



“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

National Night Out is a Success throughout Maryland

By Josh Cohen, Community Liaison, PCS-TAU

On Tuesday, August 6th, law enforcement, community groups and citizens across the country joined together to celebrate the 19th annual National Night Out. Many of Maryland's HotSpot communities were part of this celebration.

National Night Out in the Aberdeen Hotspot was the place to be that night. The community turnout was outstanding. Many families spent the evening together enjoying good food, lots of ice cream and activities. The partnership between the Harford County Boys & Girls Club and the Aberdeen HotSpot team truly benefits the community in which they serve. Karaoke, roller blade contests, face painting and a lot of laughs were just a few of the activities on the schedule. The night had something for everyone. The evening ended with a raffle of donated Ravens tickets.



Participants enjoy the festivities at National Night Out at Aberdeen High School.

The Highlandtown HotSpot team in Baltimore City has been actively involved in planning its National Night Out for two years. Several hundred people attended the festivities this year and enjoyed the food, games, giveaways and crime prevention information. Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend was the keynote speaker. She commended the Highlandtown community for its strong neighborhood involvement and notable reduction in crime. Several state and city officials were also present. The community association contributed time, money and talent to make this event successful.

In Washington County, the Jonathan Street HotSpot community partnered with the Broadway North community for a unified event in Hagerstown. HotSpot Coordinator Carolyn Brooks reported that the celebration was a rousing success. Hundreds of residents enjoyed the carnival atmosphere that included games, face painting, food and music. The Washington County Fire Department conducted safety presentations while the Hagerstown Police Department's mobile unit performed child fingerprinting. Service providers such as the County Health Department used the event to distribute valuable information on therapeutic services available to the public. Even while the celebration was in full swing, the Hagerstown Police Department did not let its guard down. Two citizens were apprehended and charged with possession of CDS during the activities.

On the Eastern Shore, the town of Federalsburg celebrated National Night Out with a tribute to the fallen heroes of the September 11th World Trade Center disaster. Over 200 local residents enjoyed activities that included a flag ceremony by the Sons of American Legion, canine demonstrations by the Federalsburg Police Department, a tribute to the town's police and fire departments and

special recognition of the four branches of the United States Armed Services. Food and drinks were donated by Mother's Restaurant and Tents and Events provided a fun slide for the children. Participation by the Department of Social Services and the Fatherhood Now initiative helped make the event complete. A special thanks goes out to event coordinator, Heather Hudson of the Federal Manor Apartments. *For more information, contact Josh Cohen at 410-295-1287.*

Annapolis HotSpot Team Organizes Youth Soccer Camp

By Cpl. C. Redondo, Annapolis Police Department

On July 15th and 16th, the Annapolis HotSpot team for Parole and Eastport held the first Parole Community/Annapolis Police Youth Soccer Camp. A diverse group of children from ages 8 to 12 attended the camp and met positive role models who spoke to them about their experiences and how excelling in school and working hard can lead to success in life. Among these role models were Meredith Beard, a professional soccer player for the Washington Freedom, and Rale Rasic, the head coach for the 1974 Australian World Cup team. The D.C. United professional soccer organization also sent representatives of the "Pepsi Challenge," Dribble, Pass and Score.

In addition to the activities, the children were provided with lunch each day, and their parents joined them on the second day. Each child was given a certificate and award for the completion of the camp. Sponsoring community organizations, churches and businesses also contributed gifts for the children.

The opportunity to meet and speak with individuals of this caliber in professional soccer is rare for children living in the two HotSpots. This camp gave the kids the opportunity to meet prominent athletes and learn about the decisions they made to become successful. *For more information, contact Cpl. Redondo at 410-268-9000.*

Westlake Village finds Success in Summer Youth Program

By Alison R. Chalifoux, Juvenile Counselor, Department of Juvenile Justice

For the past two summers, the Westlake Village CP/CS team has assisted with the Charles County Summer Youth Achievement Program. The program is sponsored by the Board of Education and the Charles County Sheriff's Office and is supported by the Department of Juvenile Justice. The program takes place from 12pm to 4pm at a county school and offers tutoring, lunch, field trips, discussion of social issues and guest speakers. The target audience is middle school-aged children who are enrolled in summer school or considered to be "at risk."

Westlake team members have assisted in daily participation in the program, as well as field trips to Six Flags amusement park and teen court. In July 2002, Department of Juvenile Justice workers Alison Chalifoux, Katherine Kneale and Katrina Mitchell, along with Charles County Sheriff's Officers Don Kabala and Kevin Wilson, chaperoned a trip to a Baltimore Orioles game. About 45 kids enjoyed dinner out and a trip to Camden Yards. The Westlake team hopes to make participation in the Summer Youth Achievement Program an annual project. *For more information, contact Alison R. Chalifoux at 301-705-1994*

Latin American Days

By Sgt. Rick Blevins, Berlin Police Department

On May 4th, the Berlin HotSpot office held a hugely successful Latin American community festival. With food and many fun activities, the festival managed to make the front page of a local newspaper. Many different

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

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend

agencies from the Berlin HotSpot office participated in the festival, bringing with them their own unique contributions to the community.

The apartment complex where the festivities took place is comprised mostly of people of Hispanic descent. Having agencies provide bilingual staff helped make the all-day festival run smoothly. Pamphlets provided by the health department were in Spanish as well as English, ensuring that all participants were aware of the multitude of services available to community members.

The children were entertained with several piñatas that were dangled from one of the town fire trucks, and fortunately, no one suffered any injuries from the devastating attacks by the children on the piñatas! Residents were treated to a never-ending litany of blasts from the fire truck horns and sirens that competed in volume with the screams of delight from the local kids. Additional activities included sand art, a tug-of-war, sack races, baseball and horseshoes. Everyone in attendance agreed the event was a big success. The Berlin HotSpot team thanks everyone who helped out, especially Laura Rodriguez, the manager of the Sunshine Apartments for having the festival at her complex. *For more information, contact Sgt. Blevins at 410-641-4891.*



Community members attend Latin American Days in Berlin.

Detention Center Partnership Continues to Expand

By Pamela Ledford, Division of Parole and Probation, PCS-TAU, and Scott Beal, Department of Juvenile Justice, PCS-TAU

Over the past few weeks, two new partnerships have been formed between HotSpot teams and local detention centers. The Allegany County Detention Center has begun working with both the Frostburg and Cumberland HotSpot teams and the Anne Arundel County Detention Center has linked with the Annapolis-Eastport/Parole and Brooklyn Heights teams.

Gary Collins, who is with the Pretrial Supervision Program, meets with the Annapolis-Eastport/Parole teams and began meeting with the Brooklyn Heights team the week of June 22. The detention center has three parts to the pretrial program: pretrial monitoring in which arrested persons call in weekly; pretrial supervision which requires weekly reporting, urinalysis testing and the forwarding of a report to the court on the arrestee's progress; and house arrest. The last program is generally for those persons convicted and sentenced to house arrest, although it occasionally includes pretrial detainees.

Mr. Collins provides the HotSpot teams with pertinent information about individuals in the detention center and individuals supervised by the pretrial program. Information he shares with the teams includes arrestees' addresses, charges, status of the charges, sentencing information, and projected release dates for those convicted.

In Allegany County, an initial meeting between the two HotSpot teams and the detention center occurred on July 24. Aside from staffing cases, the meeting addressed several topics to assist inmate transition back into the community. One issue that was resolved was determining a process for obtaining written certification for inmates successfully participating in substance abuse programs in the detention center and providing

the certification to the offenders' aftercare professionals. Also discussed was a potential procedure to have TB test results forwarded, with consent, directly to aftercare providers to avoid delays in service. The Allegany County meeting was such a success that it was decided that there would be a monthly meeting between the two HotSpot teams at the detention center. *For more information, contact Pamela Ledford or Scott Beal of the PCS-TAU at 410-295-1287.*

TRAINING

By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer, PCS-TAU

HotSpot CP/CS Academy:

The PCS-TAU will train new members of the HotSpot CP/CS teams and members who have never been trained. Participants will be notified individually; team members who were previously trained do not need to attend. The Academy consists of five training days spread over two months. Participants must attend all five days. The schedule is as follows:

Part 1: October 9 & 10, 2002

Part 2: November 12, 13 & 14, 2002

ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer, PCS-TAU

The PCS-TAU wishes to welcome Tracy Hood of YANA (You Are Never Alone). She has begun working with the TAU part-time as a Prostitution Intervention Specialist.

The PCS-TAU bids farewell to Aaron Kahn. He came to the TAU in 2001 from the Department of Juvenile Justice and is leaving to pursue a career in private business. We wish him well.

MARYLAND

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