



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

"I Didn't Know You Guys Knew Each Other"

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator

Not long ago, a young offender under adult parole and probation supervision opened the front door to his home to find a police officer, parole agent and juvenile counselor standing on his porch. They introduced themselves as the Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) team and related that they were making a routine home contact. The offender looked at them a second and said, "I didn't know you guys knew each other." A few years ago, this would certainly have been true, but collaboration between law enforcement and community supervision is quickly becoming a standard way of doing business in Maryland today.

The Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) process features partnerships among police, probation, treatment, community residents, businesses, and public/private resource agencies. The logic model in CSAFE is "Two heads are better than one, three heads better than two, four better than three, etc." Through collaboration and information-sharing, we can better reduce crime, lower recidivism rates, and improve the quality of life for community residents.

CSAFE is a growing process. In the last few months, the towns of Elkton and Easton have joined the CSAFE family. More importantly, Chief Ben Blue of Easton and Chief Richard Pounsberry of Elkton joined the collaboration without funding from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). They joined because it just made sense to work with their partners in the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). As Chief Blue stated, "CSAFE fits perfectly with our community outreach goals. We believe in unity there is strength. We also believe our mission can be achieved more effectively by working in a partnership with state probation agencies." Yes, the CSAFE process is growing as individuals under community supervision open their doors to find more and more HEAT team partners standing on their porches.

Successful Educational Collaboration

By Sal Maggio, Pupil Personnel Worker, Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Recent collaboration between Anne Arundel County Public School System personnel and CSAFE personnel appears to be developing well with promising results. This collaboration has developed through partnerships among Pupil Personnel Workers (PPW) and HEAT team members.

In September, three PPWs assigned to HEAT teams participated in the three-day CSAFE Academy facilitated by the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit (AST). From the PPW perspective, this training helped to develop a greater understanding and

appreciation for the roles and responsibilities of criminal justice staff. In return, information and insight was shared from the PPW perspective that contributed to the goals and purposes of the HEAT team in a meaningful and effective way.

As a result of training, PPWs are meeting twice a month with HEAT teams in the Anne Arundel County CSAFE areas – Brooklyn Heights, Parole and Pioneer City. As members of both public safety and educational communities are confronted daily with complex problems, often involving an intertwining of various family and community issues, this type of collaborative effort can have far-reaching, positive results for everyone involved.

An example of a positive result occurred recently when a young man was heard threatening to bring a gun to school. This information was shared with the PPW who then spoke to the DJS case manager. Because the youth was known to DJS, an effective intervention was made, and the youth is currently receiving services.

Information Sharing – Exploring Alternatives

By Edward Parker, Regional Coordinator, Advanced & Specialized Training

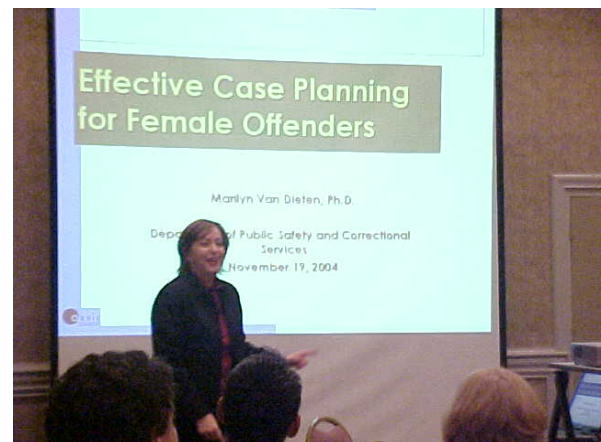
When sharing information, public safety professionals need to go beyond the typical information systems and look for alternatives. In Denton, Chief Rodney Cox realizes the value of allowing HEAT team members’ access to the Police Department’s information system. As a result, adult probation agents and juvenile counselors have access to information the police officers maintain internally. This can often fill in missing information for probation agents.

“Small opportunities are often the beginnings of great enterprises.” Demosthenes

Police reports and officer information incorporated in the automated information system is expected to include contacts law enforcement has had with supervised offenders.

Supervising agents expect to glean valuable data about curfew violators, associates of supervised offenders and other activities of individuals on their caseloads.

While the details of the information exchange are still being resolved, the Denton model is one that can be employed across the State.



Dr. Marilyn Van Dieten addresses participants during a breakout session at the CSAFE Summit, November 19, 2004

A Place Called Hope

By Adam Starr, Community Liaison, Advanced & Specialized Training Unit

Linking offenders and their family members with services essential to their continued success as community residents was the focus of a August 24, 2004 program conducted in Suitland. Unique to this program was the partnership among HEAT team members, community representatives and representatives from Project Safe Neighborhoods – a component of the Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Service providers represented State government programs such as employment, family

investment, eviction prevention, energy assistance and mental health counseling. Private service providers also attended and provided information about literacy, women’s wellness, and workforce development.

Twenty-four offenders attended with several participants bringing family members or guests. Participants were asked to complete an evaluation of the event. Approximately 75% of the participants completed evaluations indicating that they had not been aware of the existence of many of the programs represented prior to the event. Efforts were made to link offenders and their family members with the services they identified themselves as needing. The positive response to the event has led to the planning of a similar program in Montgomery County in the near future.



New computers are being delivered to all HEAT Team members – T. J. Smith of Pioneer City receives a new computer from Joe Mennit of AST

Neighborhood Safety Teams – Update
By William Welsh, Community Liaison, Advanced & Specialized Training

Introduced in early 2004 (see March- June issue of ‘Promising Partnerships’), the Neighborhood Resource Unit of the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit has concentrated its efforts on exploring the potential for expanded community involvement in the CSAFE initiative. In

furtherance of that goal, the Resource Unit has collected relevant information through surveys, community meetings and trainings. As a result of all of its activities, the Neighborhood Resource Unit has developed a Neighborhood Safety Team Advisory Committee. This committee consists of five CSAFE Lead Local Coordinators from areas across the state. The committee was formed to address many of the grant requirements for CSAFE.

Some of these requirements include a Neighborhood Safety Team in each CSAFE area, which will:

- Work cooperatively with community members and community leaders to develop strategic plans based upon the needs and resources of the community.
- Identify needed services and programs.
- Develop a plan to obtain these services or programs.
- Create strategies that are effective in reducing crime, lowering recidivism, and improving the quality of life in CSAFE communities.

Community and HEAT team response to the Advisory Committee has been positive, as communities see their involvement in support of public safety professionals as vital.

Mount Rainier Police Departments’ Community Policing Program is Recognized

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

Recently, the Mount Rainier Police Department (MRPD) was named as a finalist for the International Association of Chief’s of Police/ITT Industries International Community Policing Program of the year. Of 135 entries, MRPD was in the top 15 and in a letter to the

Chief of Police from the Selection Committee; the Committee stated “Your entry was selected because it demonstrated that your Department has championed positive change in your Department and Community by adopting a community policing philosophy.”

Under the guidance of Chief H. Frederick Keeney, Mount Rainier experienced a 17% reduction in Part I crimes during the first six months of 2004. Chief Keeney credits the Department’s blend of policing as well as community partnerships, such as the existence of a HEAT team in Mount Rainier’s designated CSAFE area. Chief Keeney has stated that “It is an extreme honor being named as a finalist, and although we did not win the award, we have been judged to have one of the best community policing programs in the world.”

TRAINING

Continuing Education Classes

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

Understanding Mentally Ill Offenders

- January 27, 2005* – Southern, Maryland
- February 9, 2005* – Essex Community College
- February 23, 2005* – Western, Maryland
- March 4, 2005 – Eastern, Maryland

*The January and February training classes will be held from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, any decision to reschedule a class will be made by 10:00 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

Notable Accomplishments:

- On September 21, 22, and 23, 2004, AST staff facilitated a CSAFE Academy for new team members. Over 40 new HEAT team members participated in a series of firsts...the first Academy held at the new Public Safety Education and Training Center, the first class to include Pupil Personnel Workers.
- During November and December, three CSAFE Summits were held. Over 350 participants attended one of three summits. In addition to networking activities and keynote speakers such as Secretary Mary Ann Saar, a broad range of breakout sessions provided excellent resources for participants.
- Governor Robert L. Ehrlich dedicated the MPCTC Public Safety Education and Training Center on November 30, 2004 in Sykesville, MD.



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