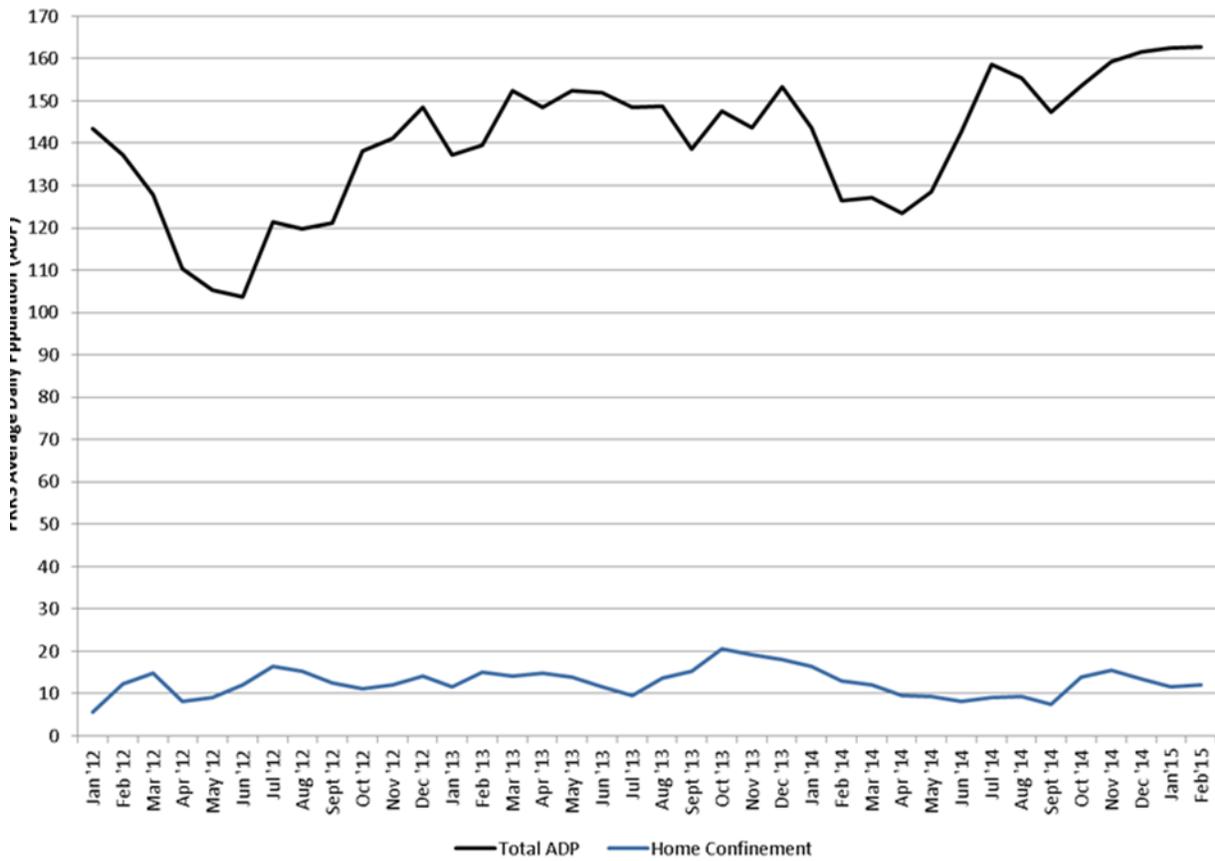
Montgomery County should comment on policy changes that have affected the size of the population at the pre-release center, as well as anticipated pre-release population levels in future years.

Response: The ADP of PRRS (the name of the Division which runs the Pre-Release Center) has risen significantly since last summer in spite of the overall decline in the DOCR population. Each week, PRRS fills most all of the male housing beds in the facility and the only vacancies typically occur in the female housing unit. The increase is due to changes in policies and practice. Each Tuesday, PRRS Reentry Assessment Specialists conduct interviews in the jail of all individuals convicted and sentenced in the previous week. With the addition of a third Reentry Assessment Specialist last fall, PRRS is more efficient in identifying eligible candidates and also following up with the courts to secure authorization for placement into the program. Also, PRRS has changed the length and nature of the interviews to have them focus on eligibility for the program. A longer structured interview and questionnaire is conducted by PRRS Case Managers once individuals are placed at the PRC. PRRS also changed practices to allow individuals with sentences under 30 days and those filing appeals and reconsiderations to enter the program.

In terms of county law and other administrative policy changes, PRRS did lobby successfully for a change in County Code that expands eligibility from 6 months to one year in 2008. In the last two years, PRRS has also deepened its relationship with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and they now have 20-24 clients in the Pre-Release Center who are within 6 months of release from the FBOP. Further, PRRS maintains a strong relationship with the County Drug court and houses 10-15 sentenced offenders who participate in that program. Finally, in the fall 2014, PRRS changed its screening process to conform to the County Executive's policy with regard to ICE detainees. Under current procedures, PRRS no longer contacts the Immigration, Custom, and Enforcement agency to ask if foreign-born Residents are subject to future deportation. Individuals are disqualified for the program if they have criminal detainers and ICE detainers that have support of a finding of probable cause. As a result of this change, there are a greater number of foreign born individuals entering PRRS, most of them from Spanish speaking countries.

The January 2014 Master Confinement Study does project a need for PRC beds in the future to support other alternative to incarceration programs. While this will help divert more individuals from the jail, it will require the use of nearly all the beds at the PRC. In its projection of bed space needs for the county till 2035, the study determined that PRC will need 148 to 168 beds, which is approximately the current capacity of the facility.

**PRRS 3-Year Historical Incarcerated ADP
January 2012 to February 2015**



Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division

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