

Promising Partnerships



A Newsletter from the
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor, Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
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Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions

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Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

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CSAFE-An Evidence Based Practice

By Adam Starr, Administrator

Advanced and Specialized Training

As many of you may remember from your initial orientation, CSAFE was evaluated after its first years of application. Then known as HotSpots, the evaluation was completed by the Urban Institute. They compared HotSpots areas to statewide statistics and found that:

- The amount of time it took an offender to commit a technical violation was longer
- Recidivism rates were down
- Total crime in CSAFE areas was reduced, including violent crime
- Warrant service time was reduced

It is important to remember that these results can only be achieved when all of the tenets of CSAFE are practiced. If a HEAT Team meets but they do not staff cases, develop action plans, or conduct joint home contacts, it is unrealistic to expect the same results that were present in the evaluation.

In an effort to build upon your successes in CSAFE, AST researcher, Sarah Myers, recently completed a study of warrant service time. After identifying teams with lower average warrant service times over the last two years, she studied

what those individual teams were doing that contributed to their success. Her findings are outlined in this newsletter.

We do not need an evaluation to tell us that even the best race car, no matter how promising, will not do well without a skilled and committed team. The same is true for CSAFE. Therefore, we want to take a minute to thank all of you for another great year and pledge our support to you towards future success.



Executive Director Kristen Mahoney, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, delivered the keynote address at the CSAFE Summit.

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CSAFE Summit

By Julie Tucker, Case Management Specialist
Supervisor, Department of Juvenile Services

On October 18, 2007, over 240 CSAFE participants attended the 2007 CSAFE Summit. For the first time, CSAFE project managers and their designees were invited to join HEAT Team members and their supervisors at this annual event.

After the keynote address which was delivered by Kristen Mahoney, the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, team members shared Promising Practices and discussed the implementation of these practices. The teams then reviewed their FY 2008 CSAFE Strategic Plans. Participants left with a better understanding of the overall strategies employed by other CSAFÉ partners and with thoughts about changes they may want to consider in the future.

Neighborhood Safety Team Forum

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

On November 29, 2007 the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit hosted the 3rd Annual Neighborhood Safety Team Forum. This year’s theme was Enhancing Strategies through Prevention and Intervention. One hundred and twenty partners from around the state represented the CSAFE Teams.

Keynote speaker Edward Parker, Division Chief, Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) gave an overview of GOCCP’s role and, later in the day, spoke about firearms violence and effective intervention strategies.

Keeping with our theme, Amy Billing and Erin Artigiani from the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) at the University of Maryland provided information on the Maryland Community Services Locator. More information on this resource database appears in a separate article in this newsletter.

Pat Sill, Administrator of the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute (MCCPI) and Ann Thacker, Youth Prevention Specialist, provided an overview of the numerous resources and programs they provide. Pat and Ann encouraged interested participants to contact MCCPI at (410) 875-3425. Additionally, Claude Nelson, Jr., State D.A.R.E. Coordinator, set up the

D.A.R.E. display and provided brochures for our participants.

One of the highlights of the forum was the presentation by Lt. Col. Rick Hite, Commander, Youth Services Division, Baltimore City Police, and two members of “Get Out of the Game”, Officer Kevin Robertson and Officer Keith Harrison. Officer Robertson’s rendition of an anti-youth gang prevention video, “100 Words” showed the outcome of the violence perpetrated by some youth in our neighborhoods and left participants better prepared to address youth violence issues in their communities.

To end our Forum on a high note, Rick Harding, Physical Training Coordinator, Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions demonstrated personal safety techniques and tips. Rick’s enthusiasm and great audience participation combined to produce an informative and fun session.



Lt. Col. Rick Hite, Baltimore City Police, displays one of the anti-police T-Shirts that are being marketed in Baltimore City

“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

Reducing Warrant Service Time

*By Sarah Myers, Research Specialist
Advanced and Specialized Training*

We often talk about warrant service in terms of numbers. Statewide statistics for 1998 revealed that it took approximately 326 days to serve a violation of probation/parole retake warrant. In 2006, the average warrant service time in CSAFE areas had been reduced to 71 days and during the first six months of 2007 warrant service time averaged 66 days. Many of you have heard these numbers at CSAFE sponsored programs but do we really know what contributes to this reduction in warrant service time?

In an effort to identify the contributors, teams who maintained lower warrant service time over a two year period were polled and asked for specifics on what they are doing to serve warrants in an efficient manner. By far, the number one thing is communication. Agents are notifying their CSAFE officers as soon as they know warrants have been issued. Teams are not waiting for meetings to disseminate information but instead they are calling and emailing their officers as soon as the information is available to them. They are also providing additional information including up-to-date photos, identifying information, last known addresses, known hangouts, and known friends and acquaintances. Once officers receive the information, they are sharing it with other officers. Officers are placing copies of the offenders' photo at their station, providing copies of the photo to other officers to keep in their vehicles, and providing information at roll call.

Some other things that contribute to lower warrant service times are a permanently assigned and dedicated CSAFE officer who works only in the CSAFE area as their assigned post, the chief of police taking an active role in CSAFE, an open contact policy with the chief of police, communication between agents and law enforcement on a daily basis, and maintaining police contacts in other jurisdictions in order to expedite the exchange of information.

There is no right or wrong answer to the question of how to reduce warrant service time. Each team needs to look at their available resources and decide which strategies and approaches work best for them.

Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) at the University of Maryland Launches Maryland Community Services Locator Website

*By Center for Substance Abuse Research
(CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park*

With funding from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), CESAR has created a new community services locator website. The Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) helps users to quickly find detailed resource listings for a variety of services, including maps and directions to program sites, using a single website. The current website includes listings of substance abuse treatment services, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous referral centers, housing services, parole and probation offices, public schools, and victim services, all searchable by proximity to a given address. In the future, the MDCSL's program service listings will be expanded to include other community services, such as health services, education/job readiness programs, emergency food providers and more.

We invite you to visit the MDCSL website at: <http://www.mdcsll.org>. For more information, contact the University of Maryland by email at mdcsll@cesar.umd.edu or phone (301-405-9796).

The 'T' in HEAT Stands for Treatment

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

Over the past few months, we have heard stories related to the plant, Salvia Divinorum, but a search of the Internet did not produce any statistical information relating to its abuse. Websites did suggest that Salvia users are mostly young adults and adolescents. A member of the

mint family, the Salvia plant resembles sage and can be grown indoors or outdoors in warm, humid climates. The plants can grow to over three feet tall, with bright-green leaves up to nine inches in length. On the street, Salvia Divinorum is usually referred to as “Salvia”, “Diviner’s Sage” or “Maria Pastora”.

Salvia can be ingested by chewing fresh leaves or by drinking juices extracted from the leaves. Dried leaves can be smoked as a “joint” or abusers can brew Salvia as a tea. The extracted juices can also be vaporized and inhaled. This substance is not currently regulated by the Controlled Substance Act but several states have passed legislation to control its use.

The effects of Salvia usually appear in less than one minute, last for less than 30 minutes, and are described as intense hallucinations or delusional episodes that mimic psychosis. Like the abuse of the hallucinogen LSD, users see and hear things that are not there. Psychedelic-like changes in visual perception, mood and body sensations may also occur. Users report an inebriated feeling, similar to drinking alcohol. There is the possibility of a “bad trip” or “flashbacks.” Hallucinogens tend to be psychologically addicting but there has not been enough research to know if Salvia is also physically addicting.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at 410-978-3253 or by email at jrhedrick@dpscs.state.md.us

CSAFE Police Officer Receives Award

On December 11, 2007, Corporal Antoine Patton, Cambridge CSAFE HEAT Team member, was awarded the Governor’s Crime Prevention Award for Law Enforcement Officers. This award is given to law enforcement officers who have made an outstanding effort in their department and in their communities to develop and implement crime prevention programming. Additionally, the Cambridge Police Department received the Governor’s Crime Prevention Award for Law Enforcement Agencies.

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.
- On the Job Training: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

DATES:

January 25, 2008
February 29, 2008
March 28, 2008

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? You may email your comments to Susan Vandegrift at svandegrift@dpscs.state.md.us



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

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