



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPSCS FISCAL YEAR-END REPORT:
Better Technology, Less Contraband,
Increased Collaboration = Safer Prisons

More inmates working, in treatment, and helping the environment

TOWSON, MD (July 31, 2009)---Taking the lead on gang intervention, dramatically improving information-sharing with law enforcement on all levels, seizing more contraband, and increasing intelligence-gathering and technology are making a difference in the facilities operated by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). And it's adding up to safer prisons, fewer assaults, and more inmates being ready for the often-difficult transition back to society.

More treatment slots are filled in prison, more inmates are working in prison industries, and more inmate public works projects are underway than ever before in DPSCS history.

Overall violence is down significantly; more contraband is being seized; more inmates are being tested and counseled for HIV; and better technology is helping not just correctional, but law enforcement personnel as well.

Among the highlights:

GANGS

- ✚ The number of inmates who've been identified as validated gang members is up 35% since FY '08.
- ✚ DPSCS is sharing information with more than 100 law enforcement agencies, Parole and Probation, and federal authorities.

CONTRABAND

- ✚ Contraband-detecting BOSS (Body Orifice Scanner) chairs have been purchased for every DPSCS correctional facility.
- ✚ DOC K9 pioneered breeding and training of its own dogs on cell phone detection.
- ✚ Overall, DPSCS seized 1,658 cell phones in FY '09, thanks to better intelligence and interdiction strategies.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION

- ✚ Overall serious assaults within DPSCS institutions have dropped.
- ✚ In the last 18 months, through the Violence Prevention Initiative, targeting violent offenders under supervision, the Division of Parole and Probation has requested over 3,600 warrants resulting in more than 1,200 revocations of parole or probation.
- ✚ DPP agents assigned to VPI are now tracking 2,175 cases on average every month--- a 95% increase since the second half of 'FY '08.
- ✚ The Watch Center, the intelligence arm of the VPI, combines law enforcement and DPP agents to track violent repeat offenders, resulting in 159 parole and probation revocations in FY '09.

TECHNOLOGY

- ✚ The law enforcement Dashboard gives 16,000 members of local law enforcement a single-location clearinghouse of a criminal subject's history delivering results within minutes.

DRUG TREATMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

- ✚ HIV education and outreach staff has been more than tripled, and HIV testing of inmates has increased 173% since FY '07.
- ✚ 40% increase in drug treatment slot utilization since FY '07.
- ✚ 2,767 inmates successfully completed drug treatment in FY '09.

EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING

- ✚ Maryland Correctional Enterprises, the prison industry arm of the DOC, now employs a record 2,000 inmates.
- ✚ 96% of our available education slots are now being utilized, a 9% increase in just nine months.

PUBLIC SAFETY WORKS

- ✚ More inmates are at work in more communities across Maryland than ever before, with unique, national restorative justice model programs that include:
- ✚ Inmates who are honorably discharged veterans restoring State veterans' cemeteries
- ✚ Second Chances Farm, featuring inmates caring for retired racehorses.

SUSTAINABILITY AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

- ✚ Inmates have planted more than 200,000 trees, including 1,700 trees to restore Antietam Battlefield to its Civil War appearance.
- ✚ Inmates have built more than 2,000 oyster spat cages to help replenish the Chesapeake Bay's depleted oyster population.
- ✚ Inmates have planted 38,000 bay grasses to restore shorelines on the bay and its tributaries, most of them harvested and grown by inmates.

Read the DPSCS *End of FY09 Report* on our website:
http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/tmp/2009_DPSCS_End-of-Year_Report.pdf