



"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**

Preliminary HotSpot Report Released

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator, PCS-TAU

Upon the request of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), the University of Maryland's Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) reviewed crime statistics and other available data on 35 of the original HotSpots. The research focused on the following areas: community prosecution, community probation, community policing, community mobilization, youth prevention, victim services, and addiction recovery.

An interim report prepared by Senior Research Analyst, E. Erin Artigiani, shows that the preliminary results are very encouraging. A few highlights of the HotSpot Initiative from 1997 to 2000 include:

- ◆ Nearly 14,000 HotSpot residents participated in their community organization. And, almost 54,000 residents became involved in community activities and events.
- ◆ Over 190,000 additional police hours were provided to the HotSpots.
- ◆ More than 1,000 residents received assistance from a domestic violence response team.
- ◆ Approximately, 70,000 community prosecution hours were devoted to nuisance abatement efforts.

- ◆ Offender work crews provided over 18,000 hours of community service to the HotSpots.
- ◆ Youth prevention programs provided recreational activities, education services, and other activities to nearly 20,000 HotSpot youth.

Data provided by State and local law enforcement agencies indicate that violent crime in the 35 HotSpots analyzed decreased 24% and property crime decreased 30% from 1996 to 1999. By comparison, statewide violent crime decreased 11% and property crime decreased 16% during the same period. *For additional information, visit the HotSpot community website at www.goccp.org.*

Maryland Impresses the Nation at the APPA Conference

By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer, PCS-TAU

The American Probation & Parole Association held its 26th Annual Training Institute during August in St. Paul, Minnesota. The theme for this year's conference was "Charting the Course for Community Justice: Realistic, Relevant and Restorative." At the Institute, Maryland presented not one, but two, workshops. One workshop on the HotSpot Initiative was presented by Glen Plutschak, Administrator, PCS-TAU, Agnes "Gill" Duncan, Agent Senior of the Division of Parole & Probation (Lexington Park), Office LM Williams, Baltimore City Police (Cherry Hill) and Jay Cutler, Director of the Dorchester and Talbot Counties Drug and Alcohol Services. The workshop provided an overview of the Maryland HotSpot Program with an emphasis on community policing/community supervision teams, how they meet weekly, staff cases, develop action plans, collaborate with treatment,

mental health, and employment resources and engage the community. The workshop was well attended with nearly 200 participants in attendance.

A second workshop entitled “Defining A Face-to-Face Contact in an Open Windows Probation Model: Maryland’s Proactive Community Supervision Model” was presented by Dr. Faye Taxman, Ph.D., Bureau of Governmental Research, UMCP, Judith Sachwald, Director, Division of the Parole & Probation, and Ernest Eley, PCS Coordinator. This workshop was also very well received.

These conference workshops provided criminal justice professionals from across the United States with the opportunity to learn about and share in the successes that we are experiencing in Maryland. *For more information contact Agnes “Gill” Duncan, Agent Senior, Division of Parole & Probation at 301-475-4606 or Ernest Eley, Division of Parole and Probation, at 410-585-3529.*



PCS-TAU Administrator, Glen Plutschak addresses the audience at the APPA conference in St. Paul.

Crime Victims May Obtain Needed Compensation

By Robin Wolford, Executive Director, The Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

The Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board was created in 1969 to alleviate the financial hardship faced by victims of crime. Any victim who has suffered a physical injury and either a minimum of \$100 in out-of-pocket expenses or the inability to work for at least 14 consecutive days may file a claim.

The Board may pay up to \$45,000 per claim including medical expenses, total disability (up to \$25,000), dependency (up to \$25,000), funeral expenses (up to \$5000), counseling (up to \$5000) and crime scene clean up (up to \$250). The Board does not use taxpayer money but is funded through defendant paid costs assessed in state and federal courts. *For further information, call 410-585-3010, toll-free 888-679-9347 or visit the website at www.dpscs.state.md.us/cicb.*

Senator Currie Visits Mt. Rainier Team

By Don Kumer, Field Supervisor II, Division of Parole & Probation

The Mt. Rainier HotSpot welcomed State Senator Ulysses Currie (District 25, Prince George’s County) on July 25, 2001. Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services Secretary Stuart O. Simms, Division of Parole & Probation Director Judith Sachwald, and Executive Director of the Maryland Police & Correctional Training Commissions, Donald Hopkins accompanied Senator Currie. Senator Currie’s visit was part of a tour of Proactive Community Supervision activities in the northern area of Prince George’s County, including a look at various supervision programs at the Division of Parole and Probation’s Hyattsville field office. Chief Fred Keeney of the Mt. Rainier Police was also in attendance.

During the Mt. Rainier visit, the HotSpot CP/CS team demonstrated the team approach to addressing problematic offender behavior in the community during a team meeting. Led by Division of Parole & Probation Agent Senior Tanya Boone, the team also included Mt. Rainier Police Officer Herbert McCoy, and Department of Juvenile Justice Supervisor Shirley Sinclair. Officials were able to observe first-hand interagency problem solving and information sharing that are the hallmarks of the HotSpot initiative and the Division of Parole &

Probation's Proactive Community Supervision strategy. *For more information contact the Mt. Rainier CP/CS team at 301-791-1826.*

Job Fair Brings Community Together

By Laura L. Reber, Agent Senior, Division of Parole & Probation

The Federalsburg HotSpot team hosted its first job fair last January. The goal of the job fair was to provide on-site employment options for HotSpot offenders as well as the entire Federalsburg community. Corporal Tom Wolf, Federalsburg Police Department, Tracy Hubbard, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Meredith McGough, Drinking Driver Monitor Program, assisted in this endeavor.

Invitations were sent to employers in the immediate area and included information on federal bonding and tax credits. By the day of the Job Fair the team secured eight local employers, two temporary employment agencies, two representatives from Chesapeake College to provide job training and preparation, and one representative from the Maryland Employment Services office. A volunteer from the Denton Division of Parole & Probation office, Agent Lynell Copes, set up display information on resume techniques and interviewing skills.

The Job Fair attracted a total of ninety-seven participants. This event was a learning experience for the team and showed that even on a small scale, a job fair is a welcome and important resource for small communities. The fact that so many individuals attended and obtained employment, training, and educational information made this project worthwhile. The Federalsburg team intends to organize another job fair in the future. *For more information contact Laura Reber, Agent Senior, Division of Parole & Probation at 410-822-1580.*

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

*By John Tewey, Regional Coordinator/
Technology Manager, PCS-TAU*

COSIS Photograph Pointers

All agents/counselors have received a written procedure and training for loading COSIS photos. Here are some helpful pointers when taking COSIS photos:

- ◆ Use only PC formatted floppy disks (not formatted for Macintosh computers).
- ◆ Frame the shot to show only the head and shoulders.
- ◆ Take all photos of clients against plain white backgrounds.
- ◆ Load photos into COSIS as soon as possible so that the photos are not lost.
- ◆ Keep a written log indicating name and photo number.

The COSIS program automatically prompts the user to back-up COSIS data. This backup does not include the photo file. Use the following steps to back-up your photo file to the zip drive.

1. Put a zip disk into the zip drive.
2. Open "My Computer" icon on the desktop.
3. Open the C: drive in "My Computer".
4. Locate and open the folder labeled "COSIS".
5. Locate the folder labeled "Photos".
6. Right click the mouse and select "Copy".
This will copy all of the photos in the folder.
7. Close that window by clicking the X in the upper right hand corner of the COSIS window.
8. Re-open the "My Computer" icon.
9. Locate and open the drive labeled "Zip" or "Removable Disk".
10. Right click anywhere in the white part of that window and select "Paste" from the list that is presented.
11. This command will paste all of the photos that you copied earlier to the zip disk.

This procedure will back-up all of your photos to the zip disk in the event your COSIS program

fails. This backup will prevent lost work that would be difficult to replace.

“BrightSpots” on the Internet

“BrightSpots” is now available on the web. The address is www.dpscs.state.md.us/pct/brightspots.htm

TRAINING

*By Terri Robinson, Regional Coordinator/
Training Manager, PCS-TAU*

HotSpot CP/CS Managers Training:

The PCS-TAU will train managers/supervisors of the HotSpot CP/CS teams who have never been trained. Participants will be notified

individually. CP/CS team members are requested not to attend. The Managers training will be held on:

December 11 & 12 2001

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- ◆ Welcome to Josh Cohen who has joined the PCS-TAU as Community Liaison for the Southern Region.
- ◆ The PCS-TAU bids farewell to Jennifer Beskid, Treatment Specialist, who is now Coordinator for Juvenile Drug Court with Baltimore City Circuit Court.

MARYLAND

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