



“PCS BRIGHT SPOTS”

A Technical Assistance Unit Newsletter



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"If we focus our anti-crime resources and foster working partnerships between citizens, law enforcement, supervision, treatment, and other government agencies — we stand the best chance of reducing crime overall."

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor

The Break The Cycle Rapid Sanction Project

By Henry Alexander, Regional Administrator, Division of Parole and Probation

In October 1998, the Division of Parole & Probation, in partnership with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, adopted *Break the Cycle* as its strategy for dealing with substance abusing offenders. The *Break the Cycle* Program has at its core three main components:

1. Testing
2. Treatment
3. Sanctions

A “Rapid Sanction Project” was devised to improve staff’s ability to manage *Break the Cycle* cases by ensuring that all sanctions are imposed promptly. It also makes certain that all sanctions are entered promptly into the HIDTA Automated Tracking System database, which will provide relief to agents through a streamlined sanctioning process.

Under the “Rapid Sanction Project,” offenders who have “positive” urinalysis results or who fail to show up for their last scheduled drug testing date are identified when they are scheduled to report for their next urinalysis. The proper sanction level is also determined.

After collection of the urine sample, these offenders are immediately referred to the “Agent of the Day,” who has the option of imposing either **Sanction 1** (agent reprimand) or **Sanction 3** (sanction sign-in). Next, the “Agent of the Day” schedules **Sanction 2** (supervisory reprimand) based upon a schedule previously supplied by the Field Supervisor I. Offenders who reach **Sanction 4** (administrative case review) or **Sanction 5** (nightwatch/home detention or warrant/summons request) are referred directly to their assigned agent for appropriate action.

The program started in the Hagerstown office on April 1, 2000, and is in the process of expanding to Baltimore City and Baltimore, Charles, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. Rapid sanctioning has greatly increased the agents’ ability to comply with sanctioning requirements. The “Rapid Sanction Project” is a true example of teamwork at all levels within the Division of Parole and Probation. *For more information contact Henry Alexander, Regional Administrator, Division of Parole and Probation at 301-631-3060.*

Unique Linkages Developed to Expand Collaboration & Resources- International Corridor Team

By Scott Beal, Department of Juvenile Justice, PCS-TAU

The International Corridor HotSpot team is growing on a monthly basis. The HotSpot Community Policing/Community Supervision (CP/CS) team is already considered very unique since the Takoma

Park Police Department, Prince George's County Police Department and Montgomery County Police Department all serve the defined geographic areas known as the International Corridor HotSpot.

The team is very fortunate to always have the participation of numerous criminal justice agencies at their meetings. However, the team has identified additional agencies that can expand its resources given the challenges of their area. New team members include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), US Immigration & Naturalization Services (INS), and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Through these linkages, the team gathers valuable information to assist in the suppression of growing gang activity. HUD and the Division of Parole & Probation consistently have the same clients under each of their services. In addition, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has agreed to update the team on parolees being released into the area.

On April 1, 2001, a major joint effort occurred between the police agencies, HUD, and INS. The target was the apprehension of individuals who were known to have outstanding state and federal warrants. Ten individuals were apprehended. Also as the result of multiple agency collaboration, INS was able to apprehend five individuals. Among those taken off the street were individuals with convictions for CDS, embezzlement, rape and domestic assaults.

The International Corridor team continues to strive in making stronger linkages with the numerous criminal justice agencies located near their region. Their next venture is to attempt to make a stronger bond with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). At their most recent meeting, a representative

from the MPD was in attendance and was thoroughly impressed with the Hotspot Strategy. *For more information contact Brian Paige, Counselor, Department of Juvenile Justice, at 301-650-6760 or Antonia Hatcher, Agent Senior, Division of Parole & Probation, at 301-588-8240.*

New Perspectives for Police & Juvenile Offenders- Westlake Team

By Aaron Kahn, Department of Juvenile Justice, PCS-TAU

The Westlake Community Policing/Community Supervision Team in Charles County has expanded home visits to juvenile offenders who are currently in residential placements. Officer Pedro Alvarez of the Charles County Sheriff's Office has begun to travel with Alison Chalifoux, the Department of Juvenile Justice team member, and Kathy Kneale, the Spotlight on Schools worker, as they visit HotSpot clients in placements.

The purpose of these visits is to acclimate the juvenile offender into the HotSpot model while also allowing Officer Alvarez an opportunity to familiarize himself with the juvenile. On a recent visit to Mountain Manor, a residential drug treatment program in Baltimore, an offender freely discussed what he thought were the key mistakes leading to his placement. Officer Alvarez was able to add insight about his observations of the youth in the community while Ms. Chalifoux provided feedback regarding his probationary conditions.

There are certain outcomes observed by the team that stem from these visits once the youth returns to the community. The juveniles who have been visited have expressed that they feel the police have a "true interest" in their rehabilitation, and

they feel more comfortable when Officer Alvarez visits them at home. Moreover, Officer Alvarez has reported that the residential placement visits allow him to initiate a relationship with the juvenile prior to his return to the community.

Over the past several months, the team has visited juveniles at Mountain Manor, Big Pines, Good Sheperd, and the Charles Hickey School. *For more information, contact Alison Chalifoux, Counselor, Department of Juvenile Justice, at 310-705-1994 or Officer Pedro Alvarez, Charles County Sheriff's Office, at 301-932-5555.*

Treatment Program Helps Reduce Recidivism

By Sgt. Anthony Rounds, Maryland State Police, PCS-TAU

The "Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program" (DART), a collaboration of the Dorchester County Health Department and the Dorchester County Detention Center, screens, assesses, and treats addicted offenders in the detention center. Job counseling, employment opportunities, industrial programs, aftercare, and case management services are also provided.

By participating in this program and cooperating with the court and the Division of Parole & Probation, offenders can reduce their length of incarceration. This initiative has led to lower recidivism for program participants, returning them to the community with skills necessary to maintain abstinence and a productive lifestyle.

The DART Program has been an important effort considering that baseline data indicate that 72% of Dorchester County's inmate population is chemically dependent and in need of treatment services.

The significance of this program is also underscored by the increasingly limited access to inpatient facilities for offenders once they are released from the detention center. *For more information contact Jay Cutler, Director, Dorchester County Drug and Alcohol Health Services, at 410-228-3223.*

Secretary Simms Visits Cumberland HotSpot

Adapted from an article by Jeff Alderton for the Times News

After a recent visit to the Cumberland HotSpot Office, Maryland's Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Stuart Simms called the office a "model" HotSpot. "To see an effective HotSpots office," he said, "go to Cumberland." The Secretary was accompanied by Division of Corrections Commissioner William Sondervan and Parole Commission Chairwoman Patricia Cushwa. The group stopped by the Cumberland HotSpot office during a tour of new parole and probation department offices in Cumberland and the maximum-security prison construction site in Cresaptown. This was Secretary Simms' third visit to the Cumberland HotSpot office; he complimented the employees on a job well done. He specifically cited the joint relationships between the police and the community as setting an example for other HotSpots. Secretary Simms will be visiting other HotSpots in the near future.

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

By John Tewey, Regional and Technology Coordinator

For CP/CS team members who were issued KDS Valiant laptops, it is recommended that they not be used on the

battery power alone, even if the battery is fully charged. The battery life has been found to be very short, and you may lose information if the battery runs out!

Reminder: When reporting computer-related problems, *contact your regional TAU representative* who will then notify the TAU computer technician.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Patty Hiesener, Curriculum Developer, PCS-TAU

July 15-21 is Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers' Week. The week provides a time for our nation to recognize the individuals who work with

that at the end of 1999, there were more than 4.4 million adults on probation and parole nationwide? And, that the number of juveniles under community supervision was over 600,000? Currently, there are 54,000 offenders under supervision in our Maryland communities. Last year Maryland probation agents collected nearly six million dollars in restitution for victims of crime and over eight million dollars in fines, costs and supervision fees for the courts and state treasury. Join the Technical Assistance Unit during Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers' Week in supporting and recognizing the services our officers, counselors and agents provide for our community and for our public safety.

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GOVERNOR PARRIS N. GLENDENNING
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criminal offenders striving to make our communities a safer place. Did you know