

Promising Partnerships



A Newsletter from the
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor, Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Gary D. Maynard, Secretary

Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions

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Advanced and Specialized Training Unit



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2009 CSAFE-VPI ACADEMY

By Sarah Myers, Research Specialist
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

The 2009 CSAFE-VPI Academy was a huge success thanks to the 61 HEAT Team members who participated in the two day event.

Guest speaker Kristen Mahoney, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, opened the Academy by stressing the importance of the Violence Prevention Initiative, stating that collaboration and cooperation between agencies is a must when dealing with high-risk offenders.



Kristen Mahoney, Executive Director of GOCCP, delivered the opening remarks at the CSAFE-VPI Academy.

Academy participants learned not only what CSAFE-VPI, HEAT Teams and Neighborhood Safety Teams are, but how they can be used effectively when dealing with high-risk offenders. Some of the sessions included Crime Analysis, Criminogenic Traits, the HEAT Team Meeting Format, Warrant Service, Team Building Exercises, Adult and Juvenile VPI and a re-enactment of a HEAT Team meeting presented by members of the AST staff. Additionally Officer Joan Logan, Montgomery County Police Department, was on hand to give participants safety tips for dealing with offenders. The program concluded with a presentation by Dr. James Holwager, Chief Psychologist at the North Branch Correctional Institution in Cumberland, who offered an entertaining and informative presentation about how we as professionals deal with the stressful situations encountered when supervising violent offenders.

The Advanced and Specialized Training Unit would like to thank everyone for their participation in this year's academy.

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“Maryland Street Drugs” Training

*By Joseph Mennit, Technology Manager
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit*

On May 20th, the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit presented a three-hour training on Maryland Street Drugs for HEAT Team members in the Worcester County area. The presentation was delivered by Jim Hedrick, Treatment Liaison for the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit, in conjunction with the Maryland State Police and the Howard County Health Department. This training emphasized Marijuana, Heroin, Cocaine, and Prescription Drug abuse. The focus was on the physical aspects of these drugs and the physical/psychological aspects of the abuser. Delivering the training along with Mr. Hedrick were Detective Sergeant John Burton, Supervisor of the Maryland State Police Narcotic Unit; and Tom Cargiulo, Director of Treatment Services for the Howard County Health Department. TFC Brooks Philips, a member of the Maryland State Police and the Worcester County Drug Task Force, also discussed local problems and issues relating to prescription drug abuse. There were 30 people in attendance representing employees of the Division of Parole and Probation, Department of Juvenile Services, local and county law enforcement, and the Worcester County Health Department. Attendees received PCTC certified training hours for completing the class.

This regional training is offered by invitation only. If you are interested in attending, please contact your AST representative for further details.

Global Youth Service Day

*By Edward L. Wise, City of Salisbury
CSAFE-VPI Lead Coordinator*

On April 25, 2009 as part of Global Youth Service Day and in collaboration with Salisbury’s Promise, CSAFE-VPI, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, GEMS, Salisbury’s Promise, Maryland Mentor Partnership, and Mentoring Partnership,

combined efforts focused on many tasks, including painting the swing set to match the theme color of the park, planting a new flower bed, installing several bird feeders in trees, re-mulching of existing flower beds, and removal of broken glass and other debris.

After reading the list of accomplishments above, it would seem that it was “all work and no play.” Quite the contrary, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and managed to turn work into fun! As stated by George Whitehead of Salisbury’s Promise, “Global Youth Service Day shows that youth and adults working together can make a powerful difference as noted in the efforts at CSZ Williams Park project.” A new family in the area who speaks little English watched with curiosity. One of the workers reached out and gave their daughter a bird feeder to install in her own tree. Although no words were spoken, the bonding experience was felt by all.

Our efforts for Global Youth Service Day did not go unnoticed. The newly-elected Mayor of Salisbury, Mayor James Ireton, toured the area and acknowledged all who participated. Mayor Ireton further extended his congratulations to the youth for their dedication and efforts to the CSZ Williams Park and challenged them to become more involved in future events to beautify their community and make it a safer place to live.



Working together to create a better community.

High Point Initiative Update

By Joseph Mennit, Technology Manager
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

Worcester County State's Attorney Joel Todd called a town meeting on May 21, 2009 to discuss his plans to get drug dealers off the streets of Berlin. What he hadn't told residents ahead of time was that the meeting was to be the unveiling of an undercover operation targeting Berlin's open-air drug markets. "Take Pride in Berlin," an undercover program modeled after the highly successful High Point Initiative of 2004, had been underway for three months. Several Lower Shore law enforcement agencies also participated in the three month sting. Since the "High Point Initiative" targets individual geographic drug markets, State's Attorney Todd focused on the intersection of Bay and Flower Streets; a busy corner with known drug activity. Eleven men were caught on camera buying drugs from undercover police. Nine of them had drug dealing convictions, were classified as the most violent offenders and prosecuted. Police and community members then offered the two drug dealers with non-violent pasts and strong family ties, an alternative to prosecution and incarceration. The two men were brought to the meeting where they were offered help with treatment, job skill training and faith based support. However, they were warned that if they re-offend, they will be arrested and prosecuted

Funded through seized drug money in Pocomoke City and Snow Hill, the program shows promise and will continue. In High Point, drug related and violent crimes are down 80% from 2003. State's Attorney Todd hopes to reach those statistics in the near future. He said, "This project is more than just attacking the drug dealing, it's also trying to help find a solution for these livability issues – to clean up the slums, get rid of the junk cars, make the neighborhood a community people can have pride in. Hopefully, we're going to give them their town back."

Baltimore City Health Fairs

By Karen Fortune, Community Liaison,
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

Early detection for many diseases is the key to a positive outcome. Thanks to the many community organizers who collaborate with a host of partners, Parole & Probation clients, residents and their families in nine CSAFE-VPI communities in Baltimore City have the opportunity to attend a variety of free Health Fairs. These events provide screening for High Blood Pressure, Diabetes, HIV/AIDS, Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Mental Health, Drug Treatment, and Glaucoma. In addition, representatives from many healthcare disciplines are on hand to address issues such as Lead Poisoning, Dental Care, Aging /Alzheimer's Care, Violence Intervention, Trauma Prevention and many other relevant topics. Be sure to watch the local newspapers for times and places of these valuable resources. Or better still; why not organize a Health Fair in your community?

Crisfield CSAFE Easter Egg Hunt

By Maureen Pinnix, Agent Senior
Division of Parole & Probation

The Crisfield CSAFE Team hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on April 10th at the Community Hall in Somers Cove, Crisfield, MD. Over 35 children and their parents attended the event. First Sgt. Stan Harmon provided each child with a stuffed duck, which had inscribed on the chest, "Duck into your seat and buckle up!"

"We simply must work together as public safety professionals in collaboration with our community partners. This is the most effective strategy to reduce crime, protect our communities and make our neighborhoods safer places to live, work and raise families."

Pat Bradley, Executive Director, MPCTC

The Somerset County States Attorney's office provided over 400 plastic eggs which were filled with candy. The eggs were hidden by DPP Agent Maureen Pinnix, from the Princess Anne/Crisfield office, DPP Agent Jerry Pietroski, from CSEP,

Robin Schlecter, from DJS, Laney Howard, from the Somerset County States Attorney's office and Jenny Roser from the Somerset County Department of Social Services. Prizes were awarded to those who found the most eggs and also those who found specially marked eggs. After the hunt, children and their parents enjoyed cookies and soda which was donated by the States Attorney's office.

The afternoon was capped off with food provided by the CSAFE-VPI HEAT Team in Salisbury.



Left to Right: First Sgt. Stan Harmon, Crisfield PD, Jerry Pietroski CSEP, Maureen Pinnix, DPP Somerset County and Robin Schlecter, DJS Somerset County enjoyed distributing the ducks.

AST remains committed to saving trees; therefore, all editions of Promising Partnerships are available at:

<http://www.mdle.net/astnewsletter.htm>

CSAFE On the Job Training

The above training will be held on the following dates at the Public Safety Education & Training Center (PSETC) in Sykesville, Maryland:

July 10, 2009 and August 28, 2009

- 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Call 877-411-7547 for more information.

(In the event of inclement weather, any decision to reschedule a class will be made by 6:00 a.m. on the day of the class. Updated information is available by calling (410) 875-3783.)

Please Help Us

Do you have a promising practice or notable accomplishment that you would like to share? Please email this information to Peggy Jennings at mmjennings@dpscs.state.md.us

Comments or suggestions, please email us at AST@dpscs.state.md.us



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