

Promising Partnerships



A Newsletter from the
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor, Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Gary D. Maynard, Secretary

Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions

Patrick L. Bradley, Executive Director



Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

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Using Probation to Prevent Murder

By Sarah Myers, Research Specialist

Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

In the article *Use Probation to Prevent Murder*, Lawrence Sherman, Cambridge University and University of Pennsylvania, states that probation and parole agencies should be funded to predict and prevent homicide. Based largely upon his work in the city of Philadelphia with Dr. Richard Berk*, Dr. Sherman recommends that community corrections provide offenders with intensive support and mental health services. Additionally, he suggests probation and parole perform triage on their caseload to concentrate scarce resources on homicide prevention. Sherman's recommendation is based on three facts: 1) homicide seems to be highly concentrated among young men on probation and parole, 2) new statistical techniques call for highly reliable forecasts of which clients are at greatest risk, and 3) new homicide forecasts create opportunities to use intensive cognitive behavioral therapies.

Criminologists, according to Sherman, should help prevent murder by providing three resources to probation and parole: 1) precise forecasting of clients most at risk of these serious, rare crimes, 2) precise diagnosis of the specific mental health problems or risk factors afflicting those clients, and 3) systematic reviews of the literature on the most effective treatments for each offender's condition. These recommendations come from two years of developmental work in the Penn Violence Reduction Partnership between Philadelphia's Adult Probation and Parole Department and the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Sherman bases his recommendations upon the following three areas of evidence:

Concentration of Homicide on Probation and Parole

- 70% of all murders in Philadelphia could involve victims or offenders under community supervision
- Probationers in Philadelphia were murdered, in 2006, at 20 times the national average
- Only about 1% or 2% of Philadelphia probationers drive the overall caseload risk

Forecasting Homicide

- Key criteria identified by Dr. Berk in forecasting homicide include current age (under 21 years), age at first prosecution as an adult and if there was a conviction, and charge of illegal gun possession

Diagnosing Risk Factors

- Once forecasts have identified people likely to kill or be killed, those people can be provided with support and control tailored to their individual risks.
- Individuals identified are assessed for mental health problems and probation and parole officers are asked to meet offender needs such as literacy, job training, and receiving training in parenting

** Dr. Richard Berk will be speaking at the Nov13th 2008 CSAFE-VPI Summit.*

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Washington Village-Pigtown/Tri-District

By Thomas Denton, Site Coordinator

The Washington Village-Pigtown/Tri-District community prides itself on partnering with other communities and agencies to help community members in need. During the month of June, there were two events that bolstered the partnering concept.

On June 5th, a Job Fair was held at the Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council (WPNPC) office. This Job Fair targeted ex-offenders and other area residents interested in gainful employment. Approximately 45 people attended, along with six employers who were ready to accept applications and resumes. Speakers discussed the interviewing process and offered suggestions on how to deal with questions that affect people with criminal records. This Job Fair was a big success and forged partnerships with Strive, Office of Employment Development, Maryland New Directions and other agencies that will remain contributors and partners in the efforts of the Washington Village-Pigtown/Tri-District community.

Children's games, face painting, moon bounce, and refreshments were just a part of the street fair presented on June 14th by Safe Streets Southwest. Over 200 people received t-shirts reinforcing that the residents will not tolerate the violence within their community. James Smith, Safe Streets Southwest coordinator, stated "We stand together to help fight the problems that plague our neighborhood."

The High Point Initiative

By Joseph Mennit, Technology Manager
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

On July 21, 2008, representatives from High Point North Carolina visited Worcester County and delivered training on a unique way to battle overt drug markets. The High Point initiative targets individual geographic drug markets. The most violent offenders are targeted and prosecuted as examples. Police and community members then engage other drug dealers, with non-violent pasts and strong family ties, with an alternative to

prosecution and incarceration. Instead, they are offered help with treatment, job skill training and faith based support. However, if the offender re-offends, he/she is arrested and prosecuted.

The results were immediate and have been sustained for over four years. The neighborhoods themselves have now taken responsibility for safety in the community. The Berlin CSAFE team has decided to try this initiative. We will be following up with this story as results come in from Berlin.

Maryland Community Services Locator Website Expands Statewide

By Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park

In July 2008, CESAR began a statewide expansion of resources on the Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) website (www.mdcsll.org). The MDCSL is an interactive online directory developed to assist professionals in making referrals for clients to community services. It allows users to get organizational contact information and other details, map resources by location, and instant directions to programs. Since its launch, this website has expanded to include more than 2,200 services and programs that are periodically verified for accuracy by MDCSL staff. In addition to the resources included when the MDCSL first launched, (i.e. Substance Abuse Services and Short-Term Housing), it now includes new listings for topics such as Job Readiness/Adult Education Services, Parole and Probation Offices, Substance Abuse Prevention, HIV/AIDS Resources, Victims Services, and many others.

Visit the website at:<http://www.mdcsll.org>. For additional information or for free promotional materials, contact CESAR by email at mdcsll@cesar.umd.edu, by phone (301-405-9796), or visit the website.

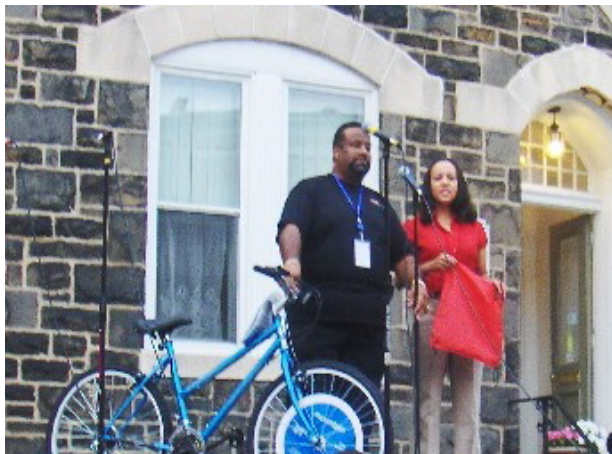
"We simply must work together as public safety professionals in collaboration with our community partners. This is the most effective strategy to reduce crime, protect our communities and make our neighborhoods safer places to live, work and raise families." Pat Bradley, Executive Director, MPCTC

National Night Out, A Huge Success in Baltimore City

By Karen Fortune, Community Liaison
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit



On August 5th, National Night Out was celebrated in communities throughout the state. Hard work and dedication from CSAFE Teams in Baltimore City took collaboration and partnership to its highest level.



Target, provided stipends, a bike, and school supplies to several of the CSAFE sites through their Corporate Sponsorship with the Baltimore City Police. Booths on community policing, family and children services, and other vendors made the evening educational. Thanks to partnerships with People’s Homesteading Group, The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods, The Baltimore City Aquarium, Clergy United for the Renewal of East Baltimore, Operation P.U.L.S.E., Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Broadway Services, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

and Hygiene, Greater Greenmount Community Association, Arlington Housing Corporation, Jericho Project, Power Inside, St. Ann’s Church, along with numerous community merchants and residents, this event was a huge success.

Washington Village partnered with the University of Maryland School Of Nursing, H3 Initiative, Department of Public Works Recycling, Parks and People Foundation, Baltimore Behavioral Health, the States Attorney’s Office, and the University of Maryland Violence Prevention Program. Mayor Shelia Dixon, Baltimore City Police Commissioner Fred Bealefeld, and Chief James Clark of the Baltimore City Fire Department joined the residents in line dancing.

Park Heights CSAFE began their event with the Citywide Marching Band from the James D. Gross Recreation Center. The Woodland Naguzo Saba Neighborhood Association, 21st Century Storage, Family Vision, Mothers in Charge, Exclusive Motor Cars, and the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore also helped sponsor the evening.



Hundreds of community residents throughout the city joined DPP, DJS and Law Enforcement to send a message that crime will not be tolerated. Harold Roberts, Community Organizer, summed up the evening when he said “At least during three hours, residents and neighbors were together. With community, churches, collaboration and support...one day without crime will become two, and then three, and so on...”

The ‘T’ in HEAT Stands for Treatment

By James R. Hedrick, Treatment Specialist
Advanced and Specialized Training

Have you ever taken a family member’s prescription pain killer or shared with a family member or friend one of your prescription medications? Far too many people can answer “Yes” and that is one of the many prescription abuse categories increasing nationwide. Any use of a medication, except by the prescribed individual for a specific illness, is abuse. According to the *Painfully Obvious Journal*, many juveniles who abuse prescription drugs start by experimenting with pills and medications they find around the house. Many juveniles who believe that heroin and cocaine are the “worst” drugs, also believe that prescription medications are safe since they are “pills” that are easy to identify, are prescribed by a physician, and are “just” someone else’s medications.

A 2006 study from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicates that the misuse of prescription drugs is second only to marijuana as the nation’s most prevalent drug problem. Since 2002, the annual average of people using pain relievers non-medically, for the first time in the past 12 months, has exceeded the number of new marijuana users.

Prescription drugs are generally broken down into three classes: Stimulants, Central Nervous System Depressants and Opioid Analgesics (pain medications) with this last group being the most abused. Pain relievers such as Hydrocodone (brand names: Vicodin, Lortab, Locet) and Oxycodone (brand names: OxyContin, Percocet) are the most commonly abused opioid analgesics and cause many of the same physical signs of abuse as street opiates (heroin). Also, the same type of addiction and withdrawal characteristics are seen and addiction treatment is required for many of the prescription abusers.

If you have any comments, I can be contacted at 410-978-3253 or jrhedrick@dpscs.state.md

CSAFE On the Job Training, & Key Indicator/Warrant Tracking Training

The above training will be held on the following dates at the Public Safety Education & Training Center (PSETC) in Sykesville, MD.
Oct. 31, 2008; Nov. 21, 2008; Dec. 19, 2008

- Warrant Tracking & Key Indicator Training: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- On the Job Training: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather, any decision to reschedule a class will be made by 6:00 a.m. on the day of the class. Updated information is available by calling (410) 875-3783.

Please Help Us

Do you have a promising practice or notable accomplishment that you would like to share? Please email your comments to Susan Vandegrift at svandegrift@dpscs.state.md.us

Comments or suggestions, please email us at AST@dpscs.state.md.us



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AST remains committed to saving trees; therefore, all editions of Promising Partnerships are available at:

<https://www1.dpscs.state.md.us/pct/partnerships.htm>