



Office of the Sheriff

Corrections Division

Re: ***House Bill 485 – St. Mary's County - Corrections***

Good Afternoon! I am Mary Ann Thompson, Warden of the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center. The legislative proposal is requested to update the Annotated Code of Maryland 11-720 Individual County Provisions to reflect the current Community Corrections Programs at our detention center, adding Day Reporting and In-patient Treatment. The legislation already includes Pre-trial Supervision, Work Release, Pre-Trial Release, and Home Detention. The Court authorizes participation in these programs.

Day Reporting, a program added three (3) years ago with federal grant funding, has proven to be a success in enhancing the Home Detention Program. This program closely mirrors the St. Mary's Pre-Trial Supervision Program, with its intense case management and holistic approach to advancing equity in public safety, health, and education. Offenders are aligned to behavioral health evaluation and treatment, including mental health and substance abuse disorders. In addition to behavioral health, offenders are aligned with life skills, job training, anger management, and parenting courses to name a few. Day Reporting provides a high degree of discipline combined with intensive treatment, and its success is a testament to its potential.

The Inpatient Treatment Program is again court-authorized to allow the offender to attend intensive substance and mental health treatment. The program has been structured to implement rules and regulations governing compliance, including a 45— to 60-day wait to be placed on the program to ensure the right mindset, stabilization of the justice-involved individual's mental health, and placement on the medicated assisted treatment program. This has enhanced public safety and reduced the number of walk-offs from community programs while ensuring the individual receives the court-authorized in-patient treatment.

The legislation further updates the language from sentenced to court-ordered, as individuals may be convicted or pre-trial. Moreover, the language is modified from the Sheriff collecting funds to ensuring the individual pays court-ordered restitution by making the collection of monies a stipulation of program participation, ensuring accountability.

Community-based programs are alternatives to incarceration, reducing the incarcerated population while successfully reintegrating justice-involved individuals back into the community. I respectfully request favorable consideration of this bill. I am available for any questions and most importantly appreciate your time in listening.

Thursday, March 20th, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee