



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER
580 TAYLOR AVENUE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator
410-260-1295

November 1, 2016

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
Chair, Senate Budget and
Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House, H-101
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: Annual Report of the Office of Problem Solving Courts
CJ § 3-8C-12 SB469/Ch. 71, 2010; 2007_p16_JUD_Annual Report
On the Problem Solving Courts (and truancy)

Dear Messrs and Madam:

Pursuant to Courts and Judicial Proceedings, § 3-8C-12 SB 469/Ch. 71, 2010, and the 2007 Joint Chairmen's Report page 16, please find enclosed the Annual Report of the Office of Problem Solving Courts (and truancy) for Fiscal Year 2016. As you will see, these court programs seek to address the behavioral manifestations associated with drug and alcohol addiction, mental health problems, and habitual truancy.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 260-1295, or via email at pamela.harris@mdcourts.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator

Enc.

Hon. Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
Hon. Michael E. Busch
Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer
Hon. Maggie McIntosh
November 1, 2016
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cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
Honorable John W. Debelius, III, Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge, District Court
Honorable Nicholas E. Rattal, Chair, Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee
Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chair, Public Safety, Transportation and
Environment Subcommittee
Honorable Keith E. Haynes, Chair, Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
Jennifer Keiser, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Wayne Robey, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Faye Matthews, Deputy State Court Administrator
Roberta Warnken, Chief Clerk, District Court
Kelley O'Connor, Assistant Administrator, Government Relations
Lou Gieszl, Assistant Administrator, Programs
Gray Barton, Director, Office of Problem Solving Courts
Connie Kratovil-Lavelle, Director, Family Administration
Victoria Gruber, Chief of Staff, Senate President
Alexandra Hughes, Chief of Staff, House Speaker
Matthew Bennett, Policy Analyst
Matthew Jackson, Policy Analyst
Ben Wilhelm, Budget Analyst
Sarah Albert, Mandated Reports Specialist
Cathy.Kramer@mlis.state.md.us

Problem-Solving Courts

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016



Administrative Office of the Courts
November 1, 2016



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Gray Barton, Director, Office of Problem-Solving Courts
Administrative Office of the Courts
Programs Department
2001 E/F Commerce Park Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-260-3617
gray.barton@mdcourts.gov

cover photo:
Frederick County Circuit Court Judge Julie Stevenson Solt
and a Frederick County Adult Drug Court Graduate.

Executive Summary

The Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC), which began in 2002 as the Drug Treatment Court Commission, was tasked to oversee the six existing operational drug courts and to expand the concept of coordinated substance abuse treatment and intensive supervision with judicial oversight. Today, there are thirty-six drug courts, two re-entry courts, three mental health courts, ten truancy reduction courts, two veterans courts, and one Back-On-Track program in Maryland. Over the years, hundreds of criminal justice and treatment professionals have had access to professional development courses, on a wide range of topics such as human trafficking, drug testing, problem gambling, and problem-solving court best practices in areas such as: constitutional issues, ethics and federal confidentiality laws. During this time, data collection has changed as well; where paper surveys once were faxed, Maryland now benefits from a real-time web-based data management system. When the Commission first was formed, there were no general funds dedicated to problem-solving courts; now with the help of OPSC, there are upwards of nine million dollars of state and federal funds dedicated to problem-solving courts annually in Maryland.

Problem-solving courts offer a non-traditional approach to integrating treatment provision and criminal justice case processing. These courts rely on close collaboration by multidisciplinary teams, including members from the judicial and treatment communities, to provide accountability, treatment, and services to offenders to reduce substance abuse and recidivism.

As part of the annual appropriation to the Judiciary, OPSC provided over \$4 million in grants to Maryland's Circuit and District problem-solving courts during fiscal year 2016. These funds were used for program staff, treatment, drug testing, travel and training, and ancillary services that directly benefited court participants.

During fiscal year 2016, 3,919 individuals participated in problem-solving courts in Maryland. Judges and magistrates met with participants in mental health, re-entry, veteran, and drug courts nearly 22,800 times in court hearings. Problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, community-based programs available to address aberrant behavior associated with addictions and mental illnesses.

OPSC continues to provide direct assistance to both planning and operational programs to ensure continued positive outcomes and sustainability. Training and education for problem-solving court practitioners are integral parts of expanding the field. The Judiciary continues to set high expectations for monitoring and evaluating these problem-solving courts to ensure the use of best practices. As these programs continue to be successful in Maryland, the problem-solving approach will gradually become more integrated into the traditional adjudicatory system.

Problem-Solving Court Definition

Problem-Solving Courts address matters that are under the court's jurisdiction through a multidisciplinary and integrated approach that incorporates collaboration among court, government, and community-based organizations.

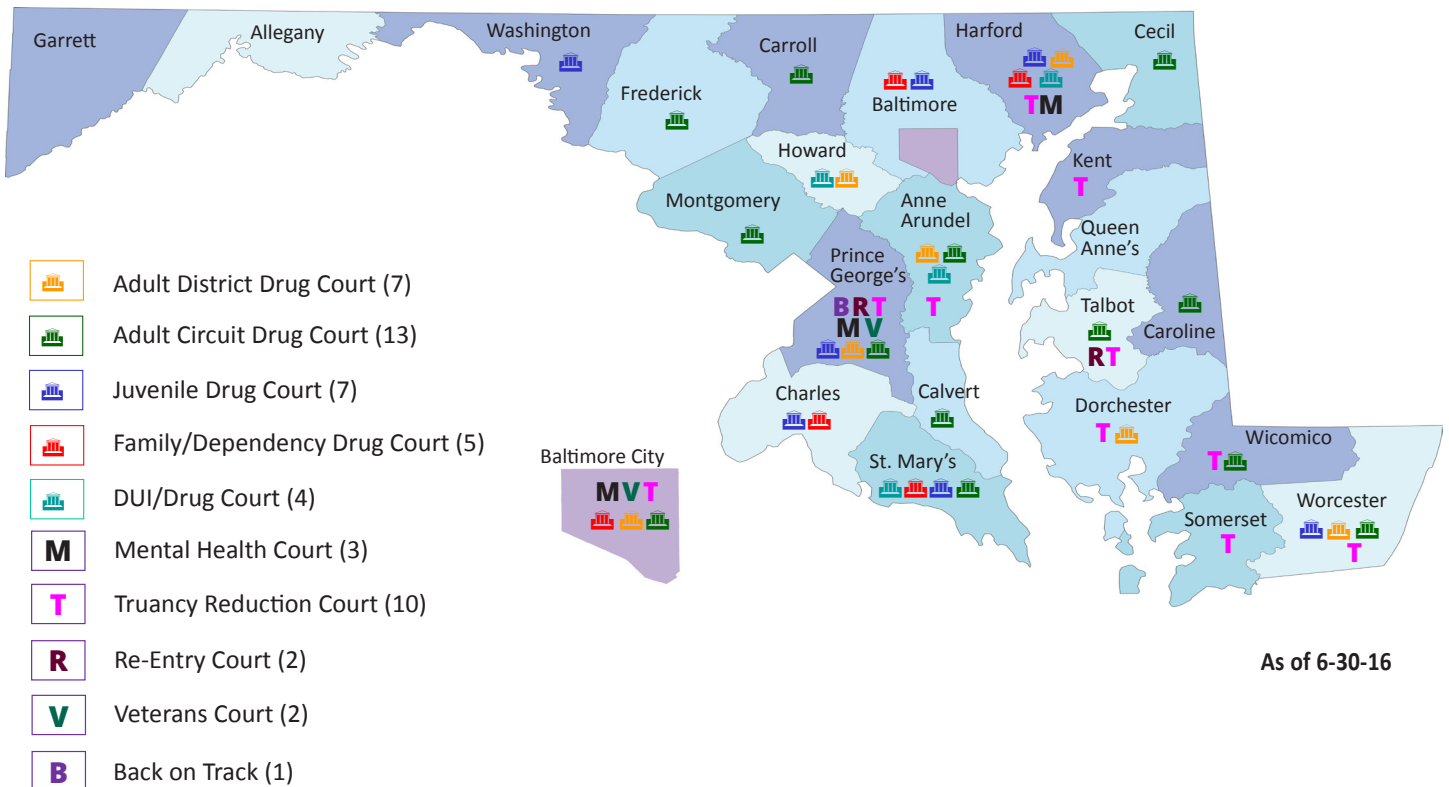
History

In 1994, one of the first drug courts in the country was initiated in Baltimore City to address substance abuse issues for those caught in the seemingly endless cycle of the criminal justice system. In 2002, the Maryland Judiciary established the Drug Treatment Court Commission (Commission) for the purpose of supporting the development of drug court programs throughout Maryland. The Commission led the Judiciary’s effort to implement and maintain drug court programs in the State. Commission members included: Circuit and District Court judges, legislators, representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional

Services, State’s Attorney’s Offices, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

In December 2006, then Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order to establish a Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts to institutionalize the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to include all problem-solving courts. At the same time, the Office of Problem-Solving Courts was formed in the Administrative Office of the Courts, to assume the role held by the Commission and to address the needs of other problem-solving courts in Maryland.

Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland



Oversight

Office of Problem Solving Courts

The Office of Problem Solving Courts (OPSC) is a department in the Administrative Office of the Courts, Programs Division, responsible for assisting the problem-solving courts in development, maintenance, and advancement of a collaborative therapeutic system. OPSC has overseen the creation of problem-solving court programs in 21 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland and works with public and private stakeholders to develop and establish best practices in problem-solving courts.

The OPSC oversees the financial support for Maryland's problem-solving courts and is responsible for setting and enforcing programmatic guidelines, creating a statewide management information system, and targeting new and expanding populations for problem-solving courts. Working with the Judiciary's justice partners, the OPSC continues to serve as the court's liaison to sustain and advance problem-solving courts in Maryland.

New Programs

In fiscal year 2016, the Court of Appeals, with the recommendation from the Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee and the Office of Problem-Solving Courts, approved applications for the following jurisdictions to begin operating new problem-solving courts:

Baltimore City District Veterans Treatment Docket

The Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Docket is a court-supervised, comprehensive, and voluntary treatment-based program for former military service members charged with misdemeanors or certain felonies in the District Court. The docket emphasizes rehabilitation over incarceration, similar to a drug court or a mental health court. Providing supervision and services for up to one year, the program will utilize a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist to link eligible veterans to assistance and services through

the Department of Veterans Affairs. This court started in October 2015.

Montgomery County District and Circuit Mental Health Court

Montgomery County's Circuit Court and District Court are establishing a joint mental health court to serve adults assessed and diagnosed to be suffering from or impaired by a mental illness, who are deemed to be competent, and who are charged with or on probation for low-level offenses. Prospective participants will be considered for participation in the Mental Health Court program if the criminal conduct is related to the person's mental illness. These courts will start in the fall of 2016.

Prince George's County Circuit Court, Back-On-Track Program

The Prince George's County Back-On-Track Program is a diversion program focused on reducing recidivism among first-time, nonviolent felony drug offenders. The target population is 18 to 26 year old male and female defendants who have no prior felonious or violent convictions. Eligible participants will be given the opportunity to opt into a 12 to 18-month program, designed to connect individuals to a career pathway to economic security that links education and training, helps secure life sustaining wage jobs, and helps participants meet their civic obligations. After the successful completion of the program, participants will have the opportunity to have the offense for which they are charged, removed from their records permanently. This program started in June 2016.

Judges and Magistrates met with drug, veterans and mental health court participants nearly **22,800** times in court hearings in FY 2016.

Maryland Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee

In 2015, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera changed the Judiciary's governance by appointing a new Judicial Council and a new set of Judicial Council Committees. The newly created Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee promotes and oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets statewide in the courts. The Committee ensures the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism, and business and technology. It monitors and directs the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, funding and support for specialty courts and special dockets. See appendix A for more information on the Judicial Council, this committee, and its membership.

The above-mentioned committee has a Problem-Solving Courts Subcommittee to assist these courts and provide a comprehensive and collaborative approach to dealing with the issues that arise for the participants in these courts. This subcommittee assists each county in employing best practices, including

providing evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, and in identifying funding to support to their courts.

In addition, the Mental Health, Alcoholism and Addiction Subcommittee explores trial court sentencing alternatives for the treatment and rehabilitation for the seriously mentally ill and substance-addicted defendants who are not enrolled in the specialty courts. This subcommittee works closely with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and other governmental agencies to monitor and provide information regarding both community and residential-based treatment.

Finally, the Business and Technology Case Management Subcommittee deals with the issues generated by the Business and Technology Specialty Docket, which includes, (1) reviewing forms, (2) using Maryland Rule 16-205 to promote consistency within the State regarding the categorization of a case as a business and technology case, (3) providing training in this area to judges, and (4) formulating recommendations on the management of complicated discovery and scientific issues that arise in certain business and technology cases.

Funding

Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants

In fiscal year 2016, OPSC solicited grant applications to support and maintain the capacity of existing and planned problem-solving courts across Maryland. The Problem-Solving Court Discretionary Grants' core purposes are to support staff and services targeted for the problem-solving court participants. Funds were allocated to problem-solving courts to address staffing needs by the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, to provide needed ancillary services, to provide critical drug/alcohol testing, to conduct trainings, and to fund services that are deemed non-reimbursable by managed care services through OPSC's partnership with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA).

Over the past several years, OPSC has recognized and responded to state budget trends by accessing resources from federal, state, and local partners in an effort to sustain programs. OPSC continues to collaborate with state partners, such as the BHA, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Highway Safety Administration, and the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention to maximize access to existing resources. These partners also supplement other resources that would otherwise be lost due to budget reductions.

OPSC/BHA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY 2016 by Jurisdiction

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	BHA Treatment Award	OPSC Treatment Award	Total by County
Anne Arundel Circuit Adult	\$263,812		\$96,300	\$619,249
Anne Arundel District Adult/DUI	\$259,137			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult/ Family/Juvenile	\$415,690	\$51,517	\$46,340	\$578,547
Baltimore City District Adult/Mental Health	\$65,000			
Baltimore Co. Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$119,353		\$187,328	\$306,681
Calvert Circuit Adult	\$112,954			\$112,954
Caroline Circuit Adult /Juvenile	\$103,291	\$62,763		\$166,054
Carroll Circuit Adult	\$203,366.36		\$134,855	\$338,221
Cecil Circuit Adult	\$221,926	\$112,581		\$334,507
Charles Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$150,288	\$81,688		\$231,976
Dorchester District Adult	\$46,718	\$139,692		\$186,410
Frederick Circuit Adult	\$229,073	\$68,111		\$297,184
Harford Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$110,000		\$151,241	\$408,491
Harford District Adult/DUI/Mental Health	\$147,250			
Howard District Adult/DUI	\$84,526	\$57,352		\$141,878
Montgomery Circuit Adult	\$239,170		\$83,581	\$322,751
Prince George's Circuit Adult/Juvenile/Re-Entry/Veterans	\$304,084.99	\$114,024		\$468,659
Prince George's District Adult/Mental Health	\$50,550			
St. Mary's Circuit Adult/Juvenile	\$197,387	\$104,622		\$32,009
Talbot Problem Solving Court	\$132,206	\$46,437		\$178,643
Washington Circuit Juvenile	\$90,585	\$48,171		\$138,756
Wicomico Circuit Adult	\$271,486	\$113,042		\$384,528
Worcester Circuit Adult/Juvenile	\$218,109		\$68,255	\$309,270
Worcester District Adult	\$22,906			
TOTAL	\$4,058,868.35	\$1,000,000	\$767,900	\$5,826,768

Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funds treatment/criminal justice programs that provide integrated drug treatment services and criminal justice supervision for high-risk, substance-dependent offenders, including drug testing and graduated sanctions for individuals that violate program requirements. The treatment services must include an assessment of the individual's drug use and criminal history, as well as placement in the appropriate level of care, such as residential, intensive outpatient, outpatient, or aftercare services. During Fiscal Year 2016, three jurisdictions received \$745,143 to fund treatment services.

Jurisdiction	HIDTA Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$122,805
Baltimore City	\$486,307
Prince George's County	\$136,031
TOTAL	\$745,143

Maryland Highway Safety Office Grants (MHSO)

The MVA's Maryland Highway Safety Office is dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing motor vehicle crashes through the administration of a comprehensive network of traffic safety programs. The purpose of the highway safety grant program is to fund activities aimed at reducing the number of motor vehicle-related crashes, deaths and injuries on Maryland roadways. During fiscal year 2016, four DUI Courts received \$251,185 to fund drug and alcohol testing, treatment services, program personnel, housing, and transportation costs.

Jurisdiction	MHSO Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$72,365
Harford County	\$63,500
Howard County	\$62,300
St. Mary's County	\$53,020
TOTAL	\$251,185

U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded a three-year \$1.5 million grant to the Judiciary in 2011, which was extended to September 2015. This grant provided Baltimore City, Carroll, Cecil, and Wicomico counties the opportunity to enhance and expand the adult drug court programs in various ways. Included in this grant are funds for a statewide comparative analysis of drug courts that had three distinct components. The first involved in-depth studies of four drug courts in Baltimore City and Carroll, Cecil, and Wicomico counties that had implemented program enhancements under the grant funding. In addition to a detailed descriptive assessment of enhancement plans and progress in implementation, program data from the Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system were gathered and analyzed to further assess drug court performance and outcomes at each site during the demonstration period. A second study component involved analyzing similar data from SMART on seven additional drug court programs in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Worcester, St. Mary's, and Montgomery counties. These sites were selected for inclusion by OPSC, and are representative of the diversity of drug courts in the state. Using 3¼ years of data (January 2014 through March 2015), trends in admissions, active participant census, and program completion results, along with common program elements (service referrals, participant sanctions, incentives) were assessed for each of these seven sites. Finally, a comparative analysis was done. Again drawing from the available SMART data, this narrative assessment compares and contrasts recent data and trends among the 11 drug courts on the same descriptive and performance measures listed above.

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, also awarded a three-year \$175,419 grant to the Judiciary

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in October 2015. This grant provided the means to partner with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to develop and implement performance measures for Maryland's Adult Drug Courts. This project has four objectives:

1. **To identify evidence-based performance measures that are appropriate for the context of Maryland**
2. **To document the performance measures in a reference document**
3. **To identify performance targets (or "benchmarks") for each measure**
4. **To provide training to drug court personnel which will enable them to utilize the performance measures for managing the performance of their courts**

To accomplish the first objective, OPSC will identify and convene a select group of drug court

professionals and stakeholders for a two-day meeting to consider recommendations made in advance by NCSC and modify them as needed for the context of Maryland's adult drug courts. The second objective will be accomplished by the production of a manual that will describe each measure in detail, justify its selection, identify required data, and clearly delineate any required calculations. To accomplish the third objective, Maryland will identify and again convene the advisory group for a second two-day meeting to consider recommendations made in advance by NCSC and modify them as needed for the context of Maryland. To accomplish the fourth objective, NCSC will design a training program based on realistic scenarios (with input from Office of Problem-Solving Courts) that describe performance issues or challenges frequently encountered by adult drug courts and that demonstrate how performance measures can be used to address the issue. This grant will be completed by September 2018.

Professional Development and Direct Assistance

Professional Development

Professional Development among problem-solving courts remains a priority for OPSC. On an annual basis, the OPSC staff and the Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee plan a series of events to encourage ongoing educational opportunities for problem-solving court teams and criminal justice professionals.

In fiscal year 2016, OPSC arranged and implemented the following professional development events:

Problem-Solving Court Symposiums

OPSC provided two one-day professional development courses for problem-solving court practitioners. The first course intended for Juvenile Problem-Solving Courts (Juvenile Drug Courts and Truancy Courts) attracted nearly 100 practitioners and was focused on

Human Trafficking, Engaging Youth and Raising their Expectations, and Strategies to Reach and Sustain Change in a Youth Population.

The second course was intended for the Adult Problem-Solving Courts (Adult Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, Re-Entry Courts, and Veteran Courts) where over 220 practitioners attended. This symposium focused on topics addressing the Adversarial Side of Problem-Solving Courts, Problem Gambling, the updated ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) Criteria, Narcotics/Street Drugs, and Problem-Solving Court Best Practices in areas such as: Constitutional Issues, Ethics and Federal Confidentiality Laws.

Public Defender Roles Training

OPSC partnered with the Office of the Public Defender to develop and facilitate a roles training for problem-solving court defense counsel. This training was designed to assist problem-solving court defense counsel in their often complex role of representing clients in problem-solving courts.

Problem-Solving Court 101

OPSC continued to provide an introduction to problem-solving courts course titled Problem-Solving Court 101. This three-hour class is intended to introduce new and existing staff to the problem-solving court model, the components of drug courts, mental health courts, truancy court, and an overview of the Office of Problem-Solving Courts.

My War on PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)

Bryan Adams presented “My War on PTSD” which recounted his military service as a sniper in Iraq, being wounded in Tikrit, his physical recovery, and his struggle with mental health issues once he returned to civilian life. He candidly discussed his PTSD and anxiety disorder, alcohol abuse and depression, and his continuing care with more than 30 problem-solving courts practitioners from around the state.

Connecting People Living with Mental Illness to Income

Lauren Waldt presented “Connecting People Living with Mental Illness to Income” to a group of more than 30 problem-solving courts practitioners from around the state. People who experience mental illness face many barriers, including maintaining a stable income. This presentation provided an overview of Social Security Disability benefits and how the SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, & Recovery) Program is assisting these individuals connect to these critical benefits throughout the State of Maryland.

[In a 2004 report, the U.S. Department of Justice estimated that there were over 700,000 veterans under criminal justice supervision.](#)

Drug Testing

Paul L. Cary, M.S., presented two sessions related to drug testing. “Drug Testing: A Review of Best Practices” used the drug testing chapter in the NADCP “Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards - Volume II” (2015) as a platform. This presentation was designed for both new and experienced drug court team members, and presented a comprehensive review designed to provide evidence-based strategies for building and maintaining a successful abstinence monitoring program. During his second session, “Interpretation of Drug Testing Results in Medication-Assisted Treatment,” Mr. Cary discussed medication-assisted treatment (MAT) as a form of pharmacotherapy, explaining that any treatment for a substance use disorder that includes a pharmacologic intervention as part of a comprehensive substance abuse treatment plan with an ultimate goal of participant recovery. This presentation explored the various issues associated with the interpretation of urine drug testing results associated with MAT for addiction.

Direct Assistance

The Office of Problem-Solving Courts provides direct assistance to court programs, including expertise and guidance to help courts improve operations, client services, and team communication. Teams may also address protocol development, ancillary services, treatment service/types, funding opportunities, court proceedings, and role clarification with support from OPSC. Teams may also discuss and devise plans to institute new research and evidence-based practices into their current operations.

In fiscal year 2016, OPSC provided direct assistance to several problem-solving courts by guiding them to improve their drug testing policy, enhancing sanction and incentive responses, reworking and expanding program entrance criteria, developing therapeutic responses to relapse, and understanding the roles and responsibilities of each team member. In a few jurisdictions, the team reviewed staffing processes and court proceedings to help the court to operate more efficiently and consistently.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system is a web-based data management system that allows the collection and standardization of data related to problem-solving courts outcomes to include all drug, re-entry, veterans, and mental health courts in Maryland.

SMART provides problem-solving court team members with direct access to information needed for making informed decisions about participants and the court. SMART is a multi-purpose tool that can be used for several purposes: identifying and prioritizing participant needs; developing knowledge about services available across agencies; and obtaining immediate access to information about participant status.

In addition, individual problem-solving courts use SMART data for a variety of purposes: to generate presentations for local community and oversight boards; to report mandated data to state or federal stakeholders; to provide information on outcome and continuous quality improvement activities to accrediting bodies; and to evaluate program and service effectiveness.

Through a contract with the University of Maryland’s Institute for Governmental Services and Research (IGSR), OPSC provides support to problem-solving court programs across Maryland in maintaining their data management. In addition to responding to thousands of technical assistance and training questions, the IGSR project team developed a SMART Case Management curriculum training for all problem-solving court case managers. IGSR also modified several components of SMART at the request of the problem-solving court users.

Drug Courts

Drug courts are a Judiciary-led, coordinated system that demands accountability of staff and court participants and ensures immediate, intensive and comprehensive drug treatment, supervision and support services using a cadre of incentives and sanctions to encourage participant compliance. Drug courts represent the coordinated efforts of the criminal justice, mental health, social service agencies, along with treatment communities that actively intervene in, and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions, such as incarceration or conditions of general probation, drug courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision that is coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment and ancillary services.

Average Amount of Time in Drug Court*

Adult Circuit	22.5 Months
Adult/DUI District	18.7 Months
Juvenile	13.7 Months
Family Recovery	9.83 Months

* For those program participants who were discharged (Completed, Unsuccessful, or Neutral) from drug courts during FY 2016



Mental Health Court Judges met with program participants over 3,420 times in court hearings in FY 2016.

Drug Court Statistical Summary

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2016
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Adult	Dec-05	55	22	3	17	131
Anne Arundel	District	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	94	21	0	23	367
Baltimore City	Circuit	Adult	Oct-94	37	73	2	27	273
Baltimore City	Circuit	Family	Aug-05	93	19	14	50	146
Baltimore City	District	Adult	Mar-94	47	31	7	32	331
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Juvenile	Mar-03	25	16	4	5	52
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Family	Aug-10	11	7	1	7	26
Calvert	Circuit	Adult	Feb-15	55	0	0	4	74
Caroline	Circuit	Adult	Nov-11	27	2	6	8	47
Carroll	Circuit	Adult	Apr-07	36	23	1	10	87
Cecil	Circuit	Adult	Jun-06	36	16	3	17	129
Charles	Circuit	Family	Jan-11	34	4	1	21	53
Dorchester	District	Adult	Jul-04	28	5	8	7	48
Frederick	Circuit	Adult	May-05	22	16	1	15	90
Harford	Circuit	Family	May-04	19	4	0	11	30
Harford	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-01	8	2	1	9	22
Harford	District	Adult	Nov-97	12	4	0	5	23
Harford	District	DUI	Jan-05	5	9	0	0	16
Howard	District	Adult	Jul-04	6	1	1	3	17
Howard	District	DUI	Jul-04	8	16	0	1	35
Montgomery	Circuit	Adult	Nov-05	37	7	0	9	97
Prince George's	Circuit	Adult	Aug-02	27	7	0	1	101
Prince George's	Circuit	Juvenile	Aug-02	8	9	0	4	41
Prince George's	Circuit	Re-Entry	Oct-13	4	0	0	0	14
Prince George's	District	Adult	Apr-06	26	2	0	10	41
St. Mary's	Circuit	Juvenile	Feb-04	17	7	1	8	32
St. Mary's	Circuit	Adult	July-09	17	5	0	10	50
Talbot	Circuit	Problem-Solving	Aug-07	9	6	1	5	29
Washington	Circuit	Juvenile	Jun-07	17	5	1	11	26
Wicomico	Circuit	Adult	Sep-05	22	6	1	11	57
Worcester	Circuit District	Adult	Dec-05	39	10	2	15	85
Worcester	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-05	4	2	1	4	13
Total				885	357	60	360	2,583

Mental Health Courts

A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with a primary mental health diagnosis that substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court processing. Participants are identified through mental health screenings and assessments and voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. The overarching goal of the mental health court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contacts with the criminal justice system by providing them with judicial oversight to improve their social functioning with respect to employment, housing, treatment, and support services in the community. Mental health courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address both the mental health needs and public safety concerns of communities in which they reside. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and to assist with the avoidance of recurring correctional visits, as well as to lower the overall recidivism rate of this population.

Mental Health Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016

County	Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Discharged Program	Total Served in FY 2016
Baltimore City	District	Oct-02	131	153	408
Harford	District	Jan-03	4	9	16
Prince George's	District	Jul-07	136	148	311
Total			271	310	735

Veterans Courts

Veterans Courts serve those who served in the military with conditions such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs), and/or substance abuse disorders. Veterans can resolve outstanding criminal offenses, obtain the treatment and services they need, and stabilize their lives. A veteran's court connects eligible participants to VA benefits, long-term supportive housing, and other benefits for participants whose service-related disabilities are so severe as to prevent their return to the workforce. The veteran's court can also access local resources in the case where the veteran does not qualify for U.S. Department of Veterans Administration benefits.

Veterans Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016

County	Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2016
Baltimore City	District	Oct-15	40	5	0	1	40
Prince George's	Circuit	Apr-15	6	0	0	0	7
Total			46	5	0	1	47

Truancy Reduction Programs

The purpose of Truancy Reduction Court is to improve school attendance and positively affect the youth's attitude about education through a nurturing approach that ultimately will build a relationship between the family, the school, and the court, rather than using punitive or harsh measures such as having parents prosecuted in criminal court, or stigmatizing the child and further souring their outlook on education and the criminal justice system. A social worker, counselor or case manager works with the families to determine the reasons for poor attendance and makes referrals for community-based services when appropriate.

Truancy Reduction Program Statistical Summary July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Discharged	Total Served in FY 2016
Baltimore City	Jan-05	160	172	288
Dorchester Co.	Mar-07	14	24	28
Harford Co.	Jan-08	11	13	23
Kent Co.	Sept-14	17	17	17
Somerset Co.	Nov-05	6	11	12
Prince George's Co.	May-09	30	24	56
Talbot Co.	Jan-11	4	3	8
Wicomico Co.	Dec-04	46	93	95
Worcester Co.	Jan-07	25	18	27
Total		313	375	554

Conclusion

Problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, most innovative, community-based program available to address aberrant behavior associated with addictions and mental illness.

The Judiciary continues to be the primary funding source for problem-solving courts in Maryland. Though many agencies and stakeholders provide funding and resources to the over fifty-four problem-solving courts, without the Judiciary's continued financial support for these programs, they would cease to exist.

OPSC also continues to provide needed direct assistance to both planned and existing programs to ensure continued positive outcomes and sustainability. Professional development and direct assistance for problem-solving court practitioners are integral parts of expanding the field. The Judiciary continues to set high expectations for the monitoring and evaluating of these programs to ensure that "best practices" occur in the field. As these programs continue to be successful in Maryland, problem-solving courts will find more ways into become an integral part of the justice process.

For more information, please contact Gray Barton, Office of Problem-Solving Courts director at 410-260-3617 or gray.barton@mdcourts.gov.

Appendix

Maryland Judicial Council and 2016 Committee Membership

Maryland Judicial Council

Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chair

Chief Judge, Court of Appeals

Honorable Peter B. Krauser

Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building

Honorable John W. Debelius III

Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Circuit Court for Montgomery County

Honorable Thomas C. Groton III

Circuit Court for Worcester County

Honorable James A. Kenney III

Chair, Retired and Recalled Judges Committee

Honorable Laura S. Kiessling

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County

Honorable Karen H. Mason

Circuit Court for Prince George's County

Pamela Q. Harris

State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts

Honorable Wayne A. Robey

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Circuit Court for Howard County

Honorable Susan Braniecki

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Circuit Court for Worcester County

Jennifer Keiser, Court Administrator

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Circuit Court for Howard County

Faye D. Matthews, Secretary

Deputy State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts

Honorable John P. Morrissey

Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland
Maryland Judicial Center

Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Circuit Court for Baltimore County

Honorable Susan H. Hazlett

District Court, Harford County

Honorable Gerald V. Purnell

District Court, Worcester County

Honorable Alan M. Wilner

Chair, Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

Honorable Eugene Wolfe

District Court, Montgomery County

Roberta Warnken

Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland
Maryland Judicial Center

Carol Llewellyn-Jones

Administrative Clerk
District Court, Wicomico County

Robert Prender

Administrative Clerk
District Court, Prince George's County

Timothy H. Sheridan, Court Administrator

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Circuit Court for Baltimore County



Specialty Courts and Docket Committee

- Honorable Thomas Pryal, Chair
- Honorable Keith Baynes
- Honorable Kathleen Beckstead
- Honorable Mark Chandlee
- Honorable Broughton Earnest, (Retired)
- Judy Rupp, Court Administrator
- Honorable Norman Stone
- Honorable Ann Wagner-Stewart
- Honorable Beverly Woodard
- Honorable Ricardo Zwaig
- Gray Barton, Staff

Problem-Solving Courts Subcommittee

- Honorable Thomas Pryal, Chair
- Honorable Keith Baynes
- Honorable Kathleen Beckstead
- Honorable Mark Chandlee
- Honorable Broughton Earnest, (Retired)
- Judy Rupp, Court Administrator
- Honorable Norman Stone
- Honorable Ann Wagner-Stewart
- Honorable Beverly Woodard
- Honorable Ricardo Zwaig
- Gray Barton, Staff

Business and Technology Case Management Subcommittee

- Honorable Sean Wallace, Chair
- Honorable Audrey Carrion
- Honorable Ronald Rubin
- Gray Barton, Staff

Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Addiction Subcommittee

- Honorable George Lipman, Chair
- Honorable Lou Becker, (Retired)
- Honorable Lynne Battaglia (Retired)
- Honorable Marielsa Bernard
- Honorable Mimi Cooper
- Honorable Helen Harrington
- Honorable Patrice Lewis
- Honorable Nancy Purpura
- Honorable Gale Rasin, (Retired)
- Honorable Ronald Silkworth
- Honorable Dana Moylan Wright
- Gray Barton, Staff
- Robert Pointer, Staff



top:
Frederick County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Graduation. Graduates are sitting at the defense table.

bottom:
Judge Ricardo D. Zwaig accepts a proclamation from Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman on behalf of the Howard County District Court Adult Drug/DUI Court Team.