



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

We Have Reached the Tipping Point

*By Glen Plutschak,
(Former Administrator of AST)*

Nine years ago the first training classes were offered to community based teams of law enforcement officers, treatment providers, juvenile probation counselors and adult parole and probation agents. I remember those classes like yesterday. Each group of workers sat in different corners of the room with other members of their respective disciplines. Adult agents sat in one corner, juvenile counselors in another, officers and treatment providers in the other corners. As trainers we tried our best to get the workers to sit together but we were unsuccessful.

We then had an idea—why not allow them to stay in their corners and write their mission as public safety professionals, in their own words, on a flip chart. They went to work and later shared their flip charts with the rest of the class. The charts were nearly identical and mentioned public safety, victim assistance, helping people, improving the quality of life for residents, lowering crime, lowering recidivism rates, etc. After the exercise we took a short break and then asked the participants again to sit at the tables as teams. They did so quickly and never again sat together as separate disciplines.

Over the last nine years we have reached the tipping point in regards to collaboration and

teamwork. As criminal justice professionals, we realize that we must share information and work together as a family. Our logic model is simple—as a team we are more powerful and effective than as individuals.

I have enjoyed my time working with the CSAFE HEAT and Neighborhood Safety Teams throughout Maryland and I applaud your dedication and success. As I leave you to work for the Talbot County Drug Court (another collaboration), I wish you all the best that life can offer.

Baltimore County Sex Offender Containment Team

*By Adam Starr, Administrator
Advanced and Specialized Training*



Current members of the Baltimore County Sex Offender Containment Team (SOCT)

The Sex Offender Containment Team in Baltimore County met for the first time in October of 2004. During the past two years, they have grown as a collaborative enterprise dedicated to enhancing public safety by working together.

The mission of the Baltimore County Sex Offender Containment Team (SOCT) is to enhance public safety for those who visit, live,

and work in Baltimore County by increasing offender accountability through fast and efficient communication and the exchange of information. The team works towards this goal through a coordinated approach to treatment, community supervision, community policing, and inter-agency networking for high-risk offenders.

Members of the team include representatives of the Division of Parole and Probation, Baltimore County Police Department, Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office, Department of Social Services, security personnel from the Community College of Baltimore County and treatment providers. Accomplishments include adoption of the STATIC 99 risk assessment instrument and the development of special conditions for probationers. The team met with judges on the Baltimore County Circuit Court to recommend the use of these special conditions.

Most recently, team members have forged a partnership with the Baltimore County Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) Teams. This partnership is contributing to the additional exchange of information in an effort to meet the mission.

Empowerment Academy's First D.A.R.E. Day

*By Unsolo Holly, II, Community Liaison
Advanced and Specialized Training*

On May 19, 2006 the Empowerment Academy in Baltimore, Maryland held their first D.A.R.E. Day (Drug Awareness, Resistance, and Education). The purpose of the D.A.R.E. program is to educate elementary and middle school students on the dangers of illegal drug use and alcohol abuse. The training is conducted by police officers who have successfully completed D.A.R.E. training.

As part of the opening sessions, everyone was invited to the first D.A.R.E. ceremony. Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia Jessamy, Baltimore City Council President Shelia Dixon, Chief of Baltimore City School Police Antonio Williams, and President of the Maryland Crime Prevention

Association, Major Ron Schwartz, gave opening remarks. Officers were acknowledged by State D.A.R.E. coordinator Claude Nelson for their outstanding work and commitment to the students and the program.

The students of the Empowerment Academy and Dr. Benjamin Harris Sr. Elementary School entertained the audience with skits and dance routines that encouraged youths to "say no to drugs and yes to their future!"

Lexington Park HEAT team sponsors "Community Fun Day"

*By James R. Hedrick, Treatment Specialist,
Advanced and Specialized Training*

On June 22, the Lexington Park HEAT team sponsored "Community Fun Day" at Nicolet Park, located in the CSAFE area. The goals of the evening event were to inform the community of the many resources available for families and youth and to highlight a multitude of events for families that do not include drugs, alcohol or violence. Because of the generous donations from local contractors, community organizations and churches, the event was free to the public.

Activities included a magic show, puppet shows, upbeat music and dance routines. Pony rides, a dunking booth, moon bounce area, and hotdog and ice cream stands were also available. The night was topped off with the movie "Cool Running" being shown under the stars. Official estimates are that over 2,500 people attended.



McGruff poses for a picture with attendees of the Community Fun Day in Lexington Park

Coldstream/Homestead/Montebello CSAFE Applies for Additional Grants

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

Implementing strategies to maximize services in Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) areas is one way that NST and HEAT teams can address the needs of both the community residents and former offenders who are returning to the community. With a grant obtained by CSAFE Community Organizer Michael Williams, a Family Health Care Day and Expo was held on June 9, 2006. This event provided information about health awareness for the community, medical assistance program for the disadvantaged, free HIV testing, blood pressure screening, physical fitness information, and community mobilization.

In addition to the Believe in Your Neighborhood Grant (awarded by Comcast), Mr. Williams has applied for a grant from the Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development. An award of this grant will help establish a Healthy Relationships and Marriage Peer Learning Network to provide training in the use of the Exploring Healthy Relationships and Marriage Among Fragile Families Curriculum. We encourage CSAFE team members to continuously look for additional sources of funding to support communities.

Federalsburg CSAFE Team Members Participate in the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life

*By Jerry Pietroski, Jr., Agent
Division of Parole and Probation*

On June 16, 2006, Federalsburg NST and HEAT team members participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life walk at North Carolina High School in Ridgely, MD. Team members sold hamburgers and hotdogs to raise over \$400.00 for the charity. Members of the Federalsburg CSAFE Teams distributed information packets on "Kid Escape" and the

Federalsburg Police allowed the participants to use their Mobil Command Unit.

Participants in this worthy cause included Betty Ballas, CSAFE Coordinator; Tom Wolf, Federalsburg Police Department; Taneesha Skinner, Department of Juvenile Services; Karen Ritchey, Division of Parole and Probation; Heather Hutson, Neighborhood Safety Team; and Jonathan Newell and Peter Coleman of the Caroline County State's Attorney's Office.

*"You may not be able to control the winds
.....But you can adjust your sails."*

KRISTONE

The 'T' in HEAT Stands for Treatment

*By James R. Hedrick, Treatment Specialist,
Advanced and Specialized Training*

When testing our clients for illegal substances, we are generally concerned with the conditions of supervision and possible criminal activity. Also, during a client's treatment program, it is important for the counselor to be aware of any substance abuse.

The testing of urine is usually incorporated but there are other biological substances that are valid for the detection of illegal substances. These include hair, sweat, saliva, and blood. Blood analysis is extremely accurate but is invasive and not practical for the use in community corrections. The testing of hair has become popular in the employment field. Since the substance's metabolites are embedded in the hair fibers, adulteration is difficult and metabolite retention can be up to 90 days. However, this method does not allow for detection over the past five to seven days. The testing of sweat is another alternative and incorporates the client wearing an absorbent pad for a period of seven to ten days. The specimen is then tested using an enzyme screen and GC/MS confirmation and indicates the actual

abused substance, not just metabolites. Saliva testing is best known for alcohol abuse but with recent advances, is becoming more popular in illegal substance detection. A swab is incorporated and both instant and mail in tests are available. As with the testing of urine, all methods utilize a strict chain of custody form and need to be strictly monitored.

If you have any suggestions on future substance abuse topics on which you would like information about, please email me at jrhedrick@dpscs.state.md.us.

CSAFE Teams Participate in National Night Out

*By Susan Vandegrift, Field Supervisor I
Division of Parole and Probation*

CSAFE teams across the State participated in National Night Out on August 1, 2006. HEAT and Neighborhood Safety Team members organized events that included musical entertainment, moon bounces, giant slides, magic shows, and a wide variety of food. Events were open to all community members and, in spite of the excessive heat, were very well attended. We applaud the dedicated members who made these events a huge success.

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: November 30, 2006
December 29, 2006

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

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***THE STAFF OF THE
ADVANCED AND
SPECIALIZED TRAINING
UNIT WOULD LIKE TO WISH
EVERYONE A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON***