

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Problem-Solving Courts**

**Fiscal Year 2011**



**Administrative Office of the Courts**

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## **Introduction**

Problem-solving courts represent a shift in the way courts are handling 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 of court-involved individuals to enter and complete treatment programming and to abstain from repeating the behaviors that brought them to court.

Research shows that problem-solving courts have proven to be more effective than traditional court strategies at reducing repeat offenses, especially for the intense populations served by these courts. Problem-solving courts result in more defendants making responsible decisions and becoming healthy, law-abiding citizens. Research also shows that when these strategies are implemented correctly, they improve public safety and save taxpayer dollars.

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 Court 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 disseminated \$4.1 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, treatment, 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. OPSC conducts site visits and regularly refers problem-solving courts to visit and/or contact well established programs for assistance. OPSC staff is always ready to assist and has access to many helpful state and national resources.

There were several state and national training opportunities for problem-solving court professionals to attend this year. Over 325 professionals attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium, which provided some of the highest quality training available.

OPSC annually collects data from all drug court programs through the use of the Statewide Management Automated Record Tracking system (SMART) and from mental health and truancy courts by self-reported data from each program.

This report details the data collected from these programs in Fiscal Year 2011.



Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Graduation  
Front: Adult Drug Court Graduates, Back: Judge William Mulford II, Gray Barton, Judge Clayton Green, ONDCP Director, Gil Kerlikowski, Judge Nancy Davis-Loomis, and Chief Judge Robert Bell.

## **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 42 other drug courts started and still are operational in Maryland. In addition to drug courts, there are 3 mental health courts and 8 truancy reduction 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 and addiction 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 led the Judiciary's effort to operate and maintain drug treatment 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.

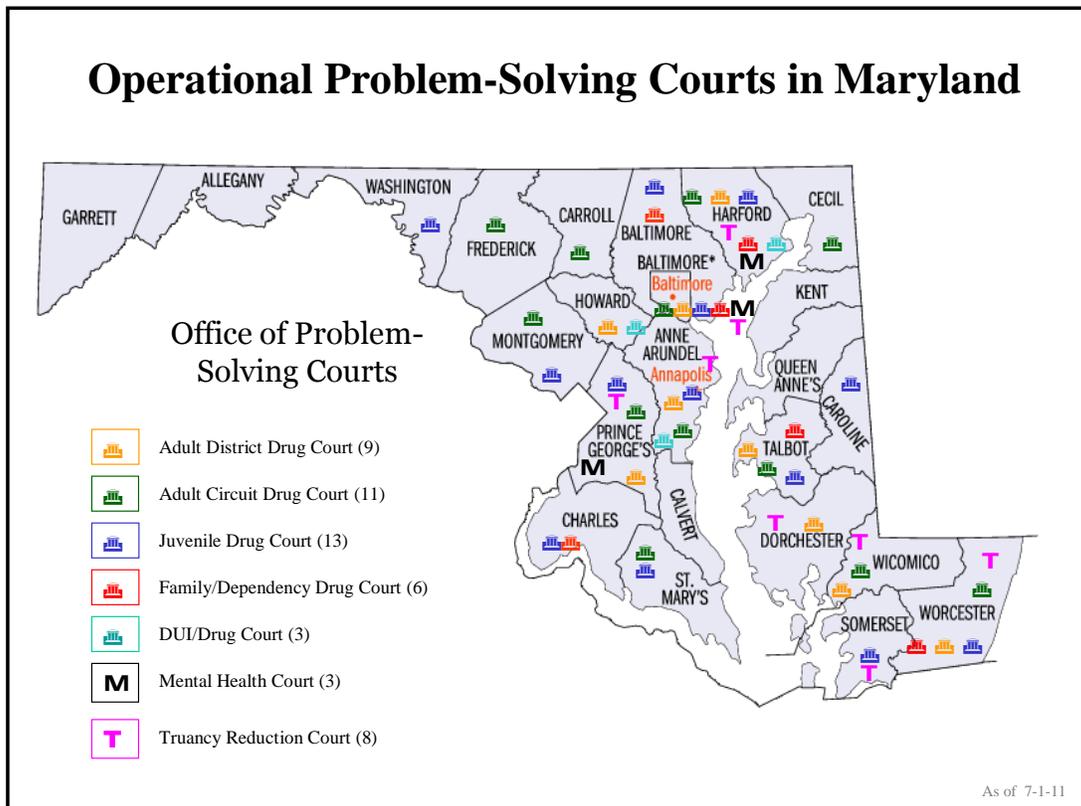
In December of 2006, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order to establish a Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts to institutionalize the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to all problem-solving courts.

## 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 collaborative therapeutic system. OPSC has overseen the creation of problem-solving programs in 19 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 is responsible for the development and advancement of problem-solving courts throughout Maryland. The OPSC superintends financial support for problem-solving courts, as well as the responsibility 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 OPSC continues to serve as the court's liaison to sustain and advance problem-solving courts in Maryland.



### *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

Judges and Masters met with drug court participants over **21,500** times in court hearings in FY 2011.

delivery of effective and appropriate treatment and other community based services to achieve positive measurable results. The Committee promotes 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.

#### Outreach / Collaboration

The Committee continued to coordinate with partner agencies to improve the functioning of the State's problem-solving courts. Meetings were held with Executive Branch officials including Public Defender Paul DeWolfe and Parole Commissioner David Blumberg regarding the development of re-entry courts. Quality assessments and treatment collaboration remain important issues and discussions with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration. Committee members also collaborated with the Veterans

Administration to provide a judicial institute training course and a bench card to better facilitate sentencing and outreach.

#### Problem-Solving Court Oversight—Rules/Administrative Order

Members of the Committee worked closely with the Judiciary's Rules Committee to establish Rule 16-206 the previous year which lists requirements and procedures for approval of plans for problem-solving courts programs in the State. In Fiscal Year 2011, the Committee developed processes to better protect due process protections for program participants and drafted written contracts which provided for notifications regarding waiver of rights, the use of sanctions, and ex parte communication.

#### Exportation

The Committee will continue to promote the expansion of problem-solving courts and/or components 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 2011, 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.

## **Funding**

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

In Fiscal Year 2011, 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. In Fiscal Year 2011, funds were allocated to local court programs to address staffing needs by the Judiciary and partnering agencies, provide needed ancillary services, critical drug/alcohol testing, conduct training and enhance treatment through OPSC's partnership with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration.

**Drug/Alcohol Tests**  
Over **121,000** drug/alcohol tests were given to drug court participants in FY 2011

Continuing in Fiscal Year 2011, 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 several 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 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 maximize access existing resources while supplementing others which would otherwise be lost due to budgets cuts and cost containment measures by business and community resources statewide.

**OPSC and ADAA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for  
FY2011 by County**

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	ADAA Treatment Award	OPSC Treatment Award	Total by County
Anne Arundel County Circuit Adult	213,491.00			
Anne Arundel County Circuit Juvenile	20,334.00		96,300.00	673,661.00
Anne Arundel County District Adult / DUI	343,536.00			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult / Family / Juvenile	429,201.00			
Baltimore City District Adult	362,130.00	38,008.00	23,240.00	907,182.00
Baltimore City Mental Health	54,603.00			
Baltimore County Circuit Juvenile	97,252.00		187,328.00	284,580.00
Caroline County Circuit Juvenile	56,978.00	62,763.00		119,741.00
Carroll County Circuit Adult	146,925.00		134,855.00	281,780.00
Cecil County Circuit Adult	164,204.00	112,581.00		276,785.00
Charles County Circuit Juvenile	70,435.00	81,688.00		152,123.00
Dorchester County District Adult	71,568.00	153,201.00		224,769.00
Frederick County Circuit Adult	134,913.00	68,111.00		203,024.00
Harford County Circuit Family / Juvenile	134,949.00			
Harford County District Adult / DUI	105,215.00		151,241.00	417,010.00
Harford County Mental Health	25,605.00			
Howard County District Adult	119,827.80	57,352.00		236,034.80
Howard County District DUI	58,855.00			
Montgomery County Circuit Adult / Juvenile	182,853.00		83,581.00	266,434.00
Prince George's County Circuit Adult	76,563.00			
Prince George's County Circuit Juvenile	56,556.00	114,024.00		451,682.00
Prince George's County District Adult	113,238.00			
Prince George's County Mental Health	91,301.00			
Somerset County Circuit Juvenile	35,380.00			35,380.00
St. Mary's County Circuit Adult / Juvenile	138,577.00	104,622.00		243,199.00
Talbot Problem Solving Court	143,224.00	46,437.00		201,574.00
Talbot County District Adult	11,913.00			
Washington County Circuit Juvenile	69,672.00	48,171.00		117,843.00
Wicomico County Circuit Adult	220,909.00	113,042.00		453,496.00
Wicomico County District Adult	119,545.00			
Worcester County Circuit Adult / Family / Juvenile	239,680.00		68,255.00	331,432.00
Worcester County District Adult	23,497.00			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,132,929.80</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>	<b>744,800.00</b>	<b>5,877,729.80</b>

***Federal, State and Local Resources***

During Fiscal Year 2011, the Baltimore City, Adult District and Circuit Court Drug Treatment Court Programs were awarded \$523,341 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 2011, Anne Arundel County Adult Circuit and District Drug Courts were awarded \$178,450 and Prince George’s County’s Adult Drug Court was also awarded \$156,146 from HIDTA.

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funds treatment/criminal justice programs that provide integrated drug treatment services and criminal justice supervision for hard-core 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 and placement in the appropriate level of services, such as residential, intensive out-patient, out-patient, or aftercare services.

Jurisdiction	HIDTA Treatment Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$178,450
Baltimore City	\$523,341
Prince George’s County	\$156,146
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$857,937</b>

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 \$208,348 in Fiscal Year 2011.

Jurisdiction	Maryland Highway Safety Office
Anne Arundel County	\$77,270
Harford County	\$61,578
Howard County	\$69,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$208,348</b>

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 throughout Maryland.

### **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. OPSC collaborated with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training

Commission and Board of Social Workers to authorize education credits for many of the courses provided. Below is a summary of educational opportunities provided to Maryland's Problem-Solving Court practitioners in Fiscal Year 2011:

***Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium***

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Problem-Solving Courts Symposium was held at the Judicial Education and Conference Center in Annapolis on April 19-20, 2011. The two-day symposium hosted over 325 criminal justice professionals including judges, masters, clerks, defense counsel, state's attorneys, counselors, correctional staff, juvenile services case managers, probation officers, local law enforcement officers, and mental health providers.

The Symposium remains the leading training event for Maryland's problem-solving court professionals. The goal each year is to provide relevant topics with leading local and national recognized professionals. This year, Dr. Doug Marlowe was the keynote presenter and spoke on the *Verdict on Drug Courts and Problem-Solving Courts* in the opening session. He followed that up with a special *Effective Use of Sanctions and Incentives* breakout for only judges and masters. Other topics covered at the symposium were: *Demystifying Complex Cases, Gangs 101, Introduction to the Mental Health System, Understanding the Adolescent Brain, and an Introduction to Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC)*.

***Roles Training***

OPSC completed the first roles training for Case Managers in 2008. Each year since, this curriculum has been provided as individual courses with the goal to add new topics, new faculty, and enhance the use of evidence-based research in the field of problem-solving courts.

<b><u>Number of Days in Drug Court*</u></b>	
Adult Circuit	19.12 Months
Adult/DUI District	12.60 Months
Juvenile	12.42 Months
Family Recovery	7.32 Months

\*For those program participants who were discharged (Completed, unsuccessful, or neutral) from drug courts during FY 2011

OPSC offers monthly training opportunities including: *Motivational Interviewing, Introduction to Treatment, Introduction to Clinical Assessment Tools and Their Use With American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria, Case Notes Development, Ethics and Confidentiality, Case Plan Development, and Client Supervision and Response Techniques*.

***Drug Court 101/102***

OPSC continued to provide an introduction to drug court entitled *Drug Court 101*. The three-hour non-credit course is intended 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. *Drug Court 102* is a three hour non-credit course, which is intended to illustrate the specifics of drug court team roles and responsibilities. This course provides a description of the scope of each primary role of the drug court team. Both of these courses are intended for new staff and to date OPSC has presented the information to over 200 problem-solving court colleagues.

In Fiscal Year 2012 the Problem-Solving Court Training Subcommittee intends to develop a new curriculum to educate and mentor new judges and masters who oversee problem-solving courts. The curriculum will then be expanded to introduce and acclimate new team members to the problem-solving court process. The course is intended to be offered at least twice a year to all planning and operational problem-solving courts programs. This will take the place of the current Drug Court 101 and 102 training series.

## 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 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 problem-solving courts in Maryland.

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.

The screenshot shows the SMART Admission Assessment form for Anderson, Nell. The form is titled "Admission Assessment for Anderson, Nell" and includes the following information:

- User: Bridgers, Janet
- Loc: Richfield Drug Court (training agency), East Building
- Client: Anderson, Nell | F0101802888AN | Case #: 1
- Print Report | Print View
- Medlin logo
- Home Page
- Agency
- Group List
- Drug Testing Check In
- Client List
- Client Profile
- MCASP Risk Assessment
- Linked Consents
- Non-Episode Contact
- Activity List
- Court Monitoring
- Judicial Cont Care
- Intake
- Fee Determination
- Drug Testing
- Wait List
- Tx Team
- Screening
- Assessments
- Admission
- Program Enroll
- ECourt
- Admission
  - Profile
  - Legal
  - Education
  - Employment
  - New Charges
  - Case Management
  - Court & Other Jus

**Admission Assessment for Anderson, Nell**

Admission Staff: **Bridgers, Janet**

Admission Date: **7/9/2010**

**Status at Admission**

Employment Status: **Employed Part Time In Steady Job**

Number of Weeks Employed in the past year: **20**

Average Monthly Employment Income in the Past Year: **1000**

School/Vocational Training Status: **None, N/A**

Living Arrangement: **Group Home**

# of Months at Current Living Arrangement: **5**

Number of Children Living with Client in the Last 6 Months: **1**

Highest Grade Completed: **11**

Ever Required to Attend Drug Treatment by a Criminal Justice Supervision Agent: **Yes**

Does the client live with anyone who

- has an alcohol problem: **No**
- uses non-prescribed drug: **No**

Buttons: **Cancel Save Finish**

Sample SMART Admission Screen

During Fiscal Year 2011, two efforts were pursued to expand the use and capacity of SMART. First, the IGSR project team tested the export function, which enables researchers to compile datasets of individual records for analysis. This capability is important to undertaking the kind of rigorous analysis that will help explain the combination of offender characteristics and drug court practices that lead to the best outcomes. Second, the IGSR project team continued development of performance reports that aggregate data from SMART records and enable tracking of activities and outcomes. This capability is important to managing and reporting on problem-solving court operations.

A final report of the testing of the SMART export function was submitted to OPSC in September 2010. The testing confirmed that data in the exported datasets match the data contained in the individual records. The testing also revealed some technical problems, which have been or are being addressed by IGSR, as well as an absence of data in some of the SMART modules.

<b>Table 3. Client Characteristics at Admission</b>			
Profile Report for Baltimore City District Adult Drug Court			
Report Period: 7/1/2010 to 6/30/2011			
	Number	Percent of total reporting	Missing Data
<b>Total Clients Admitted</b>	149	100%	--
Education Completed - total reporting	148	--	1
Less Than High School	73	49%	--
High School Diploma/GED or Higher	75	51%	--
School/Vocational Training - total reporting	147	--	2
Attending School/Vocational Training	5	3%	--
Completed Training	29	20%	--
None, N/A	113	77%	--
Employment - total reporting	149	--	0
Employed full-time	6	4%	--
Employed part-time	4	3%	--
Employed seasonally	0	0%	--
Other out of the workforce	11	7%	--
Unemployed not seeking work	47	32%	--
Unemployed seeking work	79	53%	--
Unknown	2	1%	--
Monthly income - total reporting	143	--	6
\$0 - 999	139	97%	--
\$1000 - 1999	4	3%	--
\$2000 - 2999	0	0%	--
\$3000 - 4999	0	0%	--
\$5000 and up	0	0%	--
Prior Arrests - total reporting	140	--	9
Clients with prior arrests	135	96%	--
Clients without prior arrests	5	4%	--
<i>Created Date: 10/5/2011 10:40:06 AM Created By: baicitydata</i>			

Sample SMART Performance Report: Table 3. Client Characteristics at Admission

The IGSR project team used the SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS) feature of SMART to develop 12 new drug court performance reports during Fiscal Year 2011:

- Table 7. Summary of Court and Other Justice Events
- Table 8. Case Management Events Summary (Activities)
- Table 9. Case Management Events Summary (Referrals)
- Table 10. Case Management Events (Services)
- Table 11. Client Drug Testing Outcomes
- Table 12. Treatment Encounters
- Table 13. Client Negative Behaviors
- Table 14. Client Sanctions
- Table 15. Client Positive Behaviors

Table 16. Client Incentives

Table 17. Re-arrest and Technical Violations at Discharge

Table 18. Re-arrests and Technical Violations for Active Clients

These reports were released to the drug courts for testing, and subsequently, IGSR demonstrated the full set of performance reports 1 through 17 to representatives of OPSC and the Court Research and Development Department as well as to the George Mason University subcontractors who will be training Maryland’s drug courts on the use of the reports in Fiscal Year 2012.

## 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.



Anne Arundel County Adult Drug Court Judge William Mulford II with a Graduate and her family

### **Drug Court Statistical Report Summary July 1, 2010—June 30, 2011**

<b>County</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Program</b>	<b>Year Est.</b>	<b># Entered Program</b>	<b># Graduated</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Terminated</b>	<b>Total # Served in FY 2010</b>
Anne Arundel	Circuit Court	Adult	Dec-05	60	34	5	31	157
Anne Arundel	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Mar-02	21	12	0	8	42

Anne Arundel	District Court	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	141	78	3	45	324
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Adult	Oct-94	69	54	41	42	747
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Family	Aug-05	74	29	10	30	190
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Sep-98	4	4	3	28	53
Baltimore City	District Court	Adult	Mar-94	149	66	53	53	578
Baltimore County	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Mar-03	34	15	14	14	85
Caroline	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Jul-04	13	3	2	7	21
Carroll	Circuit Court	Adult	Apr-07	46	23	4	15	96
Cecil	Circuit Court	Adult	Jun-06	10	9	2	19	66
Charles	Circuit Court	Juvenile	May-06	12	9	3	9	39
Charles	Circuit Court	Family	Jan-11	13	0	0	2	13
Dorchester	District Court	Adult	Jul-04	15	6	1	7	26
Frederick	Circuit Court	Adult	May-05	23	11	1	6	53
Harford	Circuit Court	Family	May-04	12	6	0	1	14
Harford	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-01	44	2	0	2	53
Harford	District Court	Adult	Nov-97	27	11	0	0	27
Harford	District Court	DUI	Jan-05	24	5	0	0	24
Howard	District Court	Adult	Jul-04	11	5	1	3	26
Howard	District Court	DUI	Jul-04	20	13	2	8	44
Montgomery	Circuit Court	Adult	Nov-05	35	2	1	12	112
Montgomery	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Nov-05	5	5	1	6	21
Prince George's	Circuit Court	Adult	Aug-02	44	24	1	10	124
Prince George's	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Aug-02	44	9	0	12	69
Prince George's	District Court	Adult	Apr-06	10	6	1	1	35
Somerset	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Apr-06	5	3	2	2	12
St. Mary's	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Feb-04	16	9	0	11	36
St. Mary's	Circuit Court	Adult	July-09	21	5	1	6	34
Talbot	District Court	Adult	Jan-08	4	4	1	7	12
Talbot	Circuit Court	Problem- Solving	Aug-07	17	3	0	2	20
Talbot	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-04	6	4	0	6	13
Washington	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Jun-07	21	5	0	9	24
Wicomico	Circuit Court	Adult	Sep-05	30	10	3	11	65
Wicomico	District Court	Adult	Apr-08	27	3	0	11	50
Worcester	Circuit Court District Court	Adult	Dec-05 Dec-05	34	10	1	13	68
Worcester	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-05	6	3	1	3	13
Worcester	Circuit Court	Family	June-07	6	2	2	7	14
<b>Total</b>				<b>1153</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>3400</b>

## **Efforts to Improve Juvenile Drug Court Referrals**

Representatives of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and the Judiciary met to review and evaluate the data gathered by DJS as it pertains to continued underutilization of treatment slots available in juvenile drug courts throughout the State. In recent years, DJS has implemented several changes in the screening and risk assessment process at intake. The standardization that now exists in that initial assessment process provides a basis for consistent, early identification of potential drug court participants.

In an effort to identify youth under supervision who may benefit from drug court services, DJS directed its regional directors to complete a review of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Service Planning (MCASP) Needs Assessment domain that focuses on substance abuse treatment needs for all active probation and aftercare cases. Any youth determined to demonstrate a moderate or high need for substance abuse treatment is identified for possible referral to the local drug court. In addition, on an ongoing basis, youth under supervision are to be referred to drug court when an indicator of the need for substance abuse treatment becomes known to the case management specialist, to include positive drug testing, self-report, parent report, or reports from school or providers.

Effective June 22, 2011, DJS implemented a policy designed to highlight treatment needs and potential drug court candidates in the juvenile intake process. Intake personnel submit referrals to drug court for all youth who self-report drug use in the MCASP Intake Risk Screen and whose cases are not resolved at intake or through pre-court supervision. Similarly, youth already under supervision who present with a new drug related offense will be referred to drug court, regardless of whether they self-report drug use.

Upon notification, a certified substance abuse provider will then conduct a more intensive substance abuse treatment assessment to determine the appropriate American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) level of care. Appropriate candidates for admission to the local drug court will then be identified based upon the parameters of the local program, including such factors as the ASAM level of treatment services provided, supervision needs, and program criteria.

The judiciary and DJS are committed to increasing the number of referrals to juvenile drug courts. With the implementation of the MCASP in Fiscal Year 2012, it is anticipated that DJS will be able to better determine youth in need of substance abuse treatment and intense supervision at intake and make an increased number of referrals for youth who meet the criteria to participate in juvenile drug court.

## 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 assessments and voluntarily participate in a judicially-supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health



Baltimore City Mental Health Court Acknowledgment Event

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 him/her 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.

### **Mental Health Court Statistical Report Summary July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011**

<b>County</b>	<b>Year Established</b>	<b>Program Capacity</b>	<b>Current number of Participants *</b>	<b># Entered Program</b>	<b>Discharged from Program</b>	<b>Total # Served in FY 2009</b>
<b>Baltimore City</b>	Oct-2002	250	155	47	101	256
<b>Harford</b>	Jan-203	20	8	14	13	21
<b>Prince George's</b>	July-2007	450	290	396	292	582
<b>Total</b>		<b>720</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>859</b>

\* As of June 30, 2011

A 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.

## **Truancy Reduction Programs**



Prince George’s County Truancy Court Graduation

Truancy reduction programs 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 sanctions 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. During 2009, the General Assembly repealed the termination date relating to a truancy reduction pilot program.

### **Truancy Reduction Statistical Report Summary July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011**

<b>County</b>	<b>Year Est.</b>	<b>Current number of Participants *</b>	<b># Entered Program</b>	<b># Graduated</b>	<b>Discharged from Program</b>	<b>Total # Served in FY 2011</b>
<b>Dorchester</b>	Mar-07	12	10	3	3	13
<b>Harford</b>	Jan-08	7	15	6	9	22
<b>Somerset</b>	Nov-05	14	12	6	9	23
<b>Prince George's</b>	May-09	32	39	8	6	72
<b>Wicomico</b>	Dec-04	44	38	12	32	74
<b>Worcester</b>	Jan-07	13	12	12	9	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>228</b>

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.

### ***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 2011. 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**

During FY 2011, 4,480 people participated in problem-solving courts in Maryland. Drug court participants were tested over 121,000 times while judges and masters met with participants over 21,000 times in court hearings. 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.

In today's economic climate, problem-solving courts are working even closer with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure that program participants receive the treatment, supervision, and ancillary services needed to be successful. It is critical that our stakeholder partners continue to refine their targeting and referral to ensure that the most appropriate individuals are provided the opportunity to participate in problem-solving courts.

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 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.