



Promising Practices 2007 – 2008



Innovative Approaches to Public Safety

We wish to thank all of our Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) partners for their outstanding efforts to insure the safety of Maryland citizens through interagency collaboration and creativity.



**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Maryland Police & Correctional Training Commissions**

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CSAFE

The Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) initiative emphasizes an interagency effort between state and local public safety agencies to reduce crime and ensure public safety. Teams composed of law enforcement officers, juvenile services case workers, and parole and probation agents work together to accomplish the three goals of CSAFE which are:

- **Reduce crime,**
- **Reduce recidivism, and**
- **Improve the quality of life.**

Teams work to accomplish these goals through effective policing, enhancements to offender tracking and community reentry, warrant tracking and technology, and community capacity building.

Each of our CSAFE partners represents a piece of a larger puzzle. Unassembled, the individual pieces hold little value; however, when all of the pieces are put together, their maximum potential is achieved and the big picture emerges.

On the following pages you will find a number of promising practices that are occurring throughout the State of Maryland. These promising practices are innovative approaches that have met with success in one or more CSAFE areas and have the potential of being applied in other areas of the State.

For additional information about CSAFE or any of the following promising practices, please contact the Advanced & Specialized Training Unit at 410-295-1287 or toll free 877-411-7547. You may also contact us by email at AST@dpsc.state.md.us.

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Public Safety

Berlin

Berlin has a child protective services social worker provided to the team by the Worcester County Department of Social Services (DSS). Because of this, child investigations receive a high priority and are given almost immediate attention. One of the first questions asked is regarding other people in the home and who might be working with him/her and in what capacity. Often times, the information shared is pertinent to the case being investigated and provides valuable insight into the home situation. CSAFE police officers often accompany DSS on home visits and may also coordinate with the school resource officer to see the children at school. The school resource officer has an amazing amount of knowledge about the local schoolchildren. Several cases of abuse and neglect have been resolved to a satisfactory ending by utilizing the knowledge of DSS, Law Enforcement, Department of Juvenile Services, and the Division of Parole and Probation.

Cherry Hill

Cherry Hill partners with the Southern District, Baltimore City Police in their Citizens on Patrol (COP). The COP has a core group of twenty walkers, many of them seniors, who readily walk in other communities in the Southern District. Those communities also have core groups that in turn walk in neighborhoods other than their own. The Cherry Hill COP has been so successful they have received requests from communities outside of the Southern District to help them organize their own COP.

Chums

Through a partnership with the Baltimore City Police Department and the Mayor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Chums has been addressing a growing gang problem in the community by actively engaging gang members in their strongholds. From guidance by the Get Out of the Game Unit, Chums held its first in house group gang activity, the showing of the HBO documentary "The Bastard's at the Party". The first group to take part was a blood set, the J-30 crew from Jennifer Ave and 30th Street. The group discussion that followed offered some insight into a disturbing pattern of neglect, frustration, and apathy. While there is no immediate data to support significant changes in criminal patterns, following this meeting gang tags that were removed have not reappeared. The additional need for early intervention and early mental health counseling as a preventative measure cannot be overstated. This was the first in a series of in house meetings; subsequent meetings with other gang members will be scheduled. The hope is to establish an ongoing dialogue that leads to beneficial change within some of the gang members.

Deep Creek

The Deep Creek HEAT team police officer has developed a gang training lesson plan. This gang training is offered primarily as an awareness tool to adults in the community. So far, presentations have been made to community groups, business groups, churches, school faculty, the health department and the Division of Parole and Probation and Department of Juvenile Services. Participants are asked to inform police of gang related activity and due to their increased awareness, call for service have increased.

EMBARC

The EMBARC community organizers used information provided by the States Attorney's Office to create a map showing the location of arrests and what offenses individuals were being arrested for in the CSAFE area. The map, done with colored push pens, allowed them to see what blocks and streets posed problems. They noticed one street in particular was a major corridor where a large number of drug arrests were made. And near the large clusters individuals were also arrested for conspiracy and distribution charges. This information was used to form crime fighting strategies for the Neighborhood Safety Team.

Wheaton

The Wheaton team has incorporated sex offenders into the CSAFE model by developing a book of sex offenders living in the CSAFE area. Demographic information on the sex offenders, including photographs and case information, are included in the book. As a result of this book, police are able to identify and locate non-compliant sex offenders faster.

Community

Cherry Hill

It is important to always look for additional funding to enhance CSAFE; however, there may not always be sufficient time to dedicate to fundraising or looking for other grant dollars. The Cherry Hill CSAFE community coordinator has engaged students from the University of Maryland to help with grant writing. The team benefits through increased funds and students benefit by receiving class credit.

Deep Creek

The Deep Creek team holds a yearly Hispanic/Latino Fair for community residents. In addition to fun activities such as face painting, music, and balloon animals, a number of service providers lend their support. Some of the service providers include the American Lung Association, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Young Parent Support Center, Baltimore County Public Library, Epoch Counseling Center, and The Community Colleges of Baltimore County (CCBC) – Center for Adult & Family Literacy. The event is advertised in a variety of ways. Press releases are issued to local papers, flyers are distributed to area schools, and volunteers network in the community handing out flyers to local businesses, residential areas, libraries, Department of Social Services, hospitals, etc.

EMBARC

The EMBARC community organizers produce a newsletter called Safety First. This is a one page, double sided newsletter that highlights various activities in EMBARC. It also provides safety tips, a salute to an EMBARC resident, and community resources. It is prepared on a quarterly basis and is distributed throughout the community.

Harpers Choice

In Harper's Choice, the pupil personnel worker conducts an after school group at the local middle school for the 12 students most at risk for failure in high school. These at risk students are identified through a combination of referrals from administration, student support staff, and faculty. Throughout the course of the year, the students are presented with a wide variety of information on topics such as: health education, substance abuse, juvenile justice, high school expectations, athletics, interpersonal skills, character education and self responsibility. Members of the HEAT team support the after school group by conducting several of these presentations throughout the year.

International Corridor

Prince George's County Police have provided a civilian Hispanic liaison to work with the community. In cooperation with Radio Viva (900 am), the liaison makes daily announcements in Spanish encouraging residents to cooperate and allow police to assist them when they are victims of crime or to inform police if they have information on pending crimes. In addition the Hispanic liaison is involved in a number of safety programs and also attends community association meetings, school meetings, and meets with residents. The Hispanic liaison has become a valuable resource for community residents.

Parole

The Parole CSAFE site has a Hispanic Liaison on staff. This liaison serves in a wide capacity. The Liaison holds monthly anti-gang meetings for youth in the CSAFE area; while the focus is primarily geared toward keeping kids out of gangs any topic that comes up is addressed. Additionally the liaison helps educate members of the Hispanic community on a wide variety of topics and laws. He also helps them to understand the procedures for obtaining bank accounts, getting a driver's license, obtaining a loan, etc. Finally the liaison serves as a translator for law enforcement, Parole and Probation agents and the Hispanic community.

Princess Anne

Operation Clean Streets and Lots is a combined effort of law enforcement, code enforcement, public works, community volunteers and Somerset County Detention Center inmates. An officer oversees a crew of inmates and volunteers who clean targeted streets and lots within the CSAFE boundaries. The operation is held on weekends at least twice month with the Department of Public Works supplying equipment.

Riverview

The Riverview team has developed a series of presentations for the Hispanic/Latino community. The goals of the program are to educate the growing Hispanic population about laws and to explain the role of the police in their community. The first presentation stressed that police can be trusted and that they are here to help. Additional topics include what to do when police come to your house and how to obtain a license.

Salisbury Westside

In Salisbury, both the Salisbury Police Department and the Wicomico Sheriff's Office run Earn – A – Bike programs. The police department operates a summer Earn – A – Bike Program for Westside CSAFE area youth. Kids range in age from 9 – 15 and perform community service for a bicycle and helmet of their choice, both provided by the police department. The only requirement is successful completion of 40 hours of supervised community service activity. Youth who complete the program and their parents are also invited to a picnic at the police facility.

The Wicomico Sheriff's Office school resource officers (SRO) work with Salisbury Middle School administration to identify students who have improved their attitudes and behaviors the most. Before winter break in December, these students are rewarded with new bicycles, helmets and certificates of improvement. Each summer the SROs also partner with the Westside Salvation Army on a bike rodeo that teaches bicycle safety and repair. If any additional funding is available, bicycles are also presented to deserving students at the rodeo.

The two local Wal-Marts donate helmets and safety equipment and also offer bicycles to the law enforcement agencies at a reduced cost. Both the Sheriff's Office and City Police request that the balance of the cost for the bicycles be included in their annual CSAFE budget as they feel this is an important component of their community policing effort. In the past 8 years, more than 200 bicycles have been given away and more than 3,500 hours of community service have been completed.

Yorkway

The team has established the Dundalk Tenant Landlord and Community Group to address problems in the CSAFE area. Some of the topics discussed are background checks on new tenants, leases that outline what is expected of tenants, and quality of life issues in the community, i.e. trash removal. Additionally they have established groups to deal with planting trees and shrubs, community clean-ups, National Night Out, home repairs, and identifying block leaders.

Offender Services

Berlin

Berlin has worked with the Maryland Job Service to bring the Mobile Job Service Unit to the CSAFE area. The Mobile Unit comes to the Berlin Library at least once a month. It also visits other areas that offenders frequent, including the detention center, courts, Department of Social Services, and schools. The mobile unit is a fully functioning office with helpful staff, computers, training, and job listings. It is available for any person seeking a job and has been a valuable resource for the offender population.

Cherry Hill

Cherry Hill has instituted a Job Readiness Workshop. The workshops are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. These workshops are specifically for those who are under supervision. The workshops provide tools to help offenders succeed in their search for employment. Among the topics covered are: dressing for success, how to answer difficult questions about your past, how to fill out a job application, body language during an interview, covering up tattoos, and writing a resume. Gently used professional clothing is collected for those who do not have appropriate attire to go on an interview. Once initial work is done, mock interviews are held to help offenders deal with potential situations they might encounter. The average attendance at these monthly workshops has been between 12 and 20 offenders. With the success of this program, the team has received requests from offenders who are not CSAFE clients to attend the classes and the team has allowed them. The Cherry Hill CSAFE Team has had at least one participant from each of the job readiness workshops get hired within one week of attending the workshop. This has occurred because of skills learned in the workshop in spite of lengthy criminal records. The HEAT team members help the offenders see their worth instead of seeing their records. Team members believe that boosting offenders' self esteem has helped them to get 2nd interviews and even job offers when that seemed almost impossible before.

Cherry Hill

The Cherry Hill HEAT team has started a rap session between juvenile offenders who are under supervision and two adult offenders who are in compliance. The rap sessions seem to have a positive effect on both the juveniles and the adults. It helps the juveniles to hear the stories of adult offenders who have street credibility and are offering them a way to "get out of the game" without losing their dignity.

Suitland

Education Opportunities for Ex-Offenders connects offenders to the University of Maryland Equal Education Opportunity Center (UMEEOC). The primary goal of the UMEEOC is to enroll individuals in a 2 or 4 year college and specifically focuses on the 19+ population of male/females. The focus for the offender population is to identify educational levels/needs and assist with GED preparation or return to high school to earn their diploma. The team has made several referrals to the UMEEOC including an offender who is currently enrolled at Prince George's County Community College.

East Baltimore North and East Baltimore South

A CSAFE Needs Assessment Survey was developed by the community organizer for East Baltimore North and East Baltimore South. Clients were instructed to check the resources they want information about or assistance they need, i.e. treatment, employment, housing, medical assistance, obtaining identification, etc. The community organizer also met with agents to discuss needed resources. Resource needs identified by the agents and by clients are made available in a CSAFE Resource Center. The center has various handouts and information packets regarding specific resources. Additionally the community organizer invites service providers to come to the office on report days; these service providers are then available if clients wish to meet with them. Finally the community organizer is available to provide information on identified services or to help locate additional ones.

Housing/Nuisance Abatement/Code Enforcement

Palmer Park

The Joint Agency Group (JAG) consists of CSAFE, Parole and Probation, Juvenile Services, Department of Environmental Resources, fire department, and Prince George's County Public Housing. The group meets twice a month and goes to houses in the community to address issues such as unkempt grass, trash, junk automobiles in the front and back yard, lack of hot water, electricity or heat in winter. Each agency will cite or help where applicable. For example, the fire department will give out smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The JAG group often acts as a Home Owners Association for the community since none exists. An additional benefit to having CSAFE and Public Housing involved is their ability to enter houses under their jurisdiction without having to obtain a search warrant.

Pen Lucy

Pen Lucy has created a Problem House Committee in partnership with Housing & Code Enforcement, the States Attorney's Office, Baltimore City Police Department, Housing Authority of Baltimore City, Community Law Center, and Parole & Probation. The committee meets monthly to address problem houses and things reported by residents of the community. Additionally, the committee met with the Code Enforcement Attorney and presented a "hit list" of ten substandard properties in the area. This partnership has resulted in two evictions, one consent decree of the owner to sell their property within sixty days, and has made significant progress in addressing additional properties.

Pioneer City

Pioneer City has representatives from the Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County on the HEAT team. These representatives have a wealth of information for the Division of Parole and Probation, the Department of Juvenile Services, and law enforcement about who is living in a particular house and if and where they have seen individuals who have outstanding violation of probation warrants, associates, and problem residences. Team members from DPP often advise the representatives when a banned individual is living in a unit and can help with "bannable" conviction information. The representatives from the Housing Commission know just about everything that is going on in the neighborhoods and inform the police of illegal activity and can often prevent incidents from happening because of the "word on the street" about such things as fights at the bus stop, gang related activity, drug activity, etc.

Warrant Service

Berlin

The agent lets the officer know when there is a warrant and has a copy of the retake warrant faxed to the police as soon as she knows it is issued. The agent also maintains police contacts in other jurisdictions and makes them aware when warrants are issued for clients who frequent the area.

Crisfield

When the agent notifies the CSAFE officer that there is a warrant, the officer generates a message to all officers of the police department. If a picture is available it is attached to the message and a photo is posted on the police message board. Officers are also provided a copy of the photo to carry in their vehicles.

Easton

The police officer places warrants in a “memo book” that is reviewed at the beginning of each shift.

Hagerstown

The HEAT team has a permanently assigned, dedicated CSAFE officer who only works in the CSAFE area as his assigned post. Because of this the officer gets to know the offenders, their families, and other people in the CSAFE community. Agents provide up to date photos and identifying information of wanted individuals including last known address, known hangouts, and known friends/acquaintances. The officer takes this information back to the police department and it is disseminated at roll call and photos are posted at the police station. The Chief of Police also takes an active role in CSAFE and there is an open contact policy between the agents and the police department. Agents and officers communicate on a daily basis via email and cell phone at least once a day.

Harlem Park

The CSAFE officer creates a warrant packet. This packet includes the warrant number, last known addresses – home and work, face sheet and picture. This packet is taken to the district and given to the post sergeant for roll call and all officers are encouraged to review the information. The officer also maintains two offender books which are updated bi-weekly, one book is for the agents and the other is for the officer. The officer maintains two books so that he has immediate access to offender information should the agent be unavailable.

Salisbury Church St. & Salisbury Westside

Outstanding warrants are brought up at every meeting in detailed discussion and any new information the agents have is passed on to law enforcement. In addition agents do not wait for the bi-monthly meeting to relay information that could expedite a warrant getting served; they call law enforcement immediately once information is obtained.

Hillendale

The HEAT Team reviews the criminal history of all new offenders and attempts to link an offender's description or criminal history to crimes in the CSAFE area. Also, if they notice that an offender has consistently committed a certain type of offense such as robbery, auto theft, or breaking and entering they prepare bulletins with the offender's information and picture. These bulletins are circulated among the uniformed officers at roll call and copies are sent to detective units that investigate the identified types of offenses such as robbery or auto theft squads. The team also maintains a past offender book as well as a current one. They have found it useful when attempting to make identifications based on a description.

Ideas for CSAFE Teams from Past Promising Practices

- Invite representatives from the local detention center to the HEAT team meeting and ask if they can provide a list of individuals being released to the community in the next 60 days.
- Invite local judges and representatives from the State's Attorney's Office to participate in a ride along in the CSAFE area.
- Invite subject matter experts to present at team meetings i.e. gang specialist, sex offender specialist.
- Provide CSAFE's Most Wanted Pictures to be posted in roll call at the police station.
- Invite representatives from various agencies and organizations to become members of your HEAT Team. Some examples include treatment specialists, pupil personnel workers, school resource officers, representatives from the State's Attorney's Office, Department of Social Services, Drug Court, and Domestic/Family Violence Network.
- Hold a joint meeting with the CSAFE team closest to your site to share information and discuss ways to partner.
- Attend Homeowner's Association meetings, Tenant Association Meetings, Business Association Meetings, and Property Managers meetings.
- Partner with specialized units within police departments to exchange information about offenders in the CSAFE area.
- Hold offender/client orientations, this is an opportunity to take a digital photo and have guest speakers talk about employment, treatment, or other topics to assist with reentry. This will also give the offender a chance to meet the team and to understand how the CSAFE program works.
- Share warrant information with other officers in the CSAFE area so all warrants can be served quickly.
- Check with the local police department to see if a log of recent warrants issued by the courts is available. If so, the CSAFE Officer could obtain the list and the team could review to see if there are any issued for CSAFE clients.
- Teach community members about crime prevention and safety.
- Conduct mock interviews to educate offenders about the importance of proper attire during job interviews and provide other helpful tips.
- Hold a health fair that provides a variety of health related topics such as treatment and mental health.
- Create a women's or men's support group for clients.
- Review current bulletins from the University of Maryland Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) and the Drug Early Warning Systems (DEWS). This practice helps communities and CSAFE team members stay informed about drug trends.
- If your area has a Mental Health Emergency Response Team, invite a representative to the HEAT Team meeting to report on incidents involving mentally ill offenders.
- In areas where pay phones are being used by local drug dealers, work with the local phone company to have them removed.
- Involve youth needing community service hours in the removal of graffiti.
- Participate in community holiday events i.e. food baskets and Christmas toys to families in need.

- Create an Annual CSAFE Block Party, designate an area plagued by quality of life issues and have service providers participate.
- Partner with local churches and schools to hold meetings.
- Reach out to local organizations such as the Lions Club, Elks Club, etc. to assist with funding for community events.
- Sponsor a basketball game with the police department and local youth.
- Provide prevention tips/brochures at community meetings that relate to crime trends.
- Contact landlords to request they clean up graffiti on their property and seek donations from local businesses toward graffiti cleanup.
- Hold a Safe Kid's Day educate parents and children on child safety issues.
- Develop a tracking system to monitor the progress of clients assigned to the CSAFE area. The tracking system can highlight key areas of concern and will allow the team to concentrate on pertinent information. As cases are presented the tracking system can be utilized by the team to brainstorm how to most effectively work with the client and provide services.