

ANNUAL REPORT

Problem-Solving Courts

Fiscal Year 2010



Administrative Office of the Courts

Office of Problem-Solving Courts

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Introduction

Problem-solving courts represent a shift in the way courts are handling certain offenders and working with key stakeholders in the justice system. 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 pressure an offender into completing a treatment program and abstaining from repeating the behaviors that brought them to court.

This report gives a detailed description of Problem-Solving Court activities in Maryland for Fiscal Year 2010. It covers five basic areas; **oversight, funding, technical assistance, training and education, and monitoring/evaluation.** Activities pertaining to these five areas are briefly summarized below.

Providing direction to the Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC) is the Problem-Solving Courts Judicial Conference Committee, which is made up of Judges from both the District and Circuit Courts. The Drug Court Oversight Committee is comprised of Judicial, Executive, and Legislative branch partners and oversees the actions of drug courts in our state. The Mental Health Oversight Committee performs a similar function for the Mental Health Courts.

**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 between courts, government, and community organizations.

As part of the annual appropriation to the Judiciary, OPSC was given oversight of these funds and subsequently disseminated \$4.3 million via grants to local drug and mental health court programs this fiscal year. These funds granted only to operational drug and mental health court programs, were used for program staff, drug testing, travel and training, and ancillary services to benefit the participants of those programs.

Technical assistance has been provided to drug and mental health court programs by OPSC for many years already. In Fiscal Year 2010, OPSC established a Technical Assistance procedure to open up feedback from local problem-solving court professionals. In addition, OPSC conducts site visits and regularly refers programs to visit and/or contact well established programs for assistance. The OPSC staff is always ready to assist and has access to many helpful state and national resources.

There were at approximately 6 state and national training opportunities for drug and mental health professionals to attend. Over 250 professionals attended the 7th Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium, which even though the date had to be pushed back three months due to record snow in our State, was still able to provide the highest quality training available.

Research shows that problem-solving courts have proven to be more effective than traditional court strategies at reducing repeat offenses. This is especially true for certain offenders, such as those having a high potential for recidivism. Problem-solving courts result in more defendants turning their lives around and becoming healthy, law-abiding citizens. Research also shows that when these strategies are implemented correctly, they improve public safety and save taxpayer dollars.

The OPSC collects annual data from all drug court, mental health court, and truancy court programs through the use of the Statewide Management Automated Record Tracking system (SMART) and by self-reported data from each program. This report details the data collected from these programs in Fiscal Year 2010.

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. Since that first program, there has been 39 other drug courts started and still are operational in Maryland. In addition to drug courts, there are now 3 mental health courts and 7 truancy reduction courts implemented across the State. These Judicially led programs have grown as the public and the government continues to look towards the courts to help address the problem of crime through non-traditional supervision methods.

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 was recognized as the lead agency in the Judiciary's effort to operate and maintain drug treatment court programs in the State. Commission members included: Circuit and District Court Judges, legislators, and 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 of 2006, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order to establish a Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts to institutionalize the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to all problem-solving courts.

Problem-Solving Court Rule 16-206

On March 9, 2010, the Court of Appeals adopted new Rule 16-206, which provides a general procedure for the development and approval of plans for problem-solving courts programs in the Circuit and District Courts in the State after July 1, 2010. Special attention should be paid to several new requirements for all problem-solving courts operational on or after July 1, 2010:

(d) Written Agreements Required (contracts); Contents

(1) As a condition of acceptance into a program and after the advice of counsel, if any, a prospective participant shall execute a written agreement that sets forth:

- (A) the requirement of the program,**
- (B) the protocols of the program, including protocols concerning the authority of the judge to initiate, permit, and consider ex parte communications pursuant to Rule 2.9 of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct;**
- (C) the range of sanctions that may be imposed while the participant is in the program; and**
- (D) any rights waived by the participant, including any rights under Rule 4-215 or Code, Courts Article, §3-8A-20, if applicable.**

(2) Examination on the Record

The court may not accept the prospective participant into the program until, after an examination of the prospective participant on the record, the court determines and announces on the record that the prospective participant knowingly and voluntarily enters into the agreement and understands it.

(e) Immediate Sanctions; Loss of Liberty or Termination from Program

In accordance with the protocols of the program, the court may, for good cause, impose an immediate sanction on a participant, except that if the participant is considered for the imposition of a sanction involving the loss of liberty or termination from the program, the participant shall be afforded notice, an opportunity to be heard, and the right to be represented by counsel before the court makes its decision. If a hearing is required by this section and the participant is unrepresented by counsel, the court shall comply with Rule 4-215 in a criminal action or Code, Court Article, §3-8A-20 in a delinquency action before holding the hearing.

Oversight

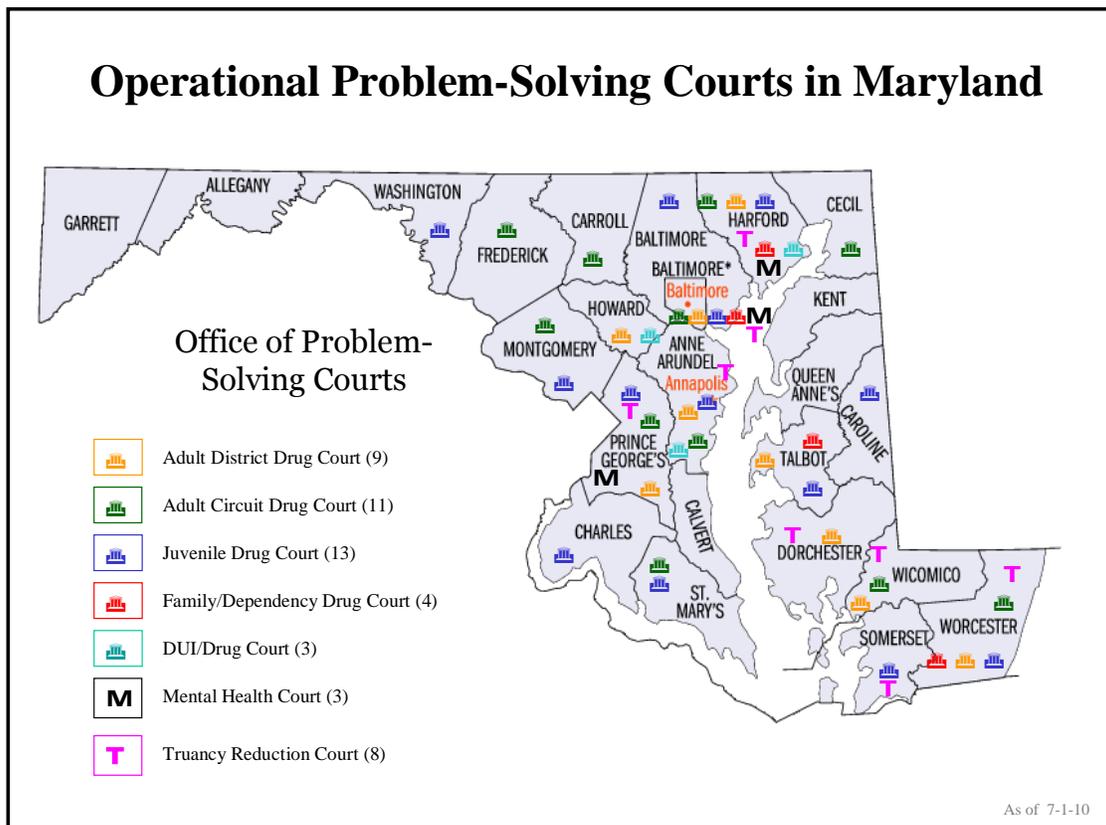
Office of Problem Solving Courts

The Office of Problem Solving Courts (OPSC) is a department in the Administrative Office of the Courts and is responsible for assisting the problem-solving courts in developing and maintaining a judicially led collaborative therapeutic system. OPSC has overseen the creation of problem-solving programs in 19 of the 24 political subdivisions in Maryland and works with public and private stakeholders to develop and establish best practices in problem-solving courts.

The OPSC has become the infrastructure for the development and advancement of problem-solving courts throughout Maryland. The OPSC coordinates financial responsibility for problem-solving courts, while it has also been assigned the

responsibility of setting and enforcing programmatic guidelines, creating statewide management information systems, and targeting new and expanding populations for problem-solving courts. Centralized oversight is necessary for problem-solving courts to continue to thrive and it is necessary that the OPSC continue to be the focal point for the advancement of problem-solving courts in Maryland.

In Fiscal Year 2010 the OPSC, through strategic planning sessions, organized training priorities for 2011 which consist of expanding our roles trainings to include partnerships with the Office of the Public Defender, Program Coordinators, Judges and Masters. OPSC will also include the Judiciary’s Professional Development Department as a resource for curriculum and educational continuity with their existing employee programs.



Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts

The mission of the Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts (Committee) is to promote, oversee, and sustain a comprehensive and collaborative approach for court-involved persons through the development, implementation, and operation of Problem-Solving Courts. The Committee advocates for the access and delivery of effective and appropriate treatment and other community based services to achieve positive measurable results. The Committee ensures that Problem-Solving Courts employ best practices by providing evidenced-based training, technical assistance, research, funding, and technical support.

The Committee developed an oversight plan to ensure the continued and optimum operation of problem-solving courts by focusing on: alignment of goals and objectives with levels of need, consistent implementation of best practices, identifying emerging problems, and consistency among program's procedures and operations.

Components of Problem-Solving Courts

1. Team approach with court as leader.
2. Integrated services with court system processing.
3. Early identification, prompt screening, assessment, and placement of services.
4. Provide access to a continuum of services.
5. Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant.
6. Coordinated strategy including use of incentives and sanctions to promote participant compliance.
7. Achieve desired goals using a non-adversarial process while protecting the due process rights of participants.
8. Frequent monitoring and reporting of participant behavior.
9. Partnership with public agencies and community-based organizations to facilitate delivery of services, program effectiveness, and generate local support.
10. Use of management information systems to evaluate achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
11. Continuing interdisciplinary education of judges, partners, staff, and community.
12. Commitment to cultural competency and diversity issues.

In the past year, we have seen problem solving courts continue to play a vital role in providing an effective means of addressing addiction and mental issues in the cases adjudicated in our courts. This year, the members of the Committee worked very closely with the Judiciary's Rules Committee on Rule 16-206 which set forth certain minimum standards for problem solving court programs.

The Committee established how best to move forward in promoting the goals of problem-solving courts in Maryland. A new committee structure has been established to avoid duplication of effort and to better address current problem-solving court issues and challenges. Specifically, there will now be four standing subcommittees or work groups under the supervision of the Committee:

- Drug Court Oversight Committee
- Mental Health Court Oversight Committee
- Juvenile Drug Court Oversight Committee/Work Group
- Training Subcommittee

Generally, the Committee will continue to work toward the expansion of problem-solving courts ideals in Maryland by:

- Developing problem-solving court programs in every county where appropriate;
- Exporting problem-solving techniques to traditional court proceedings;

- Developing a strategic plan for the evaluation of problem-solving courts;
- Developing a plan for the collection of data on recidivism; and
- Improving therapeutic assessments for those entering/referred to problem-solving courts

Drug Court Oversight Committee

The mission of the Drug Court Oversight Committee (DCOC) is to sustain and promote a comprehensive, collaborative, integrated and coordinated systems approach for court-involved persons with addictions through the development, implementation and operation of Drug Courts across the State of Maryland. This includes developing, supporting, evaluating and facilitating the access and delivery of comprehensive, effective and appropriate treatment and other community-based services, as well as advocating and educating many constituents (the public).

In Fiscal Year 2010, DCOC primarily participated in the process to solidify the Problem-Solving Court Rules. Moving forward, the committee intends to focus on the recently established goals to:

- Review program evaluations periodically and provide recommendations;
- Address issues of sustainability, program capacity, funding, and organization success;
- Develop roles and responsibilities to enhance coordination and efficiency of the drug court teams;
- Develop administrative protocols for the assignment of judges and masters to drug treatment courts, including training and succession;
- Serve as a resource for drug treatment courts statewide; and
- Review and adopt “best practices”.

Mental Health Court Oversight Committee

The mission of the Mental Health Court Oversight Committee is to identify and recommend evidence based and consensus-based practices that will improve the response of the public mental health system and the criminal justice system to people with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, or co-occurring substance abuse disorders for those involved in the criminal justice system.

The Mental health Oversight Committee, upon reviewing Rule 16-206, established a standard mental health court agreement in which participants must sign with advice from council in order to participate in a mental health court.

Funding

Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants

In Fiscal Year 2010, the Office of Problem-Solving Courts solicited grant applications to support and maintain the capacity of existing drug and mental health courts across Maryland. The Problem-Solving Court Discretionary Grant's core purpose areas are to support staff and services targeted for the problem-solving court participants. These areas include but are not limited to staffing needs by the Judiciary and partnering agencies, ancillary services, drug testing, training and treatment through our partnership with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration.

OPSC and ADAA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY2010 by County

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	ADAA Treatment Award	OPSC Treatment Award	Total by County
Anne Arundel County Circuit Adult/	\$228,461.81		\$119,540.00	\$727,756.44
Anne Arundel County Circuit Juvenile	\$21,751.88			
Anne Arundel County District Adult	\$280,852.04			
Anne Arundel County District DUI	\$77,150.71			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult	\$264,784.78			\$948,132.87
Baltimore City Circuit Family	\$104,419.10			
Baltimore City Circuit Juvenile	\$157,339.00			
Baltimore City District Adult	\$366,906.04			
Baltimore City Mental Health	\$54,683.95			
Baltimore County Circuit Juvenile	\$104,067.18		\$187,328.00	\$291,395.18
Caroline County Circuit Juvenile	\$60,973.98	\$62,763.00		\$123,736.98
Carroll County Circuit Adult	\$157,225.42		\$134,855.00	\$292,080.42
Cecil County Circuit Adult	\$172,174.48	\$112,581.00		\$284,755.48
Charles County Circuit Juvenile	\$75,411.00	\$81,688.00		\$157,099.00
Dorchester County District Adult	\$72,541.00	\$153,201.00		\$225,742.00
Frederick County Circuit Adult	\$144,433.48	\$68,111.00		\$212,544.48
Harford County Circuit Family	\$73,170.00		\$151,241.00	\$442,089.59
Harford County Circuit Juvenile	\$79,350.99			
Harford County District Adult	\$11,172.00			
Harford County District DUI	\$101,464.10			
Harford County Mental Health	\$25,691.50			
Howard County District Adult	\$130,629.57	\$57,352.00		\$236,589.39
Howard County District DUI	\$48,607.82			
Montgomery County Circuit Adult	\$193,368.70		\$83,581.00	\$279,407.54
Montgomery County Circuit Juvenile	\$2,457.84			
Prince George's County Circuit Adult	\$81,928.00	\$152,032.00		\$510,782.50
Prince George's County Circuit Juvenile	\$60,515.00			
Prince George's County District Adult	\$120,668.61			
Prince George's County Mental Health	\$95,638.89			
Somerset County Circuit Juvenile	\$35,380.24			\$35,380.24

St. Mary's County Circuit Adult	\$36,471.93	\$104,622.00		\$252,912.62
St. Mary's County Circuit Juvenile	\$111,818.69			
Talbot County Circuit Family	\$21,318.04	\$46,437.00		\$221,017.19
Talbot County Circuit Juvenile	\$72,314.49			
Talbot County District Adult	\$80,947.66			
Washington County Circuit Juvenile	\$75,161.49	\$48,171.00		\$123,332.49
Wicomico County Circuit Adult	\$236,398.59	\$113,042.00		\$475,154.26
Wicomico County District Adult	\$125,713.67			
Worcester County Circuit Adult	\$130,053.25		\$68,255.00	\$349,837.81
Worcester County Circuit Family	\$13,674.53			
Worcester County Circuit Juvenile	\$112,718.03			
Worcester County District Adult	\$25,137.00			
Total	\$4,444,946.48			

During Fiscal Year 2010, OPSC updated the grants management and audit policies to provide greater oversight of the grant funding supported by this office. The improved internal policies and procedures outlined the process for grant reviews and audits that include site visits, fiscal and statistical reporting, and file documentation.

Over the past three years OPSC has recognized and have responded to the economic climate change and as a result of reductions in state funding have made efforts to sustain their program by accessing resources from federal, state and local partners. OPSC continues to collaborate with established state partners such as the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention which enable these programs to further stretch existing resources while supplementing others which would otherwise be lost due to budgets cuts and cost containment measures by business and community resources statewide.

Federal, State and Local Resources

During Fiscal Year 2010, the Baltimore City Adult District and Circuit Court Drug Treatment Court Programs were awarded over \$1.54 million by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to cover direct substance abuse treatment services to drug court participants. Also in Fiscal Year 2010, Anne Arundel Adult Circuit and District Drug Courts were awarded over \$178,000 and Prince George's County's Adult Drug Courts were awarded over \$156,000, also from HIDTA.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) assisted in funding 3 DUI/Drug Courts in Maryland via Maryland Highway Safety pass-through grants. Anne Arundel, Harford, and Howard County DUI/Drug Courts received over \$202,000 in Fiscal Year 2010. Still 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 programs in Maryland.

Technical Assistance

Over the course of the past fiscal year, OPSC expanded the benefits and reach of technical assistance to planning and operational problem-solving courts. The first step was creating a concise process which allows the OPSC to evaluate the questions and concerns from a problem-solving court team or specific team member. OPSC focused on providing materials, training and services to assist drug court teams with the delivery of effective and sustainable programs. In 2010, OPSC began two program-wide technical assistance projects with one adult drug court team and one juvenile drug court team.

One of the largest areas of technical assistance concentration this fiscal year was in the area of data collection. 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 the problem-solving courts. In Fiscal Year 2010, mental health courts were introduced to this data collection tool.

Through a contract with the University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Services and Research (IGSR) OPSC was able to provide assistance to problem-solving courts in the following areas:

Technical Assistance to help users understand how to enter data into SMART, how the court practices map into using SMART, how to coordinate using SMART across agency boundaries, and trouble-shooting difficulties. Most technical assistance took place via phone (approximately 100 per month) or email (over 3,500) to minimize travel time and expense. Seven Drug Court SMART Users Groups were held regionally this fiscal year where over 150 individuals attended these sessions. These User Groups cover new features in SMART, answer questions that apply to the majority of users, solicit user input, explain common misconceptions, and cover interagency concerns.

Training and Education

Periodic education and training ensures that problem-solving court's goals and procedures are understood by those directly involved by these court-led programs, but also by those indirectly involved in them as well. Education and training programs help maintain a high level of professionalism, provide a forum for solidifying relationships among criminal justice and treatment personnel, and promote a spirit of commitment and collaboration. Below is a summary of educational opportunities provided to Maryland's Problem-Solving Court practitioners in Fiscal Year 2010:

Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium

The 7th Annual OPSC Symposium was held at the Judicial Education and Conference Center in Annapolis on May 3-4, 2010. The symposium hosted over 250 drug court team members over the course of a two-day training session. For the first time, this year's symposium included sessions for adult, DUI, juvenile, family drug courts, mental health

courts, and truancy courts utilizing both state and national experts who presented subject matters such as Clinical Assessments, Learning Theory, Re-entry, Drug Testing, Difficult Case Solutions, Co-occurring disorders, Truancy interventions, Marijuana and Juveniles, and Treating Juvenile's with Appropriate Levels of Services.

Roles Training

OPSC completed the first roles training for Case Managers. The roles training was conducted over a period of six months with classes held approximately every two weeks.

Offering over 60 hours of training, this curriculum provided training for case managers for courts, health departments, and the Department of Juvenile Services, as well as probation agents for the Division of Parole and Probation. These included full-day courses on subjects such as: Motivational Interviewing, Introduction to Treatment, Introduction to Clinical Assessment Tools and American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria, Case Notes Development, Ethics and Confidentiality, Case Plan Development, and Client Supervision and Response Techniques. The OPSC collaborated with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission to authorize education credits for the entire curriculum. Clinical staff was authorized to use the coursework for educational credits toward their own certification.

In 2010 the OPSC, through strategic planning sessions, organized training priorities for 2011 which consist of expanding our roles trainings to include partnerships with the Office of the Public Defender, Program Coordinators, Judges, and Masters. OPSC will also include the Judiciary's Professional Development Department as a resource for curriculum and educational continuity with their existing employee programs.

Drug Court 101/102

OPSC provided an introduction to drug court entitled *Drug Court 101*. The course is a three-hour non-credit course that is provided to introduce new and existing staff to the problem-solving court model, the key components of drug court, and the Office of Problem-Solving Courts. The courses are provided at the Judiciary Education and Conference Center and to date this course has been provided to over 170 drug court colleagues.

Drug Court 102 is a three hour non-credit course, which is provided to drug court practitioners to illustrate the specifics of drug court roles and responsibilities. This course provides a description of the scope of each primary role of the drug court team. The course is intended for new staff and to date, the OPSC has provided this course to approximately 135 participants since its inception.

C. Wayne Kemske Lecture Series

In June, the OPSC co-sponsored the 3rd annual C. Wayne Kemske Lecture Series with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration. The Lecture Series is dedicated to the memory of C. Wayne Kemske, and is presented with a mission to disseminate and promote innovative research-based practice(s) in the treatment of substance use disorders within criminal justice populations. Frank J. Vocci, Ph.D., of the Friend Research

Institute, gave a lecture to over 80 criminal justice and substance abuse practitioners on *Curbing Opiate Addiction in the Last 100 Years, A Shifting Criminal Justice-Public Health Dynamic*.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A statewide management information system allowing for the collection and standardization of data directly related to drug court outcomes has been developed in collaboration with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration. 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 the problem-solving courts.

Through a contract with the University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Services and Research (IGSR), OPSC was able to provide support to drug and mental health court programs across Maryland in maintaining their data management.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance involved helping users understand how to enter data into SMART, how to coordinate using SMART across agency boundaries, trouble-shooting difficulties, etc. Most technical assistance took place via phone or e-mail to minimize travel time and expense.

Formal Implementation Meetings

Eleven sessions were held to develop specifications and requirements for bringing new drug courts, family recovery courts, and mental health courts onto SMART.

Formal Training Sessions

Twelve formal training sessions were held in order to bring courts on board who previously were not using SMART or using it only minimally; six sessions exclusively with treatment providers were held to instruct them on entering data for drug court clients.

Drug Court SMART User Groups

User Groups are intended to inform drug court users of any changes to the system since the previous meeting and to provide a forum for questions to be answered and requests for enhancements to be received. In Fiscal Year 2010 over 160 drug court practitioners attended seven regional Drug Court SMART User Groups.

Increased SMART Usage

Drug Court Client Profiles in SMART went from 3792 on July 1, 2009 to 6,040 on June 30, 2010 or an increase of 59%.

SMART Data Extraction Initiative

OPSC collaborated with IGSR research staff, and drug court staff state-wide to develop 5 reports summarizing active clients, admissions and discharges which were used by all drug courts in Maryland to report data by the end of Fiscal Year 2010. Twelve additional reports in SQL Server Reporting Service (SSRS) have been designed and are intended to be instituted in FY 2011.

Informal Data Review

OPSC conducted periodic reviews of all courts to look for problems with data, such as pending referrals, incorrect consents, missing data, etc. All of the activities listed above contributed to precipitate greater use of SMART and more accurate and consistent entry of information into SMART.

Drug Courts

Drug courts are a judicially led, coordinated system that demands accountability of all 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 agencies, mental health, social service, and treatment communities to actively intervene and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions such as incarceration or general probation, drug courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and places them under strict court monitoring and community supervision, coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment services.

Drug Court Statistical Report Summary July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Current Number of Participants *	# Entered Program	# Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total # Served in FY 2010
Anne Arundel	Circuit Court	Adult	Dec-05	97	58	23	1	23	145
Anne Arundel	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Mar-02	20	13	13	1	5	41
Anne Arundel	District Court	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	179	154	61	5	76	318
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Adult	Oct-94	647	133	73	19	37	756
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Family	Aug-05	124	155	60	14	64	262
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Sep-98	39	10	0	0	1	43
Baltimore City	District Court	Adult	Mar-94	421	223	126	37	72	640

Baltimore County	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Mar-03	47	44	27	16	11	98
Caroline	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Jul-04	7	6	6	3	5	18
Carroll	Circuit Court	Adult	Apr-07	51	38	15	0	10	75
Cecil	Circuit Court	Adult	Jun-06	57	22	4	3	15	82
Charles	Circuit Court	Juvenile	May-06	27	15	3	1	1	24
Dorchester	District Court	Adult	Jul-04	12	11	3	0	9	24
Frederick	Circuit Court	Adult	May-05	30	21	14	1	16	61
Harford	Circuit Court	Family	May-04	13	8	14	8	0	21
Harford	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-01	12	20	2	4	14	32
Harford	District Court	Adult	Nov-97	17	15	12	4	3	34
Harford	District Court	DUI	Jan-05	18	14	17	2	0	33
Howard	District Court	Adult	Jul-04	15	14	7	1	3	26
Howard	District Court	DUI	Jul-04	24	20	8	3	4	39
Montgomery	Circuit Court	Adult	Nov-05	77	36	12	0	1	90
Montgomery	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Nov-05	18	13	5	0	7	36
Prince George's	Circuit Court	Adult	Aug-02	89	53	24	3	30	136
Prince George's	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Aug-02	33	32	12	8	2	55
Prince George's	District Court	Adult	Apr-06	29	12	15	0	11	52
Somerset	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Apr-06	6	7	6	0	1	13
St. Mary's	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Feb-04	20	23	12	0	9	41
St. Mary's	Circuit Court	Adult	July-09	13	8	0	0	4	17
Talbot	District Court	Adult	Jan-08	6	8	7	0	3	15
Talbot	Circuit Court	Family	Aug-07	3	3	0	0	1	4
Talbot	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-04	9	11	8	0	3	20
Washington	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Jun-07	3	3	3	0	3	10
Wicomico	Circuit Court	Adult	Sep-05	34	24	5	1	11	51
Wicomico	District Court	Adult	Apr-08	23	24	2	2	5	32
Worcester	Circuit Court District Court	Adult	Dec-05 Dec-05	35	34	7	2	11	55
Worcester	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-05	7	9	5	8	5	25
Worcester	Circuit Court	Family	June-07	9	10	3	0	6	18
Total				2271	1304	614	147	482	3342

*Number of Participants as of June 30, 2010

Evaluations

In 2001, NPC Research (NPC), under contract with the Administrative Office of the Court, began conducting studies of drug courts in Maryland. In Fiscal Year 2010, the contract that began in 2007, ended. Over the course of the past 3 years, NPC conducted 5 foundational process assessment (or pre-process evaluations), 13 process evaluations (assessing the program's implementation of the 10 key components of drug courts through their policies and practices), and 10 outcome-cost studies (comparing program participant costs to the community and outcomes in terms of recidivism and effects on substance use to traditional court processing for similar group of individuals). In

addition, 3 outcome-cost studies were conducted on juvenile drug court programs as part of the prior contracts.

Finally, NPC presented a final report representing an integration of key results from the above referenced process, outcome, and cost studies. The full report, *Maryland Problem-Solving Courts Evaluation, Phase III: Integration of Results from Process, Outcome, and Cost Studies Conducted, 2007-2009, Final Report*. The report included:

- Common and/or best practices for implementing the 10 Key Components and 16 Juvenile Strategies;
- Common Challenges and recommendations;
- The average and range of recidivism outcomes for adult, DUI, and juvenile drug courts in Maryland;
- The average and range of program costs per transaction, per agency and overall; and
- The average and range of outcome costs and benefits per transaction and overall, and the savings per agency.

This body of work gives Maryland's Office of Problem-Solving Courts one of the largest sets of drug court evaluations in the United States.

Outcome Evaluation Results

Adult drug court programs on average had a 51% graduation rate (the percentage of individuals who completed the program successfully of those who have left the program), a 73% reduction in the rate of individuals with positive urinalysis tests during the program participation, a 19% reduction in the recidivism rate (percent of individuals who had a new criminal offense) over 2 years from program entry (compared to the comparison groups), and a 29% reduction in the number of new arrests (over 2 years from program entry). DUI Programs were more effective at reducing criminal recidivism overall than in reducing DUI charges per se, though the frequencies of new charges was low to begin with.

Juvenile drug court program produced a 23% reduction in arrest rates and a 22% reduction in the number of new arrests over 18 months (from program entry). The average graduation rate for the juvenile programs was 53%. Their reduction in positive urinalysis tests was 69%.



Howard County DUI/Drug Court Team with Orioles Great, Scott McGregor

Cost Evaluation Results

Program costs (investment in program services) per participant ranged from \$9,530 to \$34,646.

The results from seven Adult Drug Court Programs' cost evaluation show an average 24-month outcome cost savings of \$1,982 per adult drug court participant when compared to the comparison group. The results from two DUI Court Programs' cost evaluation show an average 24-month outcome cost savings of \$1,505 per DUI Court participant when compared to the comparison group. The results from four Juvenile Drug Court Programs' cost evaluations show an average 18-month outcome cost savings of \$2,551 per juvenile drug court participant when compared to the comparison group.

The largest single resource used by these programs is jail/detention, while the largest expenditure for the comparison group is prison.

Recommendations and Conclusions

Several areas emerged as themes in multiple sites or statewide that impact the operation of the problem-solving courts. The results of that analysis include:

- Involve Local Law Enforcement
- Develop Collaboration Between Courts and the Department of Juvenile Services (Juvenile Drug Courts Only)
- Minimize Time from Arrest to Entry Into Program
- Establish a System for Effective Participant Requirement
- Ensure Staff Have Reasonable Caseloads
- Implement Strength-Based Approaches
- Differentiate Treatment Responses From Sanction
- Increase Incentives for Participants
- Ensure Adequate Program or Community Supports are in Place for Participants After Program Participation
- Ensure Programs Have Effective Drug Testing Protocols
- Continue Program Monitoring and Evaluation
- Ensure Staff are Thoroughly Trained

Though there is variability in recidivism, cost, and graduation outcomes, most programs are demonstrating positive impacts on participants, the community, and the criminal justice system. Prison was seen as the largest expenditure to the community for those who were eligible but not participating in Maryland's Adult, Juvenile, and DUI Courts; indicating that these programs are providing an important service to the state.

Evaluations Completed on Drug Courts in FY 2010

County / Court	Evaluation Type	Completed
Baltimore City Circuit Court Adult Drug Treatment Court and	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	December 2009

Felony Diversion Initiative		
Howard County District Court DUI Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	December 2009
Anne Arundel County District Court DUI Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	December 2009
Wicomico County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	December 2009
Maryland Problem-Solving Courts Evaluation, Phase III	Integration of Results from Process, Outcome, and Cost Studies Conducted 2007- 2009	December 2009
Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Juvenile Drug Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	January 2010
Baltimore County Circuit Court Juvenile Drug Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	January 2010
St. Mary's County Circuit Court Juvenile Drug Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	January 2010
Howard County District Court Adult Drug Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	January 2010
Montgomery County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Program	Outcome and Cost Evaluation	January 2010

Mental Health Courts

A Mental Health Court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with mental illness that substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court processing. Participants are identified through mental health screening and

Mental Health Court Statistical Report Summary July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

County	Location	Type of Program	Program Capacity	Year Est.	Current number of Participants *	# Entered Program	# Graduated	Discharged from Program	Total # Served in FY 2009
Baltimore City	District Court	Mental Health	250	Oct-02					
Harford	District Court	Adult	20	Jan-03	7	9	0	4	16
Prince George's	District Court	Adult	450	Jul-07	265	312	0	18	550
Total									

* As of June 30, 2010

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 participant's

contacts with the criminal justice system by providing participants with judicial leadership to improve the social functioning of the program participant through linkages with 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 of offenders and public safety concerns of communities for 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 overall lower the recidivism of this population.

The Mental Health Court still functions as a court under the authority of the judge. However, there are notable differences in the manner in which the court oversees cases. The central difference between these “problem-solving courts” and “business as usual” court settings is largely seen in the specialized and intense nature of the court’s oversight of cases and its collaboration with other public agencies to adjudicate and monitor those cases.



Baltimore City Mental Health Court Acknowledgement Party

Evaluations of Mental Health Courts

The University of Maryland’s Institute for Governmental Services and Research (IGSR) and Morgan State University completed separate process evaluations for the Baltimore City and Harford County Mental Health Court programs in Fiscal Year 2010. These evaluations, funded by the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) and the Maryland Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts, were designed to meet the following purposes: (1) identify and describe the policies and procedures of those programs, (2) describe the interagency and collaborative linkages which support the programs, (3) identify the methods and types of data that are to be collected by the supporting agencies, and (4) assess the extent to which the mental health court programs provides the intended interventions to its target population.

Truancy Courts

Truancy Courts were initiated through legislation in 2004. The initial Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (TRPP) only involved the First Judicial Circuit (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties). Participating students are ordered to attend school, complete mandatory projects, and to report to court on time for regular review

hearings. The students are held accountable for their actions and may be provided incentives for success, or sanctioned for non-compliance.

During 2007, the General Assembly extended the pilot to 2009 and authorized the establishment of a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in Prince George's and Harford Counties.

Basic Rules for Truancy Court Participation

- ❑ Attend School regularly, without any unexcused absences
- ❑ No out of school suspensions
- ❑ Abide by any/all directions given by principals, counselors, and/or teachers of the respective county board of education
- ❑ Permit representatives from the court and/or school system the ability to visit your home
- ❑ Conform to all rules of conduct, including those of the school and social activities

During 2009, the General Assembly repealed the termination date relating to a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program.

The collaborative effort between the Circuit Courts and the local Boards of Education was designed to address the causes of truancy and improve the student's attendance, achievement, and attachment to school. Currently the First Judicial Circuit, Harford, and Prince George's Counties have established a truancy court docket. Judges and Masters in each jurisdiction have the ability to tailor each order to the individual students needs. In each respective jurisdiction, community partnerships have been developed to ensure timely service delivery to students and their families.

Truancy Reduction Statistical Report Summary July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Current number of Participants *	# Entered Program	# Graduated	Discharged from Program	Total # Served in FY 2009
Dorchester	Circuit	Truancy	Mar-07	3	7	7	3	12
Harford	Circuit	Truancy	Jan-08	7	4	3	3	13
Somerset	Circuit	Truancy	Nov-05	14	18	4	4	12
Prince George's	Circuit	Truancy	May-09	33	39	8	6	57
Wicomico	Circuit	Truancy	Dec-04	36	45	10	10	68
Worcester	Circuit	Truancy	Jan-07	11	11	10	5	24
Total				104	124	42	31	186

*As of June 30, 2010

University of Baltimore Truancy Court Program

The University of Baltimore Truancy Program (TCP) also operated truancy reduction programs in schools within Baltimore City and Anne Arundel in Fiscal Year 2010. Though not technically a problem-solving court as defined by guidelines established by the Judiciary's Problem-Solving Court Committee, it is being evaluated by the Judiciary and thus is being monitored by the OPSC and the Family Administration Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The program is voluntary, and consists of 10 weekly in-school meetings to include the student, the child's guardian, a judge/master who volunteers their time and effort, a student fellow and a supervisor. Interventions include parenting classes, tutoring, mentoring, training in basic skills, counseling and anger management.

Conclusion

This is an exciting time for Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland. With budgetary restraints, many problem-solving courts are working even closer with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure that participants receive the treatment and ancillary resources they need to be successful. 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 is an integral part of expanding the field. The Judiciary continues to set high expectations on monitoring and evaluating these programs to ensure that "best practices" in the field. As these programs continue to be successful in our State and across the Nation, problem-solving courts will find more ways into become integrated into mainstream of court processing.