

ANNUAL REPORT

Problem-Solving Courts

Fiscal Year 2012



Administrative Office of the Courts

November 1, 2012

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Executive Summary

Maryland's problem-solving court movement began in 1994 with two drug courts that hoped to mirror the successes of only a handful of other similar programs across the country at that time. As the number of drug courts grew in Maryland, the Drug Treatment Court Commission was formed to address the needs of this growing court solution. In 2006, the Problem-Solving Court Judicial Conference Committee and the Administrative Office of the Court's Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC) expanded the focus from drug courts to all problem-solving courts. Today, there are 42 drug courts, 3 mental health courts, and 9 truancy reduction courts.

During FY 2012, 4,523 people participated in problem-solving courts in Maryland. Drug court participants were tested over 93,100 times while judges and masters met with participants over 24,200 times in court hearings. In addition, nearly 860 people were served by the mental health courts and the mental health court teams conducted over 3,100 additional hearings for those who were unable to voluntarily enter the mental health court. Problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, community-based program available to address aberrant behavior associated with addictions and mental illnesses.

In today's budgetary climate, problem-solving courts are working even closer with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure that program participants receive the treatment, supervision, and ancillary services needed to be successful. It is critical that our stakeholder partners continue to refine their targeting and referral to ensure that the most appropriate individuals are provided the opportunity to participate in problem-solving courts.

OPSC continues to provide needed technical assistance to both planning and existing 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 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 become integrated into the adjudication process.

Introduction

Problem-solving courts represent a shift in the way courts are handling individuals who have a high potential for recidivism. In this approach, the court works closely with prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, social workers, and other justice system partners to develop a strategy that will increase the likelihood of court-involved individuals to enter and complete treatment programming and to abstain from repeating the behaviors that brought them to court.

During the last two decades, problem-solving courts have become an important feature of the court landscape. Developed in response to frustration by both the court system and the public to the large numbers of cases that seemed to be disposed repeatedly but not resolved, problem-solving courts offer the promise of a more meaningful resolution of court cases involving individuals with psychosocial problems as well as legal issues.

Problem-solving courts vary considerably from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and by different case types within a jurisdiction, but all focus on closer collaboration with the service communities and stress a collaborative, multidisciplinary, problem-solving approach to address the underlying issues of individuals appearing in front of the court.

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 between courts, government, and community organizations.

Providing direction to the Office of Problem-Solving Courts is the Problem-Solving Courts Judicial Conference Committee, which is comprised of judges from both the district and circuit courts. The Drug Court Oversight Committee is comprised of judicial, executive, and legislative branch partners and oversees the actions of drug courts in our state. The Mental Health Court Oversight Committee performs a similar function for the mental health courts.

As part of the annual appropriation to the Judiciary, OPSC disseminated \$4.18 million via grants to local drug and mental health court programs this fiscal year. These funds, granted only to operational drug and mental health court programs, were used for program staff, treatment, drug testing, travel and training, and ancillary services to benefit the participants of those programs.

Technical assistance has been provided to drug and mental health court programs by OPSC for many years. OPSC conducts site visits and regularly refers problem-solving courts to visit and/or contact well established programs for assistance. OPSC staff is always ready to assist and has access to many helpful state and national resources.

OPSC annually collects data from all drug and mental health court programs through the use of the Statewide Management Automated Record Tracking system (SMART) and self-reported data from truancy courts.

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 never-ending cycle of the criminal justice system. Since that first program, there has been 42 other drug courts started and still are operational in Maryland. In addition to drug courts, there are 3 mental health courts and 9 truancy reduction courts implemented across the State. These judicially led programs have grown as the public and the government continue to look to the courts to address the problem of crime and addiction through non-traditional supervision methods.

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 operate 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.



Wicomico County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Graduate and His Daughter

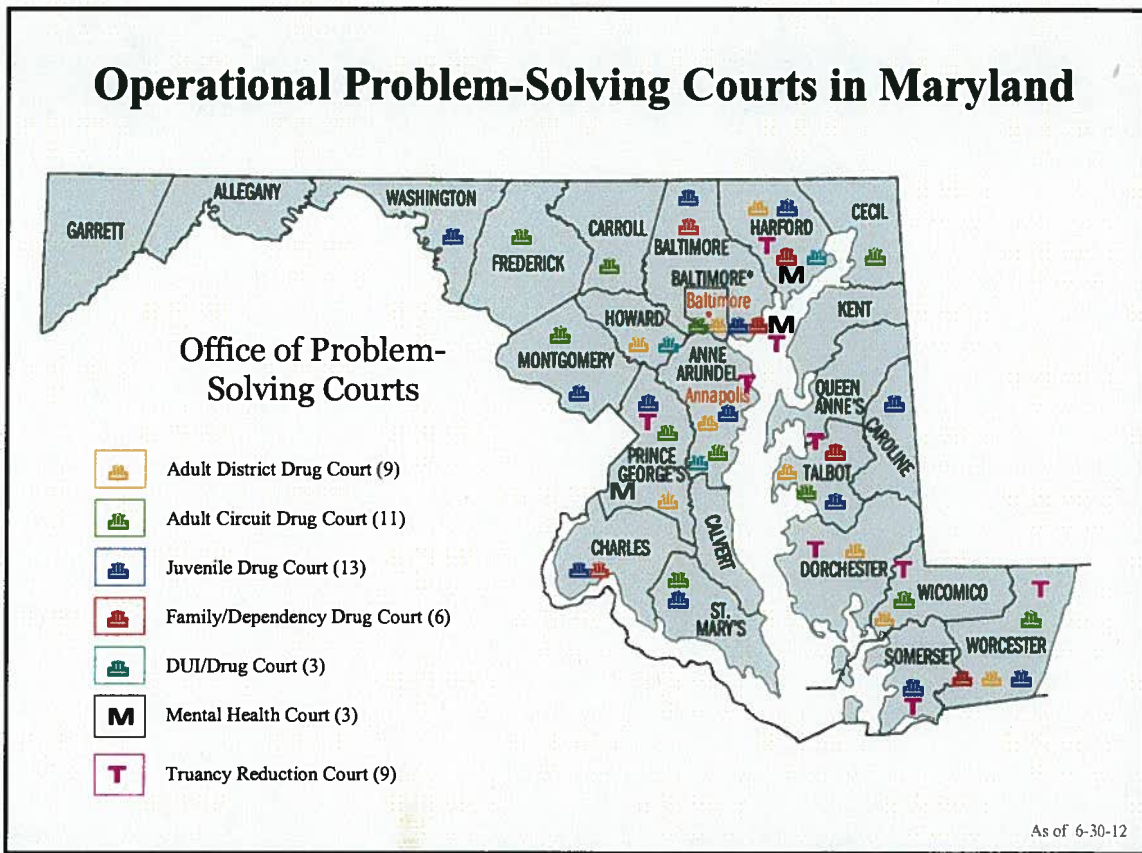
In December of 2006, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order to establish a Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts to institutionalize the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to all problem-solving courts.

Oversight

Office of Problem Solving Courts

The Office of Problem Solving Courts (OPSC) is a department in the Administrative Office of the Courts and is responsible for assisting the problem-solving courts in developing and maintaining a collaborative therapeutic system. OPSC has overseen the creation of problem-solving programs in 19 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 is responsible for the development and advancement of problem-solving courts throughout Maryland. The OPSC superintends financial support for problem-solving courts, as well as the responsibility 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, OPSC continues to serve as the court's liaison to sustain and advance problem-solving courts in Maryland.



Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts

The mission of the Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts (Committee) is to promote, oversee, and sustain a comprehensive and collaborative approach for court-involved persons through the development, implementation, and operation of problem-solving courts. The Committee advocates for the access and delivery of effective and appropriate treatment and other community based services to achieve positive measurable results. The Committee promotes best practices by providing evidenced-based training, technical assistance, research, funding, and technical support.

Judges and Masters met with drug court participants over **24,200** times in court hearings in FY 2012.

The Committee developed an oversight plan to ensure the optimal operation of problem-solving courts with concentration on the alignment of goals and objectives with levels of need, consistent implementation of best practices, identification of emerging problems, and consistency among program's procedures and operations.

Components of Problem-Solving Courts

1. Team approach with court as leader.
2. Integrated services with court system processing.
3. Early identification, prompt screening, assessment, and placement of services.
4. Provide access to a continuum of services.
5. Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant.
6. Coordinated strategy including use of incentives and sanctions to promote participant compliance.
7. Achieve desired goals using a non-adversarial process while protecting the due process rights of participants.
8. Frequent monitoring and reporting of participant behavior.
9. Partnership with public agencies and community-based organizations to facilitate delivery of services, program effectiveness, and generate local support.
10. Use of management information systems to evaluate achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
11. Continuing interdisciplinary education of judges, partners, staff, and community.
12. Commitment to cultural competency and diversity issues.

Outreach / Collaboration

The Committee continued to coordinate with partner agencies to improve the functioning of the State's problem-solving courts. Meetings were held with Executive Branch officials including Public Defender Paul DeWolfe and Parole Commissioner David Blumberg regarding the development of re-entry courts. Quality assessments and treatment collaboration remain important issues in discussions with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Exportation

The Committee will continue to promote the expansion of problem-solving courts and/or components by:

- Developing problem-solving court programs in every county where appropriate;
- Exporting problem-solving techniques to traditional court proceedings;
- Developing a strategic plan for the evaluation of problem-solving courts;
- Developing a plan for the collection of data on recidivism; and
- Improving therapeutic assessments for those entering/referred to problem-solving courts.

Drug Court Oversight Committee

The mission of the Drug Court Oversight Committee (DCOC) is to sustain and promote a comprehensive, collaborative, integrated and coordinated systems approach for court-involved persons with addictions through the development, implementation and operation of Drug Courts across the State of Maryland. This includes developing, supporting, evaluating and facilitating the access and delivery of comprehensive, effective and appropriate treatment and other community-based services, as well as advocating and educating many constituents.

In Fiscal Year 2012, DCOC addressed the ongoing impact of the implementation of Maryland Rule 16-206. The rule addresses the problem-solving court application, standardizing aspects of the problem-solving court contract, the voluntary nature of these courts, and it established guidelines for loss of liberty sanctions and termination hearings. In Fiscal Year 2013, the committee intends to institute a progressive plan to:

- Provide for the collective review of each program, reviewing issues of sustainability, program capacity, funding, site visit findings, and organization success;
- Provide a Roles and Responsibilities training curriculum to enhance coordination and efficiency of the drug court teams;
- Develop administrative protocols for the assignment of judges and masters to drug treatment courts, including training and succession;
- Serve as a resource for drug treatment courts statewide; and
- Review and adopt best practices in an effort to improve operations and program results.

Mental Health Court Oversight Committee

The mission of the Mental Health Court Oversight Committee is to identify and recommend evidence-based and consensus-based practices that will improve the response of the public mental health system and the criminal justice system to people with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, or co-occurring substance abuse disorders for those involved in the criminal justice system.

Funding

Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants

In Fiscal Year 2012, OPSC solicited grant applications to support and maintain the capacity of existing drug and mental health courts across Maryland. The Problem-Solving Court Discretionary Grant core purpose areas are to support staff and services targeted for the problem-solving court participants. In Fiscal Year 2012, funds were

Drug/Alcohol Tests

Over 93,100 drug/alcohol samples was collected from drug court participants in FY 2012

Number of Days in Drug Court:

Adult Circuit	20.24 Months
Adult/DUI District	14.19 Months
Juvenile	11.07 Months
Family Recovery	8.39 Months

*For those program participants who were discharged (Completed, Unsuccessful, or Neutral) from drug courts during FY 2012

allocated to local court programs to address staffing needs by the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, provide needed ancillary services, provide critical drug/alcohol testing, conduct training and enhance treatment through OPSC's partnership with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA).

Continuing in Fiscal Year 2012, OPSC updated grant management and audit policies to provide greater oversight of the grant funding supported by this office. The improved internal policies and procedures outlined the process for grant reviews and audits that include site visits, fiscal and statistical reporting, and file documentation.

Over the past several years, OPSC has recognized and responded to the adverse budget climate and, due to reductions in state funding, have made efforts to sustain programs by accessing resources from federal, state, and local partners. OPSC continues to collaborate with state partners such as the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention that enable programs to maximize access to existing resources that would otherwise be lost due to budgets reductions.

OPSC/ADAA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY2012 by Judisdiction

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	ADAA Treatment Award	OPSC Treatment Award	Total
Anne Arundel County Circuit Adult - Juvenile	242,000		96,300	694,300
Anne Arundel County District Adult / DUI	356,000			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult / Family / Juvenile	442,000	38,008	23,240	892,243
Baltimore City District Adult	328,995			
Baltimore City Mental Health	60,000			
Baltimore County Circuit Family - Juvenile	106,541		187,328	293,869
Caroline County Circuit Adult - Juvenile	59,000	62,763		121,763
Carroll County Circuit Adult	157,000		134,855	291,855
Cecil County Circuit Adult	174,000	112,581		286,581
Charles County Circuit Family - Juvenile	74,000	81,688		155,688
Dorchester County District Adult	77,000	153,201		230,201
Frederick County Circuit Adult	150,739	68,111		218,850
Harford County Circuit Family / Juvenile	112,000		151,241	394,818
Harford County District Adult / DUI	105,000			
Harford County Mental Health	26,577			
Howard County District Adult - DUI	189,000	57,352		246,352
Montgomery County Circuit Adult / Juvenile	189,000		83,581	272,581
Prince George's County Circuit Adult - Juvenile	142,000	114,024		475,062
Prince George's County District Adult	119,038			
Prince George's County Mental Health	100,000			
Somerset County Circuit Juvenile	38,217			35,380

St. Mary's County Circuit Adult / Juvenile	145,000	104,622		249,622
Talbot Problem Solving Court	116,368	46,437		173,499
Talbot County District Adult	10,694			
Washington County Circuit Juvenile	41,000	48,171		89,171
Wicomico County Circuit Adult	234,000	113,042		472,367
Wicomico County District Adult	125,325			
Worcester County Circuit Adult / Family / Juvenile	240,878		68,255	332,747
Worcester County District Adult	23,614			
TOTAL	4,184,986	1,000,000	744,800	5,926,949

Federal, State and Local Resources

During Fiscal Year 2012, the Baltimore City, Adult District and Circuit Court Drug Treatment Court Programs were awarded \$578,341, an increase of \$55,000, by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to cover direct substance abuse treatment services to drug court participants. Also in Fiscal Year 2012, Anne Arundel County Adult Circuit and District Drug Courts were awarded \$178,450 and Prince George's County's Adult Drug Court were also awarded \$156,146 from HIDTA.

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funds treatment/criminal justice programs that provide integrated drug treatment services and criminal justice supervision for hard-core 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 and placement in the appropriate level of services, such as residential, intensive out-patient, out-patient, or aftercare services.

Jurisdiction	HIDTA Treatment Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$178,450
Baltimore City	\$578,341
Prince George's County	\$156,146
TOTAL	\$857,937

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) assisted in funding 3 DUI/Drug Courts in Maryland via Maryland Highway Safety pass-through grants. Anne Arundel, Harford, and Howard County DUI/Drug Courts received \$200,612 in Fiscal Year 2012.

Jurisdiction	Maryland Highway Safety Office
Anne Arundel County	\$77,270
Harford County	\$63,500
Howard County	\$59,842
TOTAL	\$200,612

Still other federal partners such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Drug Court Institute, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration awarded grants and/or provided direct training or technical assistance to problem-solving programs throughout Maryland.

Training and Education

Periodic education and training ensures that those directly involved in these court-led programs, but also by those indirectly involved in them as well, understand problem-solving court's goals and procedures. Education and training programs help maintain a high level of professionalism, provide a forum for solidifying relationships among criminal justice and treatment personnel, and promote a spirit of commitment and collaboration. OPSC collaborated with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission and Board of Social Workers to authorize education credits for many of the courses provided. Below is a summary of educational opportunities provided to Maryland's Problem-Solving Court practitioners in Fiscal Year 2012.

Roles Training

In Fiscal Year 2012, the training subcommittee discussed the future of the problem-solving court team training. The committee identified multiple training needs including recommendations for training to include program maintenance issues such as staff turnover, changes in judicial oversight, changes in treatment providers, availability of ancillary services, and how to meet the needs of special populations such as co-occurring disorders and veterans.

Problem-Solving Court 101/102

OPSC continued to provide an introduction to problem-solving courts entitled *Problem-Solving Court 101*. The three-hour non-credit course 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. *Problem-Solving Court 102* is a three-hour non-credit course, which is intended to illustrate the specifics of drug court team roles and responsibilities. Both of these courses are offered to new staff and have been attended by over 260 problem-solving court professionals.

Veterans Services Information Fair

In November 2012, the Office of Problem-Solving Courts hosted its first Veterans Services Information Fair at the Judiciary Education and Conference Center. The fair

introduced criminal justice professionals to veteran organizations and their services in this region. The event hosted over 130 guests and 23 veterans service agencies. A partnership with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to host a series of trainings to increase the general knowledge of criminal justice professionals to understand service benefits, medical services, vocational and ancillary services is being planned.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A statewide management information system allowing for the collection and standardization of data directly related to drug and mental health court outcomes has been developed in collaboration with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA). The Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system is a web-based data management system that has been modified to support the advanced needs of problem-solving 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. SMART sets out standard performance measures to assist drug and mental health courts in monitoring performance and in using outcome data to improve programs and services.

Individual drug and mental health courts may 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 was able to provide support to drug and mental health court programs across Maryland in maintaining their data management. The IGSR project team developed 16 new standard problem-solving court performance reports during FY 2012. Each of these reports includes graphs to assist courts in quickly assessing trends over time with their courts and their clients. These reports focused on data related to client demographics both at admission and at discharge, court events, case management, drug testing results, treatment encounters, incentives, sanctions, and in-program rearrests.

Six new ad hoc reports were developed, all available for a user-specified time period, to assist the courts in managing performance, as follows:

- New Charges or VOPs
- Number of intakes by reason for non-admission

- Number of intakes by source of referral
- Veterans status
- Active eCourt admissions with Criminal Justice Phase
- eCourt Discharges by client

IGSR also modified each data entry screen during this fiscal year. Now, each field that OPSC mandates is shaded light yellow, which helps ensure that users enter all required data.

Drug Courts

Drug courts are a judicially led, coordinated system that demands accountability of all 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 agencies, mental health, social service, and treatment communities to actively intervene and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions such as incarceration or general probation, drug courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and places them under strict court monitoring and community supervision, coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment services.



Wicomico County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Graduates

Drug Court Statistical Report Summary July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	# Entered Program	# Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total # Served in FY 2012
Anne Arundel	Circuit Court	Adult	Dec-05	52	24	1	27	140
Anne Arundel	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Mar-02	37	17	7	4	59

Anne Arundel	District Court	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	143	80	2	59	343
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Adult	Oct-94	206	140	109	52	791
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Family	Aug-05	86	34	11	42	162
Baltimore City	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Sep-98	9	4	3	20	46
Baltimore City	District Court	Adult	Mar-94	120	145	58	85	556
Baltimore County	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Mar-03	57	21	20	3	98
Baltimore County	Circuit Court	Family	Aug-10	20	2	0	5	30
Caroline	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Jul-04	9	0	0	1	9
Carroll	Circuit Court	Adult	Apr-07	36	22	5	16	92
Cecil	Circuit Court	Adult	Jun-06	37	11	0	20	75
Charles	Circuit Court	Juvenile	May-06	12	6	0	4	30
Charles	Circuit Court	Family	Jan-11	14	0	1	13	22
Dorchester	District Court	Adult	Jul-04	15	0	1	1	27
Frederick	Circuit Court	Adult	May-05	17	13	0	9	53
Harford	Circuit Court	Family	May-04	11	1	0	2	14
Harford	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-01	23	9	3	9	43
Harford	District Court	Adult	Nov-97	13	8	2	5	30
Harford	District Court	DUI	Jan-05	18	17	0	1	37
Howard	District Court	Adult	Jul-04	23	12	1	1	44
Howard	District Court	DUI	Jul-04	11	7	1	4	28
Montgomery	Circuit Court	Adult	Nov-05	22	30	0	22	120
Montgomery	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Nov-05	6	0	0	0	6
Prince George's	Circuit Court	Adult	Aug-02	18	17	0	0	110
Prince George's	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Aug-02	20	14	1	8	60
Prince George's	District Court	Adult	Apr-06	9	4	0	9	36
Somerset	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Apr-06	7	6	1	2	12
St. Mary's	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Feb-04	26	4	4	12	43
St. Mary's	Circuit Court	Adult	July-09	16	14	0	7	37
Talbot	District Court	Adult	Jan-08	3	0	1	0	3
Talbot	Circuit Court	Problem- Solving	Aug-07	8	4	0	0	23
Talbot	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-04	1	1	1	2	4
Washington	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Jun-07	20	8	0	11	29
Wicomico	Circuit Court	Adult	Sep-05	24	12	3	21	65
Wicomico	District Court	Adult	Apr-08	24	8	4	9	54
Worcester	Circuit Court District Court	Adult	Dec-05 Dec-05	36	16	7	17	83
Worcester	Circuit Court	Juvenile	Oct-05	17	0	1	5	17
Worcester	Circuit Court	Family	June-07	9	2	0	3	12
Total				1,235	713	248	511	3,443

Mental Health Courts

A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with mental illness that substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court processing. Participants are identified through mental health screening 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 participant's contacts with the criminal justice system by providing participants with judicial supervision to improve their social functioning with 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 of offenders and public safety concerns of communities for 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 overall lower the recidivism of this population.

Participants in Maryland's Mental Health Courts stayed in the program for an average of 8.24 months*.

*For those program participants who were discharged (Completed, Unsuccessful, or Neutral) from mental health courts during FY: 2012



Baltimore City Mental Health Court Team

Mental Health Courts in Maryland can run on two possible tracks. These two tracks are described below:

Mental Health Court Track

The Mental Health Court track consist of participants who voluntarily enter the mental health court program after either being found competent, or if a competency hearing was not held they appear to be competent to stand trial. This program is voluntary for these participants and begins either pre trial or post conviction. This number is reflected under participants admitted and discharged from each program.

**Mental Health Court Statistical Report Summary
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**

County	Year Established	# Entered Program	Discharged from Program	Total # Served in FY 2012
Baltimore City	Oct-2002	47	101	256
Harford	Jan-2003	14	13	21
Prince George's	July-2007	396	292	582
Total		457	406	859

Mental Health Docket/Competency Track

These participants have been found not competent to stand trial, dangerous, not criminally responsible, not competent and not dangerous, or for a myriad of reasons cannot enter the localized mental health court. These cases contribute significantly to the work of these programs and are reflected by the number of competency hearings.

While these matters are not referred directly to the mental health court, these cases receive invaluable assistance from the mental health court team.

**Mental Health Docket Summary
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**

County	Competency Hearings	Mental Health Docket Status Hearings	Total # of Mental Health Docket Hearings
Baltimore City	176	222	398
Harford	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prince George's	169	2,571	2,740
Total	345	2,793	3,138

Truancy Reduction Programs

Truancy reduction programs were initiated through legislation in 2004. The initial Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (TRPP) only involved the First Judicial Circuit (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties). Participating students are ordered to attend school, complete mandatory projects, and to report to court on time for regular review hearings. The students are held accountable for their actions and may be provided incentives for success, or sanctions for non-compliance.



Prince George's County Truancy Court Graduation with Program Coordinator, Vicky Mitchell, Master Althea Stewart Jones, Administrative Judge Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Truancy Court Graduates, and Carlton Fonville from Prince George's County Department of Social Services

During 2007, the General Assembly extended the pilot to 2009 and authorized the establishment of a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in Prince George's and Harford Counties. During 2009, the General Assembly repealed the sunset provision relating to truancy reduction pilot programs.

**Truancy Reduction Statistical Report Summary
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**

County	Year Est.	Current number of Participants *	# Entered Program	# Graduated	Discharged from Program	Total # Served in FY 2012
Dorchester	Mar-07	5	8	3	12	20
Harford	Jan-08	10	13	3	10	20
Somerset	Nov-05	12	5	10	10	19
Talbot	Jan-12	0	8	4	4	8
Prince George's	May-09	38	33	16	19	65
Wicomico	Dec-04	36	18	23	20	62
Worcester	Jan-07	10	14	6	6	27
Total		111	99	65	81	221

* As of June 30, 2012

The collaborative effort between the circuit courts and the local boards of education was designed to address the causes of truancy and improve the student's attendance, achievement, and attachment to school. Currently the First Judicial Circuit, Harford, and Prince George's Counties have established a truancy court docket. Judges and masters in each jurisdiction have the ability to tailor each order to the individual students needs. In each respective jurisdiction, community partnerships have been developed to ensure timely service delivery to students and their families.

University of Baltimore Truancy Court Program

The University of Baltimore Truancy Program (TCP) also operates a truancy reduction program in schools within Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County. Though not technically a problem-solving court as defined by guidelines established by the Judiciary's Problem-Solving Court Committee, it is being evaluated by the Judiciary and thus is being monitored by the OPSC and the Family Administration Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The program is voluntary, and consists of 10 weekly in-school meetings to include the student, the child's guardian, a judge/master who volunteers their time and effort, a fellow student and a supervisor. Interventions include parenting classes, tutoring, mentoring, training in basic skills, counseling and anger management.