



“PCS BRIGHT SPOTS”

A Technical Assistance Unit Newsletter



March, 2002
Volume 8



“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

Pierce County, Wisconsin Follows Maryland’s Lead

By Patty Hiesener, Curriculum Developer, PCS-TAU, and Glen Plutschak, Administrator, PCS-TAU

The November “BrightSpots” article, *Maryland Impresses the Nation at the APPA Conference*, highlighted a workshop presented at the American Probation & Parole Association’s 26th Annual Training in St. Paul, Minnesota. Maryland HotSpot representatives made a dramatic impression on Kris Miner, a Juvenile Justice Unit Supervisor from Pierce County, Wisconsin. After attending the APPA conference, Ms. Miner wanted to start a HotSpot/Proactive Community Supervision (PCS) program modeled after Maryland.

Ms. Miner met with her local sheriff’s office, prosecutor, and judiciary to seek support for the program. Once she received their full support, Ms. Miner reviewed statistics, referral forms, and additional reference material. Maryland’s plan for “Making Communities Safe”, as well as handouts received at the conference, were a key part of her research. Ms. Miner also formed a steering committee that led to the development of the PCS program between the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department and the Human Services Juvenile Justice Unit.

Pierce County’s PCS team consists of a sheriff’s deputy and a social worker who often conduct home visits, or ‘compliance calls’, to

determine if juveniles are complying with the rules of their supervision. The goal is to achieve a more relaxed atmosphere with the juvenile in which questions can be asked and positive relationships developed. To date, almost all the home visits have found youths at home, and out of trouble. Ms. Miner has found this to be astonishing. More importantly, the program has greatly reduced the adversarial tensions between juvenile offenders and sheriff’s deputies. “It’s not our main goal to catch kids in trouble... but to have contact in a good way,” according to a sheriff’s deputy who works with the program. Maryland wishes Pierce County the best with its HotSpot/PCS model. *For more information contact Kris Miner, Juvenile Justice Unit Supervisor, at 715-273-6773.*

Kiosk Technology Manages Low-Risk Cases

By Donald Kumer, Field Supervisor II, Division of Parole and Probation

The kiosk pilot project at the Division of Parole & Probation (DPP) in Hyattsville began January 8, 2001. It currently monitors over 500 low-risk offenders, freeing up valuable supervision time for more serious cases. Using touch-screen technology, non-violent offenders with minimal supervision obligations register monthly at a kiosk computer. The kiosk is located in the lobby of the Prince George’s County District I police precinct and also serves as an adjunct obligation for area sex offenders.

Under the guidance of Field Supervisor I Howard W. Trott, this innovative technology has made a valuable contribution toward easing the caseload burdens of Prince George’s county supervision agents. Offenders reporting to the kiosk spend no time in the reception area and approximately two minutes ‘checking in’. Provided there are no changes to an offender’s

routine (i.e., arrests, address/employment), zero staff time is used on the offender's report day. Agent Senior Steve Houghton handles the daily line-level activity associated with the system. Mr. Trott states, "Early on, we had to overcome several technical glitches to bring (the) kiosk to its present status. However, the system is well on its way to providing the kind of comprehensive caseload relief we envisioned. Agent Houghton has done a great job of moving the ball down the field".

As the Division of Parole & Probation approaches full implementation of its Proactive Community Supervision strategy, it seems clear that this cutting edge technology may have an integral role to play. Cost-efficient management of low-risk cases allows DPP to focus its resources on more serious offenders. The current reporting compliance rate for the kiosk is approximately 89% to 93%, according to office-based statistics. *For more information contact Don Kumer, Field Supervisor II, at 301-985-3400.*



Steve Houghton stands in front of the kiosk computer in the lobby of Prince George's County District I police precinct.

Noah's Ark Charts a Successful Course in Annapolis

By Josh Cohen, Community Liaison, PCS-TAU

Drug treatment is a critical element of the HotSpot strategy. Nowhere is this illustrated better than in Annapolis, where since 1999 the HotSpot team has been partnering with Noah's Ark Drug Treatment program led by the Reverend Hulan Marshall. Corporal Castor Redondo, lead coordinator for the Annapolis HotSpot, says, "Considering the magnitude of the abuse problem, any program would be

beneficial, but Reverend Marshall's program is working. It's an excellent program."

Noah's Ark streamlines the referral process, according to Division of Parole & Probation Agent Senior Gus Caballero, by providing "access to drug treatment, anger management, and counseling almost at your fingertips." This combination of treatment and counseling is an important factor in the program's success. Reverend Marshall's holistic counseling method is another factor. At other treatment centers, participants "felt they weren't free to discuss other topics (surrounding their use)," Reverend Marshall explains. At Noah's Ark, "we bring it all out on the floor. We say hey, if you're angry, express it." This personalized approach fosters a high level of mutual respect between the participant and the counselor. This respect motivates participants to stay in treatment, as evidenced by the program's 95% attendance rate.

Agent Caballero speaks highly of Reverend Marshall's commitment to his participants. "This is a man who practices what he preaches," Caballero says, "He is totally committed to this whole process of recovery, and that has a definite impact on people. I know he's been a great inspiration to me. I can't put it in better terms than that." *For more information contact Reverend Hulan Marshall at 410-269-0847.*

Detention Center Linkages Growing

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

Last summer the two HotSpot teams in Howard County, Harpers Choice and Long Reach, decided to link with the Howard County Detention Center in an effort to provide a seamless transition of inmates back into the community. This partnership was highlighted in the November 2001 edition of "BrightSpots". During the past two months detention center linkages have expanded throughout the state.

In Harford County, the Edgewood and Aberdeen HotSpot teams are meeting with their local detention center on a monthly basis. In December, an agreement was made that the Germantown HotSpot team would make the initial linkage with the Montgomery County Detention Center. Once the linkage has been fully established, the partnership will expand to include the other three HotSpots in Montgomery County.

In January, a meeting was held at the Charles County Detention Center in LaPlata with the Westlake and Smallwood Village HotSpot teams. The detention center was very receptive to the proposed partnership, as they have recently started a released inmate services program through High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and the local health department. In January, a proposal was given to the Frederick County Detention Center regarding a linkage with the Frederick HotSpot team.

Further partnerships include the Cambridge team with the Dorchester County Detention Center, Bay Hundred with the detention center in Talbot County, and Chestertown with the Kent County Detention Center. Finally, Federalsburg and Denton began their link with the Caroline County Detention Center in February. This partnership between detention centers and HotSpot teams also encompasses treatment referrals and follow-up as key aspects of the collaboration. *For more information contact Scott Beal, PCS-TAU, at 443-520-7344.*

Highlandtown Team Targets Prostitution

By Ofc. Holly Lane, Baltimore City Police

Prostitution has been an ongoing problem in the Baltimore City Highlandtown HotSpot area. Prompted by citizens' complaints, periodic prostitution "details" are conducted with police officers from the nearby southeast police district. Male police officers pose as "johns" driving covert vehicles to pick

up the prostitutes, while female officers pose as prostitutes on corners or walk the streets. Two undercover back-up officers are assigned to blend in with the surroundings. After picking up a decoy, a "john" will end up spending the night in central booking with up to \$500 in fines and fees, the cost of a good lawyer, and several hours in a classroom learning about AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

These "details" can have as many as twenty or more officers working together. They are conducted approximately once a month, however, several smaller "details" are done on a weekly basis. Information from prostitution "details" such as names and photographs are shared among the HotSpot team. This communication helps the team determine whether or not violators are on probation or parole at the time, and if so, what options are available for consideration. Finally, the team has formed a working relationship with You Are Never Alone (YANA), a non-profit organization working to assist women involved in prostitution or the sex industry. *For more information contact Ofc. Holly Lane at 410-396-2224.*

TECHNOLOGY

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

The Division of Parole & Probation has been using a creative tool to aid police in serving warrants for offenders in the Eastport and Parole HotSpots. Using COSIS, Agent Cabellero prints offender information along with the digital pictures and places them in a frame. He then has the pictures hung in the roll call room in the Annapolis Police Department where all the officers can review them. Upon serving the warrants, officers notify him that the offender has been located. According to Agent Cabellero and the police, this strategy is very

"The scourge of crime and drugs cannot withstand the combined force of a coordinated government and a mobilized citizenry."

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend

effective. The frame is updated on a weekly basis due to warrants being served in such a short amount of time. Moreover, Agent Cabellero reported that in many instances, officers call the precinct to verify the information in the frame upon finding the offender in the community.



Senior Agent Gus Cabellero displays his COSIS photo board to Scott Beal, PCS-TAU.

REMINDER: Backing up desktop files to the zip disks is very important. Some teams have had COSIS problems and the back up zip disk was needed to make the repairs. Information on the disk, however, was not current. This resulted in the loss of information from COSIS.

Back ups should be done at least once a week, if not more often. For training, contact your regional TAU staff representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer, PCS-TAU

- ◆ The PCS-TAU would like to welcome Donna Lewis, Treatment Specialist for the Northern Region.
- ◆ The Sheppard Pratt Health System has speakers who are available to address groups on various topics. No fee is required for non-profit organizations. Topics include anger management, grief, depression, anxiety, and drug awareness; presentations last between thirty and forty minutes. Requests should be made four to six weeks before the desired date and groups must consist of at least twelve people. *For more information contact Sheila Sheppard, Public Affairs Department, at 410-938-3120.*

MARYLAND

Proactive Community Supervision

Technical Assistance Unit

1623 Forest Drive, Suite 203
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-295-1287
Fax: 410-990-1523
Toll Free: 1-877-411-7547

Administered by



AN INITIATIVE OF THE
**CABINET COUNCIL ON
CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**

GOVERNOR PARRIS N. GLENDENNING
LT. GOVERNOR KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND