

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

Patrick L. Bradley, Executive Director



Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

October – December 2008

Volume 6, Issue 4

CSAFE – VPI Summit

By Sarah Myers, Research Specialist
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

On November 13, 2008, over 200 HEAT Team members joined together for the annual CSAFE-VPI Summit. After the keynote address by Kristen Mahoney, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, attendees participated in a panel discussion with State's Attorneys regarding their involvement in CSAFE-VPI. Participants then heard from Dr. Richard Berk, Professor of Statistics and Criminology, University of Pennsylvania, who discussed the work he has done in forecasting murder among an offender population. After his presentation, he encouraged questions and an enthusiastic dialogue ensued. During the afternoon session, participants



Keynote speaker, Kristen Mahoney, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

attended two of several workshops which included: Today's Firearms, Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI), Maryland Street Drugs, and the Maryland Sexual Offender Registry.

Crimereports.com

By Sarah Myers, Research Specialist
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

Crimereports.com, the latest website to offer an Internet-based mapping application, is being used by municipalities to disseminate crime information to the public. This new program compiles crime data from its client police departments each day and allows visitors to the website the ability to map the data in several ways including by date, crime type, and location. A short narrative of the crimes can also be entered by local police to further enhance the effectiveness of this new tool. This application is being used to fill a gap for small police departments that do not have the resources to use electronic, interactive crime mapping in their own enforcement strategies. Crimereports.com currently charges \$99 a month to small municipalities and \$199 for larger ones, depending on the amount of data being made available.

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4th Annual Neighborhood Safety Team Forum

By Karen Fortune, Community Liaison
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

On September 25, 2008, the 4th Annual Neighborhood Safety Team Forum was held at the BWI Ramada in Hanover, Maryland. A single burning candle was projected on the screen to symbolize the many Candlelight Vigils that communities throughout Maryland have used as a mechanism to express their grief and frustration over a killing in their neighborhood. The goal of this year's Forum was to address the question of what happens when the candle goes out.

The Keynote address was delivered by Virginia Geckler, Policy Analyst, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. Karen Fortune, Community Liaison, Advanced and Specialized Training Unit, followed with the presentation "How to Mobilize Communities." The one hundred and twenty-four participants next enjoyed a Community Mobilization Activity which provided a snapshot of mobilization strategies CSAFE teams are currently using in their communities. Carolyn Brooks, Lead Local Coordinator, Hagerstown, Maryland, presented "Mobilizing Partnerships for an Effective Neighborhood Safety Team." The final speaker, Neil Shachter, President of the North West Citizens on Patrol, Baltimore City, discussed examples of their program's successes.

Participants returned to their communities with information about a variety of mobilization strategies. Through their commitment, the candle of hope will continue burn brightly.

"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

Crime Victims & Witnesses Rights

By Shirley Haas, Victims' Rights' Compliance Coordinator, GOCCP

After a brutal beating by a prospective employer, Gail convinced her attacker not to kill her. Instead, she asked him to take her to the hospital for medical care and tell authorities that someone on the street had beaten her. Once she was taken into a treatment room, she told the medical personnel the truth, and her attacker was apprehended on the hospital grounds.

Unsure of what to expect from the criminal system or where to go for help, Gail called an attorney for advice and learned that she, as the victim of a crime, had rights. By obtaining a copy of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention's *Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services* pamphlet**, Gail was able to seek financial assistance through the MD Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, no cost counseling from direct victim services providers, information on how to be notified if her offender's custody status changed, a better understanding of the criminal justice process, and her role as a victim/witness in the prosecution of her offender.

Gail still has trouble sleeping some nights and the scars on her face remind her of the ordeal, but she's ready to take the stand and testify. She now knows what to expect. With the help of the many victim service agencies who came to her aid, she is moving forward from victim to survivor.

**Law enforcement officers are required under Criminal Procedure Article 11-104(b) to distribute this pamphlet on first contact with a crime victim.

This information is a vital link in a crime victims' ability to recover from trauma. For more information, please contact Shirley Haas, Victims' Rights' Compliance Coordinator, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. Shirley@goccp-state-md.org, 1-877-687-9004.

There have been many questions regarding the return of Stephanie Bohn, Bob Ertter and Susan Vandegrift to full-time status at DPP. They will surely be missed, but I would like to take this opportunity to assure all of our partners that it is “business as usual” at AST. We are all looking forward to a productive 2009.

~Adam Starr, Administrator, AST

Hagerstown CSAFE Celebrates Partnerships

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

On December 5, 2008, Carolyn Brooks, CSAFE Coordinator for the Hagerstown Team, along with several volunteers, hosted a special luncheon at the Elgin Station Community Room in Hagerstown. The luncheon was held to recognize the numerous supporters that have collaborated through the years to improve the quality of life in Hagerstown communities.

More than 85 guests gathered to celebrate the holiday season. In attendance were the Mayor and Police Chief of Hagerstown; the Sheriff, Administrator and Commissioners of Washington County; representatives from the Department of Juvenile Services, Division of Parole and Probation, Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions Advanced and Specialized Training Unit, the Hagerstown Housing Authority, the CSAFE After-School program, and several community members.

In keeping with their mission, the Hagerstown CSAFE Team collected cash donations as well as new, unwrapped toys for children and families in their community who are in need of assistance. The Hagerstown CSAFE partners are an example to all of us. During these difficult economic times, it is heartwarming to experience such generosity and concern for those who are less fortunate.



Left to Right: Washington County Sheriff, Doug Mullendor; County Commissioners President, John Bar; CSAFE Coordinator Carolyn Brooks, and Hagerstown Police Chief, Art Smith shown at the December 5th luncheon in Hagerstown.

CSAFE Participates in Televised Thanksgiving Parade

By Mary Kendall, Program Director, Maryland International Corridor CSAFE

On Saturday November 22, 2008, the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE’s March for Safe Streets and Walkable Communities joined Montgomery County and the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT) to promote World Remembrance Day for Road Crash Victims and Their Families by participating in the Thanksgiving Parade held in downtown Silver Spring. Participants distributed remembrance bracelets and displayed signs to promote safe walking and driving practices. The parade included several 50’ balloons, floats, the Washington Redskins Marching Band, along with local high school bands, fire engines, mounted police, and the Shiners. The highlight of the event was a special visit from Santa. Montgomery County Executive, Isaiah Leggett, served as Grand Marshall of the parade that was broadcast live on News Channel 8.

The ‘T’ in HEAT Stands for Treatment

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

Research indicates that most “inhalant abuse” is related to adolescents ages 12 to 17. According to a 2007 nationwide survey of 50,000 youth conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, more 8th graders have tried inhalants in their lifetime than any other illicit drug, including marijuana. Inhalant use at least once during a respondent’s lifetime was reported by 15.6% of 8th graders, 13.6% of 10th graders, and 10.5% of 12th graders. These statistics represent a decline for the last few years for the 8th and 12th grades, but a slight increase for the 10th graders.

The abuse takes place when chemical vapors are inhaled to produce mind-altering (getting high) effects. These substances are rarely administered by any other method and the effects can vary greatly. A variety of products found in the home and workplace can be inhaled to obtain the high. The fumes of these items may be sniffed from an open container or “huffed” from a rag soaked in the substance and held to the face. Also, the open container or soaked rag can be placed in a bag where the vapors become concentrated before being inhaled. Aerosols are sometimes inhaled from a spray bottle, using a rag as a filter.

Physical effects of inhalant abuse resemble those of alcohol intoxication, including slurred speech, lack of coordination, euphoria, and dizziness. Inhaling highly concentrated amounts of the vapors can even induce heart failure.

If you have any comments, I can be contacted at 410-978-3253 or jrhedrick@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>

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

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

January 23, 2009

- 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.

March 6, and Apr. 17, 2009 times to be determined. 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



MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

1623 Forest Drive, Suite 203
Annapolis, Maryland 21403
Phone: 410-295-1287
Fax: 410-990-1523

Email: AST@dpscs.state.md.us
<http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/aboutdpscs/pct/ast/index.shtml>