



Promising Partnerships

A Newsletter from the

MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS

Advanced and Specialized Training Unit



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"We simply must work together as public safety professionals in collaboration with our community partners. This is the most effective strategy to reduce crime, protect our communities and make our neighborhoods safer places to live, work and raise families." Pat Bradley, Executive Director, MPCTC

Homeland Security – Are You Prepared?

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator

The events of the last few years have redefined national security in America and established unprecedented levels of preparedness and collaboration. New federal and state institutions have been established. Plans for addressing homeland security issues are prominent at every level of government. We should all strive to learn about domestic and international terrorism and threat recognition by establishing links with competent sources of information. In educating ourselves, it is important to remember that natural and manmade accidents can also be catastrophic. We only have to look back to the loss of life and property caused by tropical storms and hurricanes last fall to reaffirm that terrorism is not our only concern.

Fortunately, many of the steps we can take to minimize the impact of a terrorist generated event can also prepare us for other types of catastrophes. As public safety proponents, we must recognize that we have responsibilities to the citizens of Maryland as well as to our families and friends. We encourage each citizen to develop his or her personal and professional disaster plans. We hope that you will begin to consider how the landscape is changing as homeland security evolves. We encourage everyone to remain safe and informed.



Gene Farmer, Field Supervisor I, welcomes Governor Robert Ehrlich and Secretary Mary Ann Saar to the Gaithersburg office of the Division of Parole and Probation.

Tearing Down the Barriers Between Law Enforcement and the Treatment Community

By Alan Friedman, Governor's Policy Office and Director of the State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. toured the Gaithersburg office of the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) on July 20th and then announced the formation of a new state panel to coordinate Maryland's fight against substance abuse. The Governor was introduced by Secretary Mary Ann Saar who noted that this was the first time a governor had visited a DPP field office in recent memory.

Governor Ehrlich called drug abuse the biggest problem in our communities. "It cuts across every line we draw in our society and it makes us bleed," he said. The new State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council will also work on

implementation of a new law passed in the 2004 General Assembly that promotes treatment options in lieu of incarceration.

The Council will be chaired by former Montgomery County State's Attorney and retired Court of Special Appeals Judge Andrew Sonner. During his 25 years in prosecution, Chairman Sonner was a strong advocate for treatment alternatives and implemented a plan for diversion of low-level drug offenders in 1996.

"I want to tear down barriers between law enforcement and the treatment community," Judge Sonner explained, commenting that the new law gives prosecutors improved structures and alternatives to bringing cases into already overcrowded courts.

Mental Health Court

By Hon. Charlotte M. Cooksey

Baltimore City initiated a Mental Health Court in 2002. The goal of this Court is to better serve the community by improving public safety, reducing criminalization of persons with mental illness and promoting systems integration. The Mental Health Court seeks to better coordinate and focus necessary resources. Like Drug Courts, it represents a greater judicial hands-on, "therapeutic approach" to provide alternatives to incarceration.

Through a partnership with the Baltimore City Court, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the State's Attorney, Division of Parole and Probation, Division of Pretrial Services, and Forensic Alternative Services Team (FAST), the groundwork was laid for an expanding mental health court docket. This docket allows services to be provided for individuals with mental

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." – Helen Keller

health problems who frequently need more services than an institution can offer.

Consider the case of G.B., a 44-year old male charged with telephone misuse. He experienced a lengthy state hospitalization for restoration of competency (the ability to be accountable for his crime). Through the work of the mental health court, G.B. was referred to services that eventually helped him gain full-time employment, remain crime free, engage in treatment, approach the end of an 18-month probation order, and continue to engage with personnel from FAST.

When Four Eyes are Better than Two

By Jennifer Frankenberg, Agent Senior, Division of Parole and Probation

The Frederick County Police Department and the Frederick Office of Parole and Probation partners police officers and probation agents together for joint home visits.

While Corporal Tom Pfarr and Agent Jennifer Frankenberg were conducting joint home visits, they noticed a vehicle that did not have a tag. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the driver of the vehicle was under supervision by the agent. The vehicle was pulled over for not having a tag, and it was determined by the officer that the driver was under the influence. As a direct result of the conscientious observations made by both the officer and the agent, the driver was charged with DWI.

CSAFE Members Help Build A Dream

By Patricia Stroud, Agent Senior, Division of Parole and Probation

In the spring of 2002, Benjamin Layton died from a rare form of leukemia. He was 4-years old. His dying wish was to have red angel wings when he arrived in heaven, because with the red wings he could fly higher. The friends and

family of Ben began the task of creating a new playground in his memory and thus Ben's Red Swings were built.

Commencing on May 11, 2004, a playground "Imagined by Children and Built by the Community" was constructed in six workdays, with the help of over 4,000 volunteers. Community members, area churches and restaurants donated approximately 15,750 man-hours of labor and over 3,000 meals.

Members of the Salisbury Westside, Princess Anne, Crisfield, Chestertown and Berlin Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) teams all participated in the event, spending a day to help with the construction. This unique opportunity allowed the team members to become part of a united front, achieving a common goal. Ben's Red Swings allowed a diverse group of participants to share in the spirit of the community and show cooperation among all.



Members of Salisbury Westside, Princess Anne, Crisfield, Chestertown and Berlin HEAT teams take part in building Ben's Red Swings.

Yee-haw: A Bicycle Rodeo in Riverview

By Tony Myers, Case Manager Specialist III

Do you ever wonder what happens to a stolen bicycle once it has been recovered? Initially, every effort is made to find the owner. When

these efforts are not successful, the Baltimore County Police Department and the members of the Riverview HEAT team distribute the bikes to those in need.

On June 19th, members from the Riverview community attended a bicycle rodeo. Participants completed a bicycle safety course and received helmets and bicycles. The activity was a great opportunity for community members to interact with the HEAT team and other community programs.

Combining Resources in Wicomico County

By Beverly Ward, Weed & Seed Coordinator

Representatives from the Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children recognized the value of collaboration early on. As a result, they placed their Weed and Seed coordinator in the same office as the CSAFE coordinator. The collaboration of these two programs has helped to maximize funding and resources for community residents. For example, federal and state funding cuts diminished the dollars available to the Westside after school program. By pooling resources, Weed and Seed partnered with CSAFE to fund a program assistant and include the program in their "Prevention through the Arts" classes.

The two groups also worked together to have streetlights installed in dark areas of the Westside area and to have the Wicomico County Council create and hire a code inspector position to deal with trash and debris issues in the Westside area. Resources were also pooled to support "National Night Out" with over 300 people attending last year's event.

This partnership in the Westside area has been effective in reducing crime and fear of crime while helping to increase the quality of life and improve public safety. It's been a catalyst for re-growth in this neighborhood.

Alternative Education

By Jennifer A. Beskid, Regional Coordinator

In Turkey, the top 2% of law enforcement officers are provided an opportunity to further their education in the United States. Through partnerships with University of Maryland and other schools, Turkish police officers spend up to two years in the U.S. learning about our criminal justice system and earning their master's degrees.

On June 28, 2004, nine officers and Dr. Cindy Smith of the University of Baltimore met with employees of the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit. The experience proved to be informative for everyone. While AST promotes collaborative efforts among law enforcement, probation, and treatment agencies, in Turkey law enforcement professionals act as probation agents – keeping an eye on known offenders.

Training

Continuing Education Classes

MPCTC certified classes are offered throughout the state. The schedule is as follows:

September 21-23 – CSAFE Academy

This training is specifically designed to provide an orientation to the CSAFE program for all new HEAT team members and supervisors. The training will be held in Sykesville at the Public Safety Education and Training Center (PSETC).

October 14, 2004 – What's Johnny Packing in his Lunch? (A seminar on school violence)

PSETC – Sykesville, MD

October 29, 2004 – Gender Responsiveness: Promoting Effective Interactions. Eastern Shore, site to be named.

November/December – CSAFE Summits, sites to be named.

November 4 – Western Maryland

November 19 – Central Maryland

December 3 – Eastern Maryland

Please watch your mail or e-mail for the specific dates, locations, and registration information for upcoming events.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Data is now being transferred from OBSCIS II to HATS, eliminating the need for redundant data entry by pilot HEAT team members.
- The Public Safety Education and Training Center opened on July 5, 2004. With more than 40 classrooms and overnight accommodations, it is a state-of-the-art facility.
- The City of Elkton recently joined the CSAFE family and now has a HEAT team working out of the police department.

Please Help Us

Do you have a promising practice or notable accomplishment you would like to share with our readers? You may email your comments to Jennifer Beskid, Regional Coordinator, at jabeskid@dpscs.state.md.us.



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