



Brenda M. Shell, M.S. Criminal Justice Administration

Warden of the Metropolitan Transition Center/Baltimore Reentry Services
Division of Corrections

Brenda Shell-Eleazer has a dual role as the Warden of both the Metropolitan Transition Center and the Baltimore Reentry System, along with oversight of Dismas House and Threshold. She has twenty-four years of correctional experience with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

She began her career as a Correctional Officer I in the Department of Pre-Trial Detention Services at the Baltimore City Jail. She also served on the Division of Correction's Security Audit Team, reviewing all aspects of security operations in the state correctional facilities from 1998 through 2000.

She was then appointed as the first female Commander to the Herman L. Toulson Correctional Boot Camp from 2000 through 2004. She was instrumental in changing the culture from a strictly militaristic boot camp to that of a highly structured treatment environment. In August 2004, Brenda was appointed to Assistant Warden of the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, and a few months later promoted to the position of Warden for both MCIW and BPRUW.

As Warden, Ms. Shell-Eleazer successfully leads the coordination and implementation of Maryland's re-entry initiative assisted by the dedicated staff at both facilities. The reentry initiative not only focuses on the control and custody of Maryland state facilities, but on education, substance abuse treatment, mental/physical health, employment skills, and re-entry services to address the needs of inmates returning to the community. Staff at both institutions have completed the "Promoting a Positive Correctional Course", and are developing a strategic plan to change the culture within the facility.

Warden Shell served as chair for the Department's Female Offender Work Group "Facility Design" Committee, which has developed a manual for best practices in the designing of female facilities. She serves as the President for the Association on Programs for Female Offenders, which is an organization that pioneers in recognizing female offenders as an entity within the criminal justice system.

In 2006, Warden Shell was one of the nominees for Warden of the Year and received MASCA's the distinguished Carl Robinson Award, in 2009 she was honored as a Fox 45 Champion of Courage and one of Maryland's 100 top women.