



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

CSAFE Academy

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator, Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

The Advanced and Specialized Training Unit (AST) held its annual Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) Academy May 17-19, 2005. Over 50 participants attended the three-day event.

Highlights of the Academy included supportive remarks from Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and Secretary Mary Ann Saar, as well as Alan Woods, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and Alan Friedman, Policy Advisor and Director of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council. Attendees received training in team building, criminogenic needs, the Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) team meeting format, team safety, and presentations from experts in mental health, substance abuse, cognitive restructuring, and offender employment.

I thank everyone who helped to make the training a success. Meaningful training contributes to the success of every HEAT team in achieving the CSAFE goals of reduced crime, reduced recidivism and improving the quality of life for our citizens.



Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. addresses participants at the third annual CSAFE Academy on May 17, 2005.

Building Strong Communities

By Chief William E. Tyler, Taneytown Police Department

What do you do when you are the chief of police and every time you go into the community you are lambasted about crime? You set aside a time that is convenient for community representatives and invite them to the table to share their concerns and participate in the problem solving process.

After listening to citizen complaints about crime in each of the 12 neighborhoods that comprise Taneytown, local residents were invited to meet with me, Chief Tyler, and Councilman Darryl G. Hale once a month for as long as necessary. Ten of the 12 communities responded and Councilman Hale and I met with representatives of each community at least once during a two-month period. The exchange of information was so helpful for both sides of the table that the meetings have continued with

representatives of each neighborhood having an opportunity to meet with us quarterly.

Meeting together allows residents to discuss crime patterns and safety concerns. It also makes them responsible for contributing to the solution. The result has been an education for me about what the community considers to be effective policing as well as an education for community members about how effective police work is done. For more information, please contact Jennifer Beskid at (410) 295-1287.

Berlin Community Outreach Day

By Leslie Floyd-Forrest, Agent Senior, Division of Parole & Probation

On March 19, 2005 the Berlin CSAFE team sponsored a Community Outreach Day that took place at a local apartment complex. The landlord generously donated the use of the community center and provided prizes and candy for an Easter egg hunt. Representatives from various agencies including local police, the health department, and the sheriff's department participated. There were display booths, information for adults as well as children, and many "giveaways" such as mugs, flashlights, and stickers. Light refreshments were provided for area residents who stopped by.

This outreach was intended as a forum for residents to cite any concerns or suggestions they have regarding their community and to provide information to residents about the various agencies and programs that are available within the community. Events such as these

"The only man who behaved sensibly was my tailor; he took my measurement anew every time he saw me, while all the rest went on with their old measurements and expected them to fit me." *George Bernard Shaw*

are invaluable, allowing the team to have contact with the community in a friendly environment. Many elderly residents stopped by and were pleased to learn about various programs designed for seniors and to receive information regarding their safety. The highlight of the day for the children was the Easter egg hunt and the giant Easter baskets that were given away as prizes to several lucky children. The Berlin CSAFE team has had many successful community functions such as this in the past and will continue to sponsor them in the future. For more information, contact Agent Floyd-Forrest at 410-632-4200.

Housing Improvements Within the EMBARC Community

By Karen Fortune, Community Liaison, Advanced & Specialized Training Unit

On Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the City of Baltimore announced the acquisition of 56 buildings on East 20th Street known as Barclay Townhouses. This is significant as these buildings represent 91 rental units that have been associated with crime in the EMBARC community.

The EMBARC CSAFE area, is slated as an urban renewal district. According to a press release, "Residents, neighborhood institutions and a neighborhood coalition of several groups will be in the process to refine the redevelopment process."

The EMBARC CSAFE area has been operational for several years, promoting collaboration among public safety professionals and community groups. Expanding the theme of collaboration to allow residents, neighborhood groups, and neighborhood coalitions to work directly with government officials is one more step toward developing safe, strong communities. For more information please contact Karen Fortune at (410) 428-7508.

HATS Training Update

*By Joe Mennit, Technology Coordinator,
Advanced & Specialized Training Unit*

As of June 30, 2005, representatives of the Advanced & Specialized Training Unit have provided HATS training to over 140 CSAFE personnel in Baltimore City, as well as Baltimore, Prince George's, and Montgomery Counties. Providing this training allows HEAT team members to improve data sharing among all team members.

Additional training is scheduled for Anne Arundel, Charles, Howard, and St. Mary's Counties in July 2005. It is anticipated that all remaining counties will complete training by October 2005.

What is Success?

*By Yvette Changey, Agent I, Division of Parole
& Probation*

In May 2005, the Washington Village HEAT team (Baltimore City) held its bi-monthly meeting. Following the HEAT team-meeting format, I had the opportunity to present information about the first success story I have had since becoming an agent with the Division.

I can remember the first day he came into the office. He was in bad shape with a bad attitude and, in my opinion, needed assistance immediately. At the age of 43 he had used drugs for about half his life and could not hold a steady job.

Realizing that an investment of time could have positive results, I spent as much time as necessary with this offender, managing to get him the services he needed. At first he was a little hesitant about the changes he was being encouraged to make, gradually surrendering to the requirements of his probation.

As a result of having access to substance abuse and employment services through the HEAT team collaboration, the offender began his treatment sessions and attended faithfully.

Within one month, I noticed a change in his appearance and his attitude. More than five months later, he continues to successfully attend treatment. In addition, he is currently in the process of attending workshops for job placement. CSAFE partnerships are a powerful tool in providing assistance to those in need.

Monitoring the Progress of Offenders

*By Nick D'Alesandro, Community Liaison,
Baltimore County Department of Social
Services*

The Baltimore County Woodmoor HEAT Team, headed by First Officer Earnest L. Sasser, developed a matrix by which team members monitor the progress of parolees and probationers in the CSAFE area. The matrix highlights key areas of concern and thus allows the team to maximize its limited time together by focusing on what is truly pertinent. The first column states the first date the case is discussed, the name of the agent working on the case, and the name of the client.

Another column "Flagged" is checked, if the team agrees that this person, based on the nature of the crime and/or past criminal history, appears to be a potential danger to the community and requires extra caution and attention. The column, "What referrals given to the client?" encourages the team to brainstorm on how to most effectively work with the client to ensure that he/she, if possible, can "turn his/her life around." The "Review Date" is determined by the agent at the end of each update and ensures that the team will review the client's progress. By revisiting cases at pre-determined intervals, the Woodmoor team can ensure all clients receive the best possible,

proactive supervision. For additional information, please contact Officer Sasser at (410) 887-4712.



Nick D'Alesandro and Richard Riley of First Step review the HEAT matrix during a team meeting.

Notable accomplishments:

- Between January 1, 2005 and June 30, 2005, AST staff trained over 750 students in topics including On-the-Job training, CSAFE Academy, HIDTA Automated Tracking System, Mentally Ill Offender, Re-entry, and Neighborhood Safety Teams.
- Congratulations to Karen Fortune on her recognition by the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office for her tremendous dedication and assistance in helping communities reclaim their neighborhoods.

TRAINING

Continuing Education Classes

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

July/August/September

Neighborhood Safety Team Forum

September 21, 2005, site to be determined

Anger Management Facilitator Training

October 26 – 27, 2005, Public Safety Education & Training Center, Sykesville, MD.

CSAFE Summits

November 17 & 18, 2005, sites to be determined

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 you would like to share with our readers? You may email your comments to Jennifer Beskid, Regional Coordinator, at jabeskid@dpscs.state.md.us

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- A police chief and councilman work directly with their community.
- Berlin community outreach.
- Housing changes in Baltimore City.
- More HATS...
- Two examples of collaboration at Washington Village and Woodmoor.



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