



Promising Partnerships

A Newsletter from the
MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

July - September 2005

Volume 3, Issue 3

"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

Neighborhood Safety Team Forum

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator, Advanced & Specialized Training Unit

In 2004, the AST staff expanded to include two Neighborhood Safety Team Specialists. In a relatively short time, these two specialists working in conjunction with all AST staff were able to assess strengths and needs for many Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) areas across the state. They identified the need for a networking opportunity, resulting in the first ever Neighborhood Safety Team (NST) Forum.

What is an NST Forum? Let me start by describing an NST. The NST is an opportunity for those individuals, merchants, faith-based representatives, volunteers, and others to come together and develop strategies for improving the quality of life in CSAFE neighborhoods. The NST Forum is a vehicle for those individual neighborhood groups to come together and network with statewide NSTs.

On September 21, 2005, over 170 representatives from more than 90% of CSAFE areas met representatives from state agencies and non-profit organizations whose goal and purpose is to provide services within local communities. They also received training on gangs, drugs, sex offenders, homeland security,

youth violence and how to "measure success." As an added attraction Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele was the keynote speaker.



Glen Plutschak, Administrator AST, presents Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele with a CSafe shirt at the 1st annual NST Forum

Washington Village Neighborhood Safety Team Meeting: Community Involvement as A Promising Practice

By Karen Fortune, Community Liaison, Advanced & Specialized Training

The Washington Village CSAFE area in Baltimore City is challenged by drug activity, juvenile crime, and prostitution. Recently, more than 30 community residents attended a Public Safety and Community Mobilization Meeting, (Neighborhood Safety Team Meeting). During this meeting, residents were able to voice their concerns about the crime that is taking place in their neighborhood.

As the result of this meeting and the collective "community voice," high intensity floodlights

were placed in strategic locations in the community to deter drug activity. These lights, which are powered by a generator, prompt calls from community members when they are not working. As many people working with communities understand, resident attendance is key; therefore, members of the Public Safety Meeting have been active to ensure community representation at these meetings. As a result, there has been an increase in resident participation in both the Citizens on Patrol and Operation Crime Watch programs.

Currently, residents are working with members of the Public Safety Meeting team to secure funding for cameras. These cameras will be placed throughout the neighborhood on the homes of volunteer residents. Residents are also working with city officials and the Washington Village CSAFE team to convert a lot filled with trash into a tot lot.

Through the efforts of Lou Takacs, Public Safety Program Coordinator and Brian Jones, Community Organizer, residents' concerns are being heard every day, as progress toward making Washington Village a safer community continues daily.

Taking Re-Entry One Step Further

*By Richard Bingham, Community Liaison,
Advanced & Specialized Training Unit*

Imagine a training audience that includes representatives from parole & probation, law enforcement, faith-based communities, and other community groups. Add a formerly incarcerated offender and title the training Opening the Door for Re-Entry Into Our Community.

“One can't talk oneself out of problems they have behaved themselves into.”

Stephen Covey

That is exactly what happened in July 2005 when Gail Treglia of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Community Policing Institute (MARCPI) and AST staff facilitated training in Forest Heights, Maryland.

The training focused on 5 modules:

1. Perceptions and Understanding
2. Challenges of Re-entry
3. Ethics and Responsibilities in Re-entry
4. Decision-Making
5. Resources.

Participants were provided an opportunity for the development of trust, support, and guidance for the successful re-entry of ex-offenders into their communities. The training which was funded by a grant from The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Policing Services, was well received.

Seat Pleasant Education Summit

*By Richard Bingham, Community Liaison,
Advanced & Specialized Training Unit*

On Thursday, July 7, 2005, the Honorable Eugene W. Grant, Mayor of Seat Pleasant “A City of Excellence”, held an Education Summit at the John E. Feggans Center in Seat Pleasant. The summit provided an opportunity to bring together all segments of the population to address educational disparities, truancy, school safety, gaps in funding/resources, low educational attainment, parental involvement and other challenges that impede, interrupt, or deny youth access to a high quality education.

The summit was well attended by both elected officials and principals from the elementary and high schools. The keynote addresses were given by Dr. Beatrice Tignor, Prince George's County Board of Education, and Dr. Richard Steinke, State Board of Education. HEAT team members including Officer E. Ivey (Seat Pleasant Police Department), Agent Tanique Brown (DPP), Probation Specialist Lisa Smith

(DJS) and Community Prosecutor C.T. Wilson (SAO) attended. The Mayor recognized the HEAT team and acknowledged the great work that they are doing.

The purpose of the summit was to develop committees that will work towards establishing meaningful and necessary goals and objectives that will drive the committees. The summit is compatible with the concept of the Neighborhood Safety Team (NST), and it is our hope that future committees will work with the representatives of Advanced & Specialized Training Unit's Neighborhood Safety Team Resource Unit.

Observations From A Dual CSAFE Worker

By Officer Jason King, Salisbury Police Department

Recently, I had the opportunity to share highlights of my career as both a CSAFE Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) agent and a Community Police Officer with the Salisbury Police Department. In both roles, I determined that the CSAFE program has helped public servants to make communities safer and improve the quality of life for residents. Two examples are provided below.

During a joint home visit with the Salisbury CSAFE area's probation officer, I met a probationer with an extensive history of drug involvement, including jail time. Several weeks later, I had an opportunity to review a surveillance video in an attempt to identify a suspect involved in illegal drug distribution. I immediately recognized the suspect as the probationer I had met a few weeks earlier. This suspect was later arrested for distribution of narcotics and absconding from probation.

Not all cases result in arrest and removal from the community. In another case, I recovered a \$30.00 piece of crack cocaine from an addict. The suspect disclosed that he was on probation and an addict. Charges were deferred and the

suspect understood that he was to seek treatment. The suspect's information was shared with the Salisbury CSAFE DPP agent. Through our work, we have been able to keep tabs on this suspect and confirmed that he is working regularly while continuing to participate in treatment.

The above experiences, coupled with many other interactions, have shown me that the success of CSAFE lies in community participation. My best experiences with this program have involved residents becoming empowered to change their neighborhoods for the better. I look forward to continuing my work with CSAFE and the community I serve.



Residents of the Crisfield CSAFE area enjoy a cookout as summer winds down and youth prepare for a return to the 2005/2006 school year.

Going Back to School, Crisfield Style

By Robert Ertter, Field Supervisor I, Division of Parole & Probation

On August 30, 2005, members of the Crisfield HEAT team hosted their annual Back to School event. The event featured a cookout where plenty of hotdogs and sodas were provided to local neighborhood families. The team received donations from area businesses so that school supplies could be distributed to the children. The event was well attended and there were plenty of smiles to go around.

TRAINING

Continuing Education Classes

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

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

An Examination of Gang Related & Drug Related Witness Intimidation

November 4, 2005, Frederick County Law Enforcement Center, Frederick, MD

November 15, 2005, National Guard Armory, Cheltenham, MD

December 2, 2005, Snow Hill, MD

December 9, 2005, Bel Air Fire Department, Bel Air, MD

HATS, 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 in Sykesville, MD

Warrant Tracking & Key Indicator Training:

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

HATS: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

On the Job Training: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

October 28, 2005

November 30, 2005

December 9, 2005

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

In this issue:

- A message from the administrator.
- The Washington Village CSAFE Area's Promising Practices
- Moving toward Re-entry
- Education Summit in Seat Pleasant
- A CSAFE worker's observations
- Back to school – Crisfield style

Notable Accomplishments

On August 9, 2005, AST presented at the American Corrections Association (ACA) Conference on the CSAFE process. The presenters were Glen Plutschak, AST; Ernest Sasser, Baltimore County Police; Pat Banks, DPP; Anthony Myers, DJS; and Carolyn Brooks, Hagerstown CSAFE. Over 60 participants from across the country attended. AST continues to receive phone calls and emails from workshop participants asking for more details and advising how much they enjoyed the workshop.



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>

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