



Promising Partnerships

A Newsletter from the
MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS

Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

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"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 Value of Data

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator, Advanced & Specialized Training Unit

"Why do we have to fill in those Key Indicator and Warrant Tracking forms each month?" I can't tell you how many times members of Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) teams have said this to me. For readers of the newsletter who are not members of HEAT teams, these forms are another example of a monthly report affiliated with their team. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of these forms for all of our readers.

When our teams first came together in 1997, the University of Maryland conducted an evaluation to determine the length of time to serve an adult violation of probation or retake warrant. The results were disappointing and showed real public safety concerns. The **average** time was 326 days—nearly 11 months. Today, our indicator and warrant reports show an average of 43 days; many warrants are served the day of receipt.

Other important facts in the indicator reports show the HEAT team members' hard work. Consider the following from last year's reports:

- Members of our HEAT teams rode together over 1700 times making over

- 13,000 offender home contacts.
- HEAT teams met together over 1000 times in their weekly or bi-weekly meetings to share valuable crime, offender and community information.
- Over 4000 cases were discussed and over 1500 action plans were developed to address the risk and needs of the juvenile or adult under community supervision.
- Nearly 500 community events were planned or attended by our teams. A listing of these events was recently shared between all teams at our Neighborhood Safety Team Forum. Now other teams can schedule similar events in their communities.

This data helps to document that our teams are hard at work protecting the public by reducing crime and recidivism and improving the quality of life for community residents. As the staff of the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit prepares to spend another year promoting collaboration and encouraging timely submission of those reports, we want to thank all of our HEAT team members for promoting public safety and providing us with the data to measure your effectiveness in Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) areas.

Furthering Education

By Elizabeth Kozlowski, Agent Senior, Brooklyn Heights HEAT Team

Toward the end of the school year this past June, I had an opportunity to make a home contact. Upon arriving at the home, the

offender's school-age daughter answered the door during school hours. I questioned the child as to why she wasn't in school and she informed me that "Mommy overslept -- she oversleeps a lot!"

I completed the home contact and then called the Pupil Personnel Worker assigned to the Brooklyn Heights HEAT team, Mr. Sal Maggio. Mr. Maggio immediately checked on the child's status in school. After completing his investigation, he called me back to inform me that the child had missed numerous days from school.

Upon obtaining this information, I had a conversation with my offender about the importance of ensuring her daughter's education. The offender was instructed to have her child in school, every day, for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Maggio was informed and he has earmarked the child's attendance record at the school. He is able to inform me about continued compliance with attendance for the school year 2005-2006. As of October 2005, this young lady has only missed 1.5 days of school and this absence was for health reasons.

Riverview CSAFE Team Hosts Gang Training for Baltimore County

By Adam Starr, Law Enforcement Specialist, Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

At a recent HEAT Meeting, members of the Riverview CSAFE team discussed the possibility of getting updated information about gang activity. Realizing that other teams may also be looking for information, they decided to make it a countywide affair.

It's no use saying, "We are doing our best." You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.

Winston Churchill

Veteran team member Tony Myers, Department of Juvenile Services, contacted the Department's gang specialist, Frank Clark, who agreed to present the training. The Baltimore County Police Department offered a classroom and members of the other Baltimore County HEAT Teams were contacted.

Nineteen people attended the training. In addition to the HEAT Team members, there were two Baltimore County police department detectives and several other non-CSAFE public safety officials. Mr. Clark's presentation was terrific and timely as gang awareness continues to be an area of concern in many communities.



Officer Confer and Agent Cooke of the Elkton HEAT team review offender information via a wireless laptop connection in the police patrol car prior to conducting a joint home contact.

Collaboration Results in Murder Arrest

By Jennifer A. Beskid, Regional Coordinator, Advanced and Specialized Training

On November 14, 2005, two young adults, known to be gang affiliated, engaged in a verbal altercation while at a red light and seated in their separate cars. The altercation ended with one young man pulling a gun, shooting and killing the other young man. At the time of the shooting, Montgomery County Police officers were able to identify a potential suspect. These

same officers had a warrant issued for the suspect because he had been seen driving a car without a valid license.

Through the course of the investigation, information was shared between a CSAFE officer and the DJS case manager assigned to the CSAFE area. The DJS worker was familiar with the young adult, his relatives, and girlfriend. Shortly after sharing information, the DJS case manager discovered that the suspect had been sleeping in the basement of one of his offender's homes. This information was relayed to the case manager as he was making a home contact. The DJS worker made the officer aware of the offender's location.

Plans were made to arrest the suspect at the house; however, the suspect moved out before the police could approach. Again, the police officer and case manager collaborated and a new address was identified. An arrest was made and the suspect confessed to the murder. The CSAFE officer involved in this case credits the detective work that was done and the arrest to the relationship between the police and DJS. He believes that the trust that has developed over years as well as a willingness to exchange information resulted in the rapid development and identification of a suspect as well as an arrest.

Successful Collaboration Has a Home at Berlin CTESS

Tiffany Howard MS, LCADC, Berlin CSAFE Safety Team, Worcester County Health Department Adolescent Addictions Program Supervisor

The Berlin CSAFE initiative has always been a leader in promoting community collaboration. As a result of the hard work of the CSAFE Team, Worcester County Health Department, and the generous support of the Governor's

Office on Crime Control and Prevention, they now have a new "home" in which to continue their collaborative efforts. The partnership between CSAFE members and the Health Department has resulted in the formation of the Collaborative Treatment and Education Support Services, CTESS. In September 2005, CTESS opened a new office for community members.

The CTESS office is currently home to the three programs offering collaborative treatment and services. These programs include (1) the Worcester County Health Department's Adolescent Addictions Program, (2) Case Management's Sandcastles Program for at risk, runaway and homeless youth, and (3) Worcester Youth and Family Counseling and the "People Empowering People" adolescent group. These agencies are able to co-facilitate group activities in an environment that is comfortable and welcoming.

Participants and their family members have responded to the "homey" feel of the office, as it does not resemble traditional clinical settings. The kitchen and dining area, which were set up by clients, allow service providers to model and encourage healthy family activities on Family Nights and during other group activities. Representatives of the addictions program who are able to conduct screenings, assessments, urinalysis, and treatment services also use the office. As the full-time provider located at the CTESS office, Ms. Julie Warren reports, "It is a success!"



Members of the Berlin CSAFE and CTESS teams standing by their newly opened office.

TRAINING

Continuing Education Classes

MPCTC certified classes are offered throughout the state. The schedule is as follows:

An Examination of Gang Related & Drug Related Witness Intimidation

January 13, 2006, Bel Air Fire Department, Bel Air, MD, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

A date to be determined, Snow Hill, MD

Sexual Offenders: The Predator and The Prey

Sites and dates to be determined in January, February, and March 2006

HATS, CSAFE On the Job Training, & Key Indicator/Warrant Tracking Training

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

- Warrant Tracking & Key Indicator Training: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- HATS: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- On the Job Training: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

DATES:

January 27, 2006	July 28, 2006
February 24, 2006	August 25, 2006
March 31, 2006	September 29, 2006
April 28, 2006	October 27, 2006
May 26, 2006	November 17, 2006
June 30, 2006	December 22, 2006

CSAFE Academy

A three-day Academy for members who are new to HEAT teams in CSAFE areas. Participants are expected to complete On-the-Job training prior to attending the Academy. May 16-18, 2006 at PSETC, Sykesville, MD

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 you would like to share with

our readers? You may email your comments to Jennifer Beskid, Regional Coordinator, at jabeskid@dpscs.state.md.us

New Staff

- The staff of the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit welcomes Robert Lowman, part-time Re-entry Specialist to our unit. Bob is a retired parole and probation supervisor who has also worked as a police officer and classification specialist at a detention center in Arlington, VA. We look forward to the contributions he will make as re-entry efforts continue across the state.

In this issue:

- A message from the administrator.
- The contributions of a Pupil Personnel Worker.
- Bringing gang training to a community in need.
- Collaboration leads to a murder suspect's arrest.
- All about CTESS.



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AST remains committed to saving trees; therefore, all editions of Promising Partnerships are available at <http://www.mdle.net/astnewsletter.htm>