

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Problem-Solving Courts**

**Fiscal Year 2015**



**Administrative Office of the Courts**

**November 1, 2015**

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	4
<b>History</b> .....	5
<b>Oversight</b> .....	5
Office of Problem-Solving Courts.....	5
Operational Problem-Solving Courts (Map).....	6
Maryland Judicial Council’s Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee.....	7
<b>Funding</b> .....	7
Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants.....	7
OPSC/BHA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY 2015 by Jurisdiction.....	8
Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).....	9
Maryland Highway Safety Office Grants (MHSO).....	9
U.S. Dept of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.....	9
<b>Professional Development and Technical Assistance</b> .....	10
Professional Development.....	10
Technical Assistance.....	11
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b> .....	12
<b>Drug Courts</b> .....	12
Drug Court Statistical Summary.....	13
<b>Mental Health Courts</b> .....	14
Mental Health Court Statistical Summary.....	14
Baltimore City Mental Health Docket.....	14
Prince George’s County Mental Health Court.....	15
Harford County Mental Health Diversion Program.....	15
Prospective Mental Health Courts Statewide.....	15
<b>Truancy Reduction Programs</b> .....	15
Truancy Reduction Court.....	15
Truancy Reduction Program Statistical Summary.....	16
University of Baltimore Truancy Court Program.....	16

**Conclusion.....17**

**Appendix A. Maryland Judicial Council and Committee Membership.....18**

Maryland Judicial Council Membership.....19

The Judicial Council’s Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee.....20

Problem-Solving Court Subcommittee.....21

Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Addiction Subcommittee.....22

Business and Technology Case Management Subcommittee.....23

## **Executive Summary**

The Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC), which began as the Drug Treatment Court Commission in 2002, was tasked to oversee the six existing operational drug courts and to expand the concept of coordinated substance abuse treatment and intensive supervision with judicial oversight. Today, there are thirty-seven drug courts, two re-entry courts, three mental health courts, nine truancy reduction courts, and one veteran's court in Maryland. Over the years, hundreds of criminal justice and treatment professionals have had access to professional development courses, ranging from Pharmacology to drug testing. During this time, data collection has changed as well; where paper surveys once were faxed, Maryland now benefits from a real-time web-based data management system. When the Commission first was formed, there were no general funds dedicated to problem-solving courts; now with the help of OPSC, there are upwards of nine million dollars of State and federal funds dedicated to drug, mental health, and truancy courts annually in Maryland.

Problem-solving courts represent a shift in the way courts handle individuals who have a high potential for recidivism. In this approach, the court works closely with prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, social workers, and other justice system partners to develop a strategy that will increase the likelihood that court-involved individuals will enter and complete treatment programming, as well as abstain from behaviors that brought them to court.

### **Problem-Solving Court Definition**

Problem-Solving Courts address matters that are under the court's jurisdiction through a multidisciplinary and integrated approach that incorporates collaboration among court, government, and community-based organizations.

As part of the annual appropriation to the Judiciary, OPSC disseminated \$3.5 million in grants to local drug and mental health court programs during fiscal year 2015. These funds, granted only to operational drug and mental health court programs, were used for program staff, treatment, drug testing, travel and training, and ancillary services that directly benefited court participants.

During fiscal year 2015, over 3,600 people participated in problem-solving courts in Maryland. Drug court participants submitted over 86,600 drug and alcohol test specimens, while judges and masters met with participants in mental health and drug courts nearly 24,000 times in court hearings. Problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, community-based programs available to address aberrant behavior associated with addictions and mental illnesses.

OPSC continues to provide needed technical assistance to both planning and existing programs to ensure continued positive outcomes and sustainability. Training and education for problem-solving court practitioners are integral parts of expanding the field. The Judiciary continues to set high expectations for monitoring and evaluating these

programs to ensure the use of “best practices” in the problem-solving court field. As these programs continue to be successful in Maryland, the problem-solving approach might possibly become integrated into the traditional adjudication process.

## **History**

In 1994, one of the first drug courts in the country was initiated in Baltimore City to address substance abuse issues for those caught in the seemingly never-ending cycle of the criminal justice system. In 2002, the Maryland Judiciary established the Drug Treatment Court Commission (Commission) for the purpose of supporting the development of drug court programs throughout Maryland. The Commission led the Judiciary’s effort to implement and maintain drug court programs in the State. Commission members included: Circuit and District Court judges, legislators, representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, State’s Attorney’s Offices, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

In December 2006, then Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order to establish a Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts to institutionalize



**Judge George Lipman and Retired Judge Gale Rasin congratulate a Mental Health Court participant for successfully completing the program.**

the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to include all problem-solving courts. At the same time, the Office of Problem-Solving Courts was formed in the Administrative Office of the Courts, to assume the role held by the Commission and to address the needs of other problem-solving courts in Maryland.

## **Oversight**

### ***Office of Problem Solving Courts***

The Office of Problem Solving Courts (OPSC) is a department in the Administrative Office of the Courts, Programs Division, responsible for assisting the problem-solving

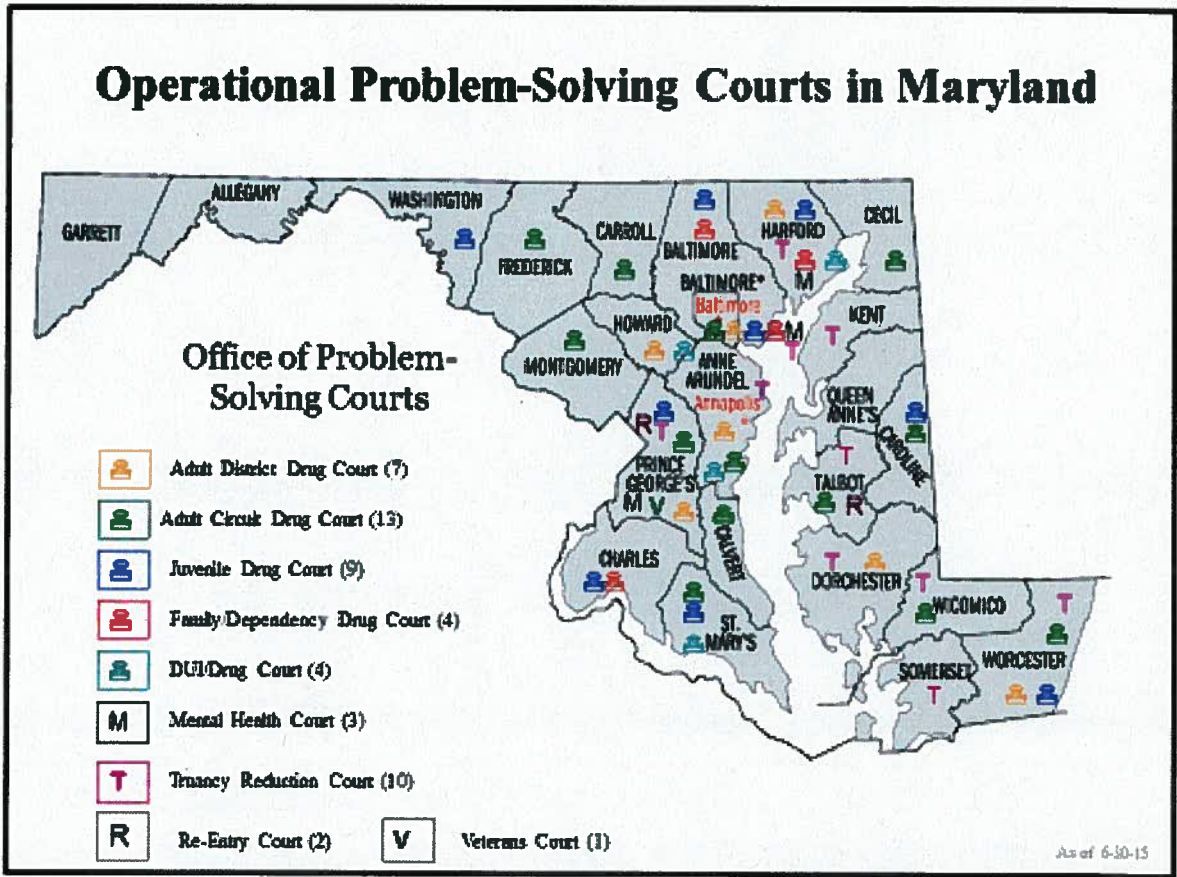
courts in development, maintenance, and advancement of a collaborative therapeutic system. OPSC has overseen the creation of problem-solving programs in 21 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland and works with public and private stakeholders to develop and establish best practices in problem-solving courts.

The OPSC oversees the financial support for problem-solving courts and is responsible for setting and enforcing programmatic guidelines, creating a statewide management information system, and targeting new and expanding populations for problem-solving courts. Working with the Judiciary’s justice partners, the OPSC continues to serve as the court’s liaison to sustain and advance problem-solving courts in Maryland.

In fiscal year 2015, the Court of Appeals, with the recommendation from the Judicial Council’s Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee and the Office of Problem-Solving Courts, approved applications for the following jurisdictions to begin operating new problem-solving courts:

- Calvert County Circuit Court, Adult Drug Court
- Kent County Circuit Court, Truancy Court

The map below identifies the location of all problem-solving courts statewide.



### ***Maryland Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee***

In fiscal year 2015, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera changed the Judiciary's governance by appointing a new Judicial Council and a new set of Judicial Council Committees. The newly created Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee promotes and oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets statewide in the courts. The Committee ensures the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism, business and technology, and science and technology. It monitors and directs the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, technical assistance, research, funding and support for specialty courts and special dockets. See appendix A for more information on the Judicial Council, this committee and its membership.

The above mentioned committee has a Problem Solving Courts Subcommittee to assist these courts and provide a comprehensive and collaborative approach to dealing with the issues that arise for the participants in these courts. This subcommittee assists each county in employing best practices, including providing evidence-based training, technical assistance, research, and in identifying funding to support to their courts.

Judges and Magistrates met with drug and mental health court participants nearly **24,000** times in court hearings in FY 2015.

In addition, the Mental Health, Alcoholism and Addiction Subcommittee explores trial court sentencing alternatives for the treatment and rehabilitation for the seriously mentally ill and substance-addicted defendants who are not enrolled in the specialty courts. This subcommittee works closely with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and other governmental agencies to monitor and provide information regarding both community and residential based treatment.

Finally, the Business and Technology Case Management Subcommittee deals with the issues generated by the Business and Technology Specialty Docket, which includes, (1) reviewing of forms, (2) using Maryland Rule 16-205 to promote consistency within the State regarding the categorization of a case as a business and technology case, (3) providing training in this area to judges, and (4) formulating recommendations on the management of complicated discovery and scientific issues that arise in the business and technology cases.

### **Funding**

#### ***Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants***

In fiscal year 2015, OPSC solicited grant applications to support and maintain the capacity of existing drug and mental health courts across Maryland. The Problem-Solving Court Discretionary Grants core purpose areas are to support staff and services targeted for the problem-solving court participants. Funds were allocated to problem-solving courts to address staffing needs by the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, to provide needed ancillary services, to provide critical drug/alcohol testing, to conduct trainings,

and to enhance treatment services through OPSC's partnership with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA).

Over the past several years, OPSC has recognized and responded to state budget trends by accessing resources from federal, state, and local partners in an effort to sustain programs. OPSC continues to collaborate with state partners, such as the BHA, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Highway Safety Administration, and the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention to maximize access to existing resources. The partners also supplement other resources that would otherwise be lost due to budget reductions.

### OPSC/BHA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY 2015 by Jurisdiction

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	BHA Treatment Award	OPSC Treatment Award	Total by County
Anne Arundel Circuit Adult	\$259,710		\$96,300	\$615,147
Anne Arundel District Adult/DUI	\$259,137			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult/ Family/Juvenile	\$411,000	\$51,517	\$46,340	\$514,478
Baltimore City District Adult	\$3,056			
Baltimore City Mental Health	\$2,565			
Baltimore Co. Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$116,050		\$187,328	\$303,378
Calvert Circuit Adult	\$60,634			\$60,634
Caroline Circuit Adult /Juvenile	\$70,000	\$62,763		\$132,763
Carroll Circuit Adult	\$180,000		\$134,855	\$314,855
Cecil Circuit Adult	\$200,000	\$112,581		\$312,581
Charles Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$135,000	\$81,688		\$216,688
Dorchester District Adult	\$42,276	\$139,692		\$181,968
Frederick Circuit Adult	\$190,040	\$68,111		\$258,151
Harford Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$110,000		\$151,241	\$382,273
Harford District Adult/DUI	\$92,955			
Harford Mental Health	\$28,077			
Howard District Adult/DUI	\$73,508	\$57,352		\$130,860
Montgomery Circuit Adult	\$192,268		\$83,581	\$275,849
Prince George's Circuit Adult/Juvenile/Re-Entry/Veterans	\$247,738	\$114,024		\$361,762
St. Mary's Circuit Adult/Juvenile	\$180,000	\$104,622		\$284,622
Talbot Problem Solving Court	\$105,474	\$46,437		\$151,911
Washington Circuit Juvenile	\$85,000	\$48,171		\$133,171
Wicomico Circuit Adult	\$233,382	\$113,042		\$346,424
Worcester Circuit Adult/Juvenile	\$209,070		\$68,255	\$297,265
Worcester District Adult	\$19,940			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,506,880</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$767,900</b>	<b>\$5,274,780</b>



***Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)***

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funds treatment/criminal justice programs that provide integrated drug treatment services and criminal justice supervision for high-risk substance dependent offenders, including drug testing and graduated sanctions for individuals that violate program requirements. The treatment services must include an assessment of the individual's drug use and criminal history, as well as placement in the appropriate level of care, such as residential, intensive out-patient, out-patient, or aftercare services. During Fiscal Year 2015, three jurisdictions received \$745,143 to fund treatment services.

Jurisdiction	HIDTA Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$122,805
Baltimore City	\$486,307
Prince George's County	\$136,031
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$745,143</b>

***Maryland Highway Safety Office Grants (MHSO)***

The MVA's Maryland Highway Safety Office is dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing motor vehicle crashes through the administration of a comprehensive network of traffic safety programs. The purpose of the highway safety grant program is to fund activities aimed at reducing the number of motor vehicle-related crashes, deaths and injuries on Maryland roadways. During fiscal year 2015, four DUI Courts received \$257,570 to fund drug and alcohol testing, treatment services, program personnel, housing, and transportation costs.

Jurisdiction	MHSO Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$78,750
Harford County	\$63,500
Howard County	\$62,300
St. Mary's County	\$53,020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$257,570</b>

***U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance***

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded a three-year \$1.5 million grant to the Judiciary in 2011. This grant has provided Baltimore City, Carroll, Cecil, and Wicomico Counties an opportunity to enhance and expand the adult drug court programs in various ways. Included in this grant are funds for a statewide comparative analysis of drug courts that looks at program outcomes of the largest and most representative courts to identify the drug court characteristics and practices contributing to participant successes and failures. The analysis will use data from the Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system to compare factors affecting participant outcomes. A cost-benefit study of two drug courts compared with two traditional court process comparison samples also will be conducted. In addition, pre-post analyses of the operational improvements will be completed to assess

whether the enhancements of the four drug courts had any effect on participant outcomes. The grant was given a no-cost extension to end in September 2015.

Other federal partners such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Drug Court Institute, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration awarded grants and/or provided direct training or technical assistance to problem-solving court programs throughout Maryland in fiscal year 2015.

## **Professional Development and Technical Assistance**

### ***Professional Development***

Professional Development among problem-solving courts remains a priority for OPSC. On an annual basis, the OPSC staff and the Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee plan a series of events to encourage ongoing educational opportunities for problem-solving court teams and criminal justice professionals.

In fiscal year 2015, OPSC arranged and implemented the following professional development events:

OPSC provided two one-day professional development courses for criminal justice practitioners. The first course intended for Juvenile Problem-Solving Courts (Juvenile Drug Courts and Truancy Courts) was focused on communication and interaction with juveniles. Joe Smith, an education practitioner, provided strategies to advance the efforts of system professionals to engage, empathize lead, mentor, and properly approach at risk children by engaging in conversation to learn their personal strengths and situations and family needs.

The second course was intended for the Adult Problem-Solving Courts (Adult Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, Re-Entry Courts, and Veteran Courts). The instructor was Sgt. Prendi Garcia of the Maryland State Police. Sgt. Garcia discussed the current legal and illegal drug trends in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. He displayed pictures of drug packaging, quantity, neighborhoods, housing issues, child welfare issues and the impact of the drug trade on the community. He also provided detailed information about the impact of new synthetic drugs in our communities.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment Encounters**

Drug court participants attended over **43,000** treatment sessions in FY 2015

The Office of Problem-Solving Courts co-sponsored training in Harford County with the Harford County Community Services Office. The professional development course supported over 30 attendees from Baltimore County, Cecil and Harford County. The one-day course was offered at Harford County Community College and offered introductory training in Motivational Interviewing.

OPSC completed a 4-day Motivational Interviewing Course. Co-sponsored with the Wicomico County Circuit Court Drug Court, Wicomico County Health Department, and

the Office of Problem-Solving Courts. This course was held in Wicomico County, Maryland.

In conjunction with the Maryland Judicial Institute and the Council of State Governments, OPSC held a training for Maryland's Problem-Solving Court Judges and staff. *Judicial Work at the Interface of Mental Health and Criminal Justice Judges Training* included topics such as Over-Representation of People with Mental Illnesses in the Criminal Justice System, Introduction to Mental Illnesses and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders, Factors Contributing to Over-Representation, and Improving Interactions in the Courtroom with a Mentally Ill Defendant.

OPSC partnered with the Office of the Public Defender to develop and facilitate a roles training for problem-solving court defense counsel. This training was designed to assist problem-solving court defense counsel in their often complex role of representing a client in problem-solving courts.

<b>Number of Days in Drug Court*</b>	
Adult Circuit	23.13 Months
Adult/DUI District	14.83 Months
Juvenile	11.97 Months
Family Recovery	10.10 Months

\*For those program participants who were discharged (Completed, Unsuccessful, or Neutral) from drug courts during FY 2015

### ***Technical Assistance***

Technical Assistance from the Office of Problem-Solving Courts provides aide to court programs with a level of expertise and guidance to improve operations, client services, and team communication. Teams may address protocol development, ancillary services, treatment service/types, funding opportunities, court proceedings, and role clarification. Teams may discuss and devise plans to institute new research and evidence-based practices into their current operations.

In fiscal year 2015, OPSC provided technical assistance to several problem-solving courts by guiding them to improve their drug testing policy, enhancing sanction and incentive responses, reworking and expanding program entrance criteria, developing therapeutic responses to relapse, and understanding the roles and responsibilities of each team member. In a few jurisdictions, the team reviewed staffing processes and court proceedings to assist the court operate more efficiently and consistently.

In April of 2015, OPSC began a six-month technical assistance project with the National Drug Court Institute. This project was developed to conduct an evaluation of the four operational Family Recovery Courts in Baltimore, Charles, and Harford Counties and the City of Baltimore. Through the guidance of NDCI faculty, the teams received assistance via onsite observations and interviews, phone calls and email communications. The evaluation allowed each team to receive feedback on their general operating procedures, utilization of best practices, use of ancillary and treatment services, and the overall understanding and interaction among team members. Each team will receive a complete report from NDCI and OPSC after the completion of the technical assistance in fiscal year 2016.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

A statewide management information system allowing for the collection and standardization of data directly related to drug and mental health court outcomes has been developed in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). The Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system is a web-based data management system that has been modified to support the advanced needs of problem-solving courts in Maryland.

SMART provides problem-solving court team members with direct access to information needed for making informed decisions about participants and the court. SMART is a multi-purpose tool that can be used for several purposes: identifying and prioritizing participant needs; developing knowledge about services available across agencies; and obtaining immediate access to information about participant status. SMART sets out standard performance measures to assist drug and mental health courts in monitoring performance and in using outcome data to improve programs and services.

In addition, individual drug and mental health courts use SMART data for a variety of purposes: to generate presentations for local community and oversight boards; to report mandated data to state or federal stakeholders; to provide information on outcome and continuous quality improvement activities to accrediting bodies; and to evaluate program and service effectiveness.

### **Drug/Alcohol Tests**

91% of the over 86,600 drug/alcohol specimens collected from drug court participants in FY 2015 were negative for tested substances.

Through a contract with the University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Services and Research (IGSR), OPSC provides support to drug and mental health court programs across Maryland in maintaining their data management. In addition to responding to thousands of technical assistance and training questions, the IGSR project team developed a SMART Case Management curriculum training for all problem-solving court case managers. IGSR also modified several components of SMART at the request of the problem-solving court users.

## **Drug Courts**

Drug courts are a Judiciary-led, coordinated system that demands accountability of staff and court participants and ensures immediate, intensive and comprehensive drug treatment, supervision and support services using a cadre of incentives and sanctions to encourage participant compliance. Drug courts represent the coordinated efforts of the criminal justice, mental health, social service agencies, along with treatment communities that actively intervene in, and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions, such as incarceration or conditions of general probation, drug courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and place

them under strict court monitoring and community supervision that is coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment and ancillary services.

### Drug Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2015
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Adult	Dec-05	61	24	1	9	112
Anne Arundel	District	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	119	31	0	28	332
Baltimore City	Circuit	Adult	Oct-94	45	176	8	30	448
Baltimore City	Circuit	Family	Aug-05	63	34	6	28	121
Baltimore City	Circuit	Juvenile	Sep-98	5	5	1	4	21
Baltimore City	District	Adult	Mar-94	43	4	0	3	249
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Juvenile	Mar-03	27	16	10	6	55
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Family	Aug-10	12	5	2	3	25
Calvert	Circuit	Adult	Feb-15	19	0	0	0	19
Caroline	Circuit	Juvenile	Jul-04	2	0	0	1	1
Caroline	Circuit	Adult	Nov-11	28	4	1	14	40
Carroll	Circuit	Adult	Apr-07	36	18	1	19	89
Cecil	Circuit	Adult	Jun-06	51	5	2	10	132
Charles	Circuit	Juvenile	May-06	7	4	8	0	20
Charles	Circuit	Family	Jan-11	32	7	2	29	56
Dorchester	District	Adult	Jul-04	18	6	0	6	32
Frederick	Circuit	Adult	May-05	35	3	1	8	80
Harford	Circuit	Family	May-04	9	3	8	10	27
Harford	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-01	17	5	7	4	30
Harford	District	Adult	Nov-97	10	11	0	9	31
Harford	District	DUI	Jan-05	9	13	0	2	26
Howard	District	Adult	Jul-04	7	3	0	5	18
Howard	District	DUI	Jul-04	17	20	0	0	44
Montgomery	Circuit	Adult	Nov-05	20	23	0	4	82
Prince George's	Circuit	Adult	Aug-02	17	0	1	4	94
Prince George's	Circuit	Juvenile	Aug-02	19	14	0	8	63
Prince George's	Circuit	Re-Entry	Oct-13	8	0	0	0	10
Prince George's	Circuit	Veterans	Apr-15	4	0	0	0	4
Prince George's	District	Adult	Apr-06	17	7	1	6	29
St. Mary's	Circuit	Juvenile	Feb-04	11	5	3	6	29
St. Mary's	Circuit	Adult	July-09	26	14	0	11	58
Talbot	Circuit	Problem-Solving	Aug-07	15	7	0	6	33
Washington	Circuit	Juvenile	Jun-07	13	5	1	7	27
Wicomico	Circuit	Adult	Sep-05	18	9	1	20	63

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2015
Worcester	Circuit District	Adult	Dec-05	39	12	3	21	79
Worcester	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-05	6	6	0	5	26
<b>Total</b>				<b>885</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>2,605</b>

## Mental Health Courts

A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with a primary mental health diagnosis that substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court processing. Participants are identified through mental health screenings and assessments and voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. The overarching goal of the mental health court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contacts with the criminal justice system by providing them with judicial oversight to improve their social functioning with respect to employment, housing, treatment, and support services in the community. Mental health courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address both the mental health needs and public safety concerns of communities in which they reside. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and to assist with the avoidance of recurring correctional visits, as well as to lower the overall recidivism rate of this population.

Mental Health Court Judges met with program participants over **3,300** times in court hearings in FY 2015.

### **Mental Health Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015**

County	Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Discharged Program	Total Served in FY 2015
<b>Baltimore City</b>	District	Oct-02	149	144	385
<b>Harford</b>	District	Jan-03	14	12	22
<b>Prince George's</b>	District	Jul-07	181	120	295
<b>Total</b>			<b>344</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>702</b>

#### ***Baltimore City Mental Health Docket***

All cases in the Baltimore City District Court where competency evaluations are ordered are transferred to the Mental Health Docket. Scheduling competency evaluations and monitoring cases while defendants are in psychiatric hospitals working to become competent are all the responsibility of the mental health docket. Once competency is restored, defendants either return to the court where the case was originally heard for

disposition, or are placed on the mental health docket under one of the various tracks, if they qualify and agree to be sentenced by the Mental Health Court judge.

The Baltimore City Mental Health Court continues to track specialized fields within SMART to include competency hearings, not criminally responsible findings, 8-505, and 8-507 data as well as standardized mental health court data. The “legal status” screen was created in order to track these particular data fields. Throughout the current fiscal year, the screen was unable to be utilized as a result of programmatic issues. The goal is for this screen to be operational in fiscal year 2016.

#### ***Prince George’s County Mental Health Court***

The Mental Health Court of Prince George’s County strives humanely and effectively to address the needs of individuals with mental health disorders who enter the Prince George’s County criminal justice system. The court project is committed to providing access to resources, training, and expertise to address the unique needs of these individuals. All participating agencies have agreed to collaborate for the purpose of improving outcomes for this special population, while increasing public safety.

The Prince George’s County Mental Health Court successfully updated all pre-existing data issues and will begin the process of collecting competency, not criminally responsible findings, and 8-505, and 8-507 data once the legal status screen is operational in fiscal year 2016.

#### ***Harford County Mental Health Diversion Program***

Harford County Mental Health Diversion Program strives to provide alternatives to incarceration for the defendants who are involved in the criminal justice system as a result of their mental illness. This is accomplished by linking persons with a mental health diagnosis to community-based treatment resources with the goals of reducing recidivism, and helping the participants to become stable, productive members of the community.

#### ***Prospective Mental Health Courts Statewide***

There has been some interest in other courts such as in Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County to begin Mental Health Courts. Montgomery County District and Circuit court have created a mental health court task force to begin the process. The task force will begin to meet and have a report by the end of December 2015. Anne Arundel County District Court will meet with OPSC in the next upcoming year to discuss a Mental Health Court in the jurisdiction.

### **Truancy Reduction Programs**

#### ***Truancy Reduction Court***

The purpose of Truancy Reduction Court is to improve school attendance and the youth’s attitude about education through a nurturing approach that ultimately will build a relationship between the family, the school, and the court, rather than using punitive or

harsh measures such as having parents prosecuted in criminal court, or stigmatizing the child and further souring their outlook on education and the criminal justice system. A social worker, counselor or case manager works with the families to determine the reasons for poor attendance and makes referrals for community-based services when appropriate.

**Truancy Reduction Program Statistical Summary  
July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Year Est.</b>	<b>Current Participants*</b>	<b>Entered Program</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>Discharged from Program</b>
<b>Baltimore City</b>	Jan-05	0	211	134	24
<b>Dorchester Co.</b>	Mar-07	18	8	18	20
<b>Harford Co.</b>	Jan-08	12	11	6	4
<b>Kent Co.</b>	Sept-14	0	17	10	7
<b>Somerset Co.</b>	Nov-05	2	5	18	8
<b>Prince George's Co.</b>	May-09	1	23	9	13
<b>Talbot Co.</b>	Jan-11	2	5	2	1
<b>Wicomico Co.</b>	Dec-04	46	37	29	59
<b>Worcester Co.</b>	Jan-07	11	24	28	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>92</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>156</b>

\*As of 6/30/15

***University of Baltimore Truancy Court Program***

The University of Baltimore Center for Families, Children, and the Court Truancy Court Program (TCP) is an innovative, early intervention and holistic approach to truant behavior that addresses the root causes of truancy. Operating in Baltimore City and Montgomery County, the program is strictly voluntary on the part of students and their families, and consists of ten weekly in-school meetings per session (with one session in the fall and another in the spring). The TCP meeting involves the student, his or her family, teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, principals, TCP staff, a law student, and a volunteer judge. TCP students also meet weekly with a mentor, who calls the home once a week to engage family members.

The purpose of the TCP meetings is to identify and address the reasons why each participating student is not attending school regularly and/or on-time. Once the causes of truant behavior are uncovered, the TCP team puts resources into place that target truant behavior and support the student's regular school attendance, graduation from high school and ultimately, service as a productive member of the community. Though technically not a Judiciary approved problem-solving court, OPSC monitors this program along with the Department of Family Administration in conjunction with the University of Baltimore Law School. Currently this program operates in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City.



## **Conclusion**

Problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, most invasive, community-based program available to address aberrant behavior associated with addictions and mental illness.

OPSC continues to provide needed technical assistance to both planning and existing programs to ensure continued positive outcomes and sustainability. Professional development and technical assistance for problem-solving court practitioners are integral parts of expanding the field. The Judiciary continues to set high expectations for the monitoring and evaluating of these programs to ensure that “best practices” occur in the field. As these programs continue to be successful in Maryland, problem-solving courts will find more ways into become integrated into the adjudication process.

For more information, please contact Gray Barton, Office of Problem-Solving Courts director at 410-260-3617 or [gray.barton@mdcourts.gov](mailto:gray.barton@mdcourts.gov).

## **Appendix A.**

### **Maryland Judicial Council and Committee Membership**

# MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL



## 2015 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

**Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera, Chair**

Chief Judge, Court of Appeals

**Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams**

Circuit Court for Prince George's County

**Honorable Nathan Braverman**

District Court, Baltimore City

**Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox**

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges

**Honorable John W. Debelius, III**

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Judges

**Honorable Thomas C. Groton, III**

Circuit Court of Worcester County

**Honorable Sharon L. Hancock**

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks

**Pamela Q. Harris**

State Court Administrator

**Honorable Susan H. Hazlett**

District Court, Harford County

**Honorable Karen A. Murphy Jensen**

Circuit Court for Caroline County

**Jennifer Keiser**

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators

**Honorable James A. Kenney, III, Chair**

Retired and Recalled Judges Committee

**Honorable Peter B. Krauser**

Chief Judge Court of Special Appeals

**Carol Llewellyn-Jones**

Administrative Clerk

**Judy Lohman**

Administrative Clerk

**Honorable Karen H. Mason**

District Court, Prince George's County

**Honorable John P. Morrissey**

Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland

**Sally Rankin**

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators

**Honorable Wayne A. Robey**

Vice Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks

**Roberta Warnken**

Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland

**Honorable Barbara Baer Waxman**

District Court, Baltimore City

**Honorable Alan M. Wilner, Chair**

Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

**Honorable Eugene Wolfe**

District Court, Montgomery County

**Faye D. Matthews, Secretary**

Deputy State Court Administrator

**THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S SPECIALTY COURTS AND DOCKETS COMMITTEE**



**2015 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Hon. Nicholas E. Rattal, Chair

Hon. Clayton Aarons

Hon. Keith Baynes

Hon. Lou Becker, (Retired)

Hon. Kathleen Beckstead

Susan Braniecki, Clerk of Court

Hon. Wayne Brooks

Hon. Audrey Carrion

Hon. Mark Chandlee

Hon. Broughton Earnest, (Retired)

Hon. Helen Harrington

Hon. Patrice Lewis

Hon. George Lipman

Hon. Michael Mason

Hon. Steven Platt, (Retired)

Hon. Thomas Pryal

Hon. Nancy Purpura

Hon. Gale Rasin, (Retired)

Hon. Ronald Rubin

Judy Rupp, Court Administrator

Hon. Ronald Silkworth

Hon. Katina Steuart

Hon. Norman Stone

Hon. Sean Wallace

Hon. Dana Moylan Wright

Gray Barton, Staff

Jennifer Moore, Staff

**THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S SPECIALTY COURTS AND DOCKETS COMMITTEE**



**PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**2015 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Hon. Thomas Pryal, Chair

Hon. Clayton Aarons

Hon. Keith Baynes

Hon. Kathleen Beckstead

Hon. Wayne Brooks

Hon. Mark Chandlee

Hon. Broughton Earnest, (Retired)

Hon. Norman Stone

Gray Barton, Staff

Jennifer Moore, Staff

**THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S SPECIALTY COURTS AND DOCKETS COMMITTEE**



**MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOLISM, AND ADDICTION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**2015 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Hon. George Lipman, Chair

Hon. Lou Becker, (Retired)

Hon. Helen Harrington

Hon. Patrice Lewis

Hon. Nancy Purpura

Hon. Gale Rasin, (Retired)

Hon. Ronald Silkworth

Hon. Dana Moylan Wright

Gray Barton, Staff

Robert Pointer, Staff

**THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S SPECIALTY COURTS AND DOCKETS COMMITTEE**



**BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CASE MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**2015 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Hon. Sean Wallace, Chair

Hon. Audrey Carrion

Hon. Michael Mason

Hon. Steven Platt, (Retired)

Hon. Ronald Rubin

Gray Barton, Staff

Jennifer Moore, Staff