



“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

Prince George’s County Chief Administrators Meet

*By Glen Plutschak, Administrator, PCS-TAU
and Pam Ledford, DPP Agent Senior, PCS-TAU*

In an effort to effectively coordinate HotSpot community policing/community probation teamwork, quarterly breakfast meetings have proven to be a successful strategy in Prince George’s County. Chief administrators from police departments, juvenile justice, adult probation and parole; HotSpot lead coordinators; and staff from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) and the Proactive Community Supervision Technical Assistance Unit (PCS-TAU) discuss issues such as: HotSpot office sites, staffing, team operations and technology. Other topics include, training conducted by GOCCP and TAU, supervisory problem-solving team recommendations, detention center linkages and funding updates. Guest speakers will be asked to attend future meetings to inform the administrators of resources available within the county. Since the International Corridor HotSpot spans both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, chief administrators from Montgomery County are joining this collaboration.

At the September 17, 2002 meeting, guest speaker John Tewey, GOCCP HotSpot Coordinator, gave an informative presentation on funding issues, as well as safety team structure. These breakfast meetings have

proven to be very useful in resolving critical issues, in advancing the HotSpot process and in encouraging networking among the administrators. *For more information, contact Glen Plutschak at 410-295-1287.*



John Tewey, GOCCP HotSpot Coordinator, illustrates a point at the administrators breakfast meeting.

Frederick’s Success with Cameras

By Stephanie Bohn, Division of Parole and Probation, PCS-TAU, and Cpl. Tom Pfarr, Frederick City Police Department

Cpl. Tom Pfarr of the Frederick City Police Department reported a decrease in criminal activity with the installation of cameras and with the implementation of a new trespass policy for housing authority properties. The Frederick Police Department, in cooperation with the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick, Adelpia Communications, ADT Security, and Frederick City Department of Public Works, has recently installed a number of closed circuit television cameras in strategic locations in and around two of the housing communities.

Five cameras are located within Frederick’s HotSpot area. Frederick’s HotSpot team has seen considerable improvements since the installation of the cameras. Specifically, there has been a decrease in littering, loitering, vandalism and public drunkenness in the HotSpot area.

Cpl. Tom Pfarr is pleased with the decrease in drug activity in the John Hanson area. The word on the street is that the police have the area cleaned up. Cpl. Pfarr indicated that the crime statistics within the area have dropped considerably and that there are plans to expand this project. *For more information, please contact Cpl. Tom Pfarr at 301-624-1215.*

Disproportionate Minority Representation throughout Maryland

By Michael Findley, DMR Specialist, GOCCP

One of the most difficult issues facing nearly every state, including Maryland, is the over-representation of youth of color, particularly African-American youth, in the justice system. At every stage of the system, from school suspension to arrest to confinement in secure juvenile facilities, youth of color are over-represented compared to their percentage in the general population.

The State of Maryland is addressing this problem in several ways. In addition to policy changes made by the Department of Juvenile Justice, the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Justice is making "over-representation" a priority in the upcoming Youth Strategies Consolidated Grant Application. The Board is requiring each jurisdiction to create a local plan to reduce racial disparities in its local systems and to implement strategies to prevent future disparities. Also, the Disproportionate Minority Youth in Confinement Coordinator is meeting with the local management boards and other local stakeholders to help develop strategies to reduce disparities where they exist.

In addition, in October the Maryland State Advisory Board for Juvenile Justice, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and the Department of Juvenile Justice co-hosted the "Disproportionate Representation of Minority Youth: Old Problems, New Solutions Symposium." Members of the PCS-TAU assisted by providing technology support and workshop facilitation. Sponsors hope that information gained from the

symposium and input from communities, many of which include HotSpots, will aid the state's local management boards in creating their plans to address over-representation. *For more information, contact Noerena Abookire at 410-455-5532.*

Yorkway "Equips" Juveniles for Life

By Lois Drake, Re-Entry Specialist, PCS-TAU

Officer Barbara Kovolenko, who works closely with our Yorkway HotSpot team, is using a board game, "Equipped for Life," to successfully work with juveniles in the JOINS (Juvenile Offenders in Need of Supervision) Program. JOINS is a program for young offenders who have no prior record with the Department of Juvenile Justice or the police department.

The JOINS Program includes cognitive training designed to help the youths examine potentially difficult situations and develop ways of appropriately responding to them. The game, "Equipped For Life," assists in the cognitive training. The game consists of a board, dice and situation cards. The cards pose hypothetical situations in topic areas such as relationships with others, employment, substance abuse and material possessions. In turn, players pick a card, read the situation given and must explain how they would react to it. Then other players provide their input and may suggest other options for responding to the situation. The game is designed for two to four players. When Officer Kovolenko plays with several JOINS youth, she abandons the board and simply uses the situation cards.

Officer Kovolenko likes the game because she feels it prepares youth for similar situations that may arise in their lives. She also believes it creates positive peer pressure when players provide input to each other. The PCS-TAU has two more "Equipped For Life" games available. *For more information, contact Lois Drake at 443-520-1936.*

Baltimore City HotSpot Teams Begin Pilot with Prisoners Aid Association

By David Kressin, Director of Shelter Plus Care, Prisoners Aid Association of Maryland

Prisoners Aid and the PCS-TAU have teamed to launch a pilot project to more effectively link offenders from the HotSpots in Baltimore City to community resources. In furtherance of the project, David Kressin of the Prisoners Aid Association met with representatives from all twelve Baltimore City teams in early July. His presentation consisted of an explanation of the services the association offers and how clients can access those services including housing, employment assistance, access to low-cost healthcare and food pantry.

The project has commenced with reserved space for referrals of ten clients per HotSpot. The full spectrum of Prisoners Aid services will be available to these referrals. This pilot is the first formalized relationship Prisoners Aid Association has made with HotSpot teams. *For more information, contact Donna Lewis, Treatment Specialist, PCS-TAU at 410-978-0736.*



David Kressin of Prisoners Aid Association presents to HotSpot team members in Baltimore.

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

By Joe Mennit, Technology Specialist, PCS-TAU

It is now possible to copy COSIS notes to ASSIST. For more information, contact the PCS-TAU office at 410-295-1287 or at TAU@mpctc.net.

Grantsville Church Honors HotSpot Team

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

On October 23rd, the Marathana Church held a special evening of appreciation for the efforts of the Grantsville HotSpot team. Numerous members of the Grantsville CP/CS team and the safety team were in attendance. In addition to the HotSpot team members, there were approximately thirty participants from the community and congregation at the event.

The evening began with a dinner provided by the church. Afterwards, team members were given an opportunity to address the community about their mission and reinforce their dedication in providing the best care and support for the Grantsville community. Each member of the HotSpot and safety teams explained his/her role in the HotSpot Initiative and how crime or the quality of life in Grantsville is impacted.

The evening ended with Pastor Butch Morsberger presenting the HotSpot team with a plaque for the outstanding support that has been given to the greater Grantsville community. *For more information, contact Scott Beal at 443-520-7344.*



Members of the Grantsville HotSpot team receive an award from their community.

“Our value derives from providing our customers with quality service, enhanced partnerships, problem solving strategies and the support necessary for the prevention of crime and reduction of fear of crime. We will continue to foster and maintain ethics and integrity, encourage continuous learning, and treat everyone with dignity and respect.”
Don Hopkins, Director, MPCTC

TRAINING

*By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer,
PCS-TAU*

The PCS-TAU will hold three regional HotSpot Summits. Participants will be notified individually. The dates are as follows:

November 20 – Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard Counties, Baltimore City
December 4 – Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince George's, Washington
December 11 – Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester

The PCS-TAU will hold continuing education seminars starting in January, 2003. Seminars will be held at UMBC's Technology Center in Catonsville. More information will be forthcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer,
PCS-TAU*

The PCS-TAU sends special thanks to M. Patricia Lockett, Agent Senior, Parole and Probation, of the Pokomoke City HotSpot team and Ofc. Earnest L. Sasser, Baltimore County Police, of the Woodmoor HotSpot team. They were a big help as guest speakers at our CP/CS Academy on October 9th.

Congratulations to Jaki Westmoreland, Community Liaison with the PCS-TAU, for receiving a Youth and Community Service Award from the Social Concerns Committee of the Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church on October 13th.

Please send changes in your name, title, address or any other roster information to the PCS-TAU at TAU@mpctc.net or call the Annapolis office at 410-295-1287.

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