

ANNUAL REPORT

Problem-Solving Courts

Fiscal Year 2013



Administrative Office of the Courts

November 1, 2013

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
History	5
Oversight	5
Office of Problem-Solving Courts.....	5
Suspending Drug Court Operations.....	6
Operational Problem-Solving Courts (Map).....	7
Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts.....	7
Drug Court Oversight Committee.....	7
Mental Health Court Oversight Committee.....	7
Funding	8
Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants.....	8
OPSC/ADAA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY 2013 by Jurisdiction.....	9
Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).....	10
U.S. Dept of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.....	10
Training and Education	10
Problem-Solving Court Symposium.....	11
Family Recovery Court.....	11
Technical Assistance.....	11
Monitoring and Evaluation	11
Drug Courts	12
Drug Court Statistical Summary.....	13
Mental Health Courts	14
Mental Health Court Statistical Summary.....	14
Baltimore City Mental Health Docket.....	14
Prince George’s County Mental Health Court.....	15
Harford County Mental Health Diversion Program.....	15

Truancy Reduction Programs.....15
Truancy Reduction Court.....15
Truancy Reduction Court Statistical Summary.....16
University of Baltimore Truancy Court Program.....16

Executive Summary

Fiscal Year 2013 marked ten years of service provided by the Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC) to the problem-solving court programs in Maryland. The OPSC, which began as the Drug Treatment Court Commission in 2002, 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 over 40 drug courts, two re-entry courts, three mental health courts, and nine truancy reduction courts in Maryland. Over the years, hundreds of criminal justice and treatment professionals have had access to professional development courses, ranging from Pharmacology to drug testing. During this time, data collection has changed as well; where paper surveys once were faxed, Maryland now boasts of 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 millions of State and federal dollars dedicated to drug, mental health, and truancy courts.

Problem-solving courts represent a shift in the way courts handle 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 that court-involved individuals will enter and complete treatment programming, as well as abstain from behaviors that brought them to 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.

As part of the annual appropriation to the Judiciary, OPSC disseminated \$4.62 million in grants to local drug and mental health court programs during Fiscal Year 2013. 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 that directly benefitted court participants.

During Fiscal Year 2013, over 4,000 people participated in problem-solving courts in Maryland. Drug court participants submitted over 80,000 drug and alcohol specimens, while judges and masters met with participants nearly 26,600 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 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 the use of "best practices" in the problem-solving court field.

As these programs continue to be successful in Maryland, the problem-solving approach might possibly become integrated into the traditional adjudication process.

Though we have reached many milestones over the past ten years, the department recognizes there is much more to be accomplished. New concepts like re-entry and veteran's courts are being planned and implemented. More creative training opportunities for our ever-growing professional field are being planned. The capabilities of the management information system are expanding to ensure that problem-solving court programs are collecting all the necessary data and more importantly, are able to utilize the data to make improvements.

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. 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, 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.

Oversight

Office of Problem Solving Courts

The Office of Problem Solving Courts (OPSC) is a department in the Administrative Office of the Courts 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 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 superintends the financial support for 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.

Suspending Drug Court Operations

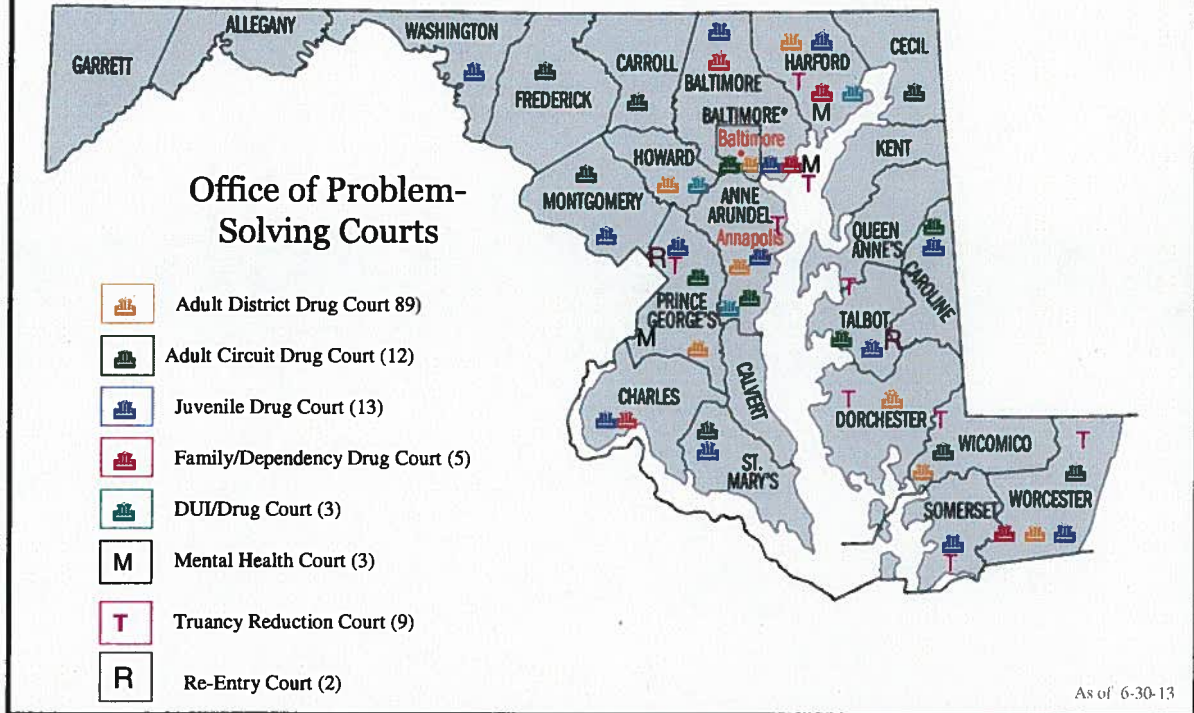
The *Talbot County District Adult Drug Court* team met with staff from the OPSC after concerns were raised regarding the ongoing issues of a lack of referrals of eligible defendants to the court by partnering agencies. Defendants were not volunteering to enter the drug court program seemingly because of the rigors of the program compared as to the potential sentence that would be imposed through the traditional court process. After becoming operational in 2008, the *Talbot County District Drug Court* did not exceed a caseload above 10 participants for the first three years and in the past two fiscal years, did not exceed more than five participants. Accordingly, the Administrative Judge, along with the drug court team, elected to suspend the drug court operations in June.

Talbot County Circuit Family Recovery Court team also met with staff from the OPSC after concerns were raised regarding low program referrals and the subsequent low number of active clients participating in the program. The team acknowledged that the original plans to implement a family recovery program were based on the need for a therapeutic intervention in the county to strengthen the successful outcomes of parents involved in Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases. The family recovery court sought to improve treatment outcomes, parenting skills, and strengthen family units for those marred in drug and alcohol addiction.

Soon after the family recovery court was implemented, however, the *Talbot County Department of Social Services (DSS)* began an independent prevention initiative to work with families prior to initiating a CINA case in the court. The initiative provided a structured diversion program for families to identify these cases suitable for "preventative services," thus avoiding a formal CINA filing in the circuit court.

It was reported that the DSS diversion program was achieving their court diversion goals, which had an immediate and long-term impact on reducing the number of formal CINA filings, essentially eliminating the need for the family recovery court. For the first three years of its existence, the family recovery court did not exceed 10 participants and in the past two years, the program did not exceed three participants. The team agreed that the types of services provided, as well as the existing partnerships among DSS and circuit court should continue for clients who are active in the *Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Program*. For these reasons, the *Family Recovery Court Program of Talbot County* discontinued service in June 2013.

Operational 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 nearly **26,600** times in court hearings in FY 2013.

Drug Court Oversight Committee

The mission of the Drug Court Oversight Committee 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.

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 primary mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, or co-occurring substance abuse disorders for those involved in the criminal justice system.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the Mental Health Court Oversight Committee, along with assistance from Judge Charlotte Cooksey (*retired*), created the Mental Health Court Procedural Manual. The manual is an essential tool to understanding the approved forms and orders in the mental health arena, including those related to competency, not criminally responsible, pre-sentence psychiatric evaluation, emergency evaluation, and civil admission. There are clear outlines and frequently asked questions, an excellent glossary, as well as key contacts and resources. The forms, resource listings and key contacts will be updated on a regular basis. While the first chapter discusses the Baltimore City Mental Health Court, the remaining 11 chapters have clear statewide applicability. The Manual can be found at <http://courtnet/district/manuals/Mental-Health-Procedures.pdf>.

Funding

Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants

In Fiscal Year 2013, 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 2013, funds were allocated to court programs to address staffing needs by the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, provide needed ancillary services, provide critical drug/alcohol testing, conduct training, and to enhance treatment services through OPSC's partnership with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA).

<u>Number of Days in Drug Court*</u>	
Adult Circuit	23.10 Months
Adult/DUI District	19.43 Months
Juvenile	13.73 Months
Family Recovery	8.53 Months

*For those program participants who were discharged (Completed, Unsuccessful, or Neutral) from drug courts during FY 2013

Over the past several years, OPSC has recognized and responded to the adverse budget climate 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 ADAA, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention to maximize access to existing resources. The partners also supplement other resources that would otherwise be lost due to budget reductions.

OPSC/ADAA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY 2013 by Jurisdiction

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	ADAA Treatment Award	OPSC Treatment Award	Total by County
Anne Arundel Circuit Adult - Juvenile	238,000.00		96,300.00	684,362.00
Anne Arundel District Adult / DUI	350,062.00			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult / Family / Juvenile	395,000.00	51,517.00	9,731.00	762,765.00
Baltimore City District Adult	250,000.00			
Baltimore City Mental Health	56,517.00			
Baltimore Co. Circuit Family - Juvenile	117,252.00		187,328.00	304,580.00
Caroline Circuit Adult - Juvenile	59,000.00	62,763.00		121,763.00
Carroll Circuit Adult	147,000.00		134,855.00	281,855.00
Cecil Circuit Adult	164,000.00	112,581.00		276,581.00
Charles Circuit Family - Juvenile	69,000.00	81,688.00		150,688.00
Dorchester District Adult	69,000.00	139,692.00		208,692.00
Frederick Circuit Adult	145,849.00	68,111.00		213,960.00
Harford Circuit Family / Juvenile	105,000.00		151,241.00	392,981.00
Harford District Adult / DUI	110,163.00			
Harford Mental Health	26,577.00			
Howard District Adult - DUI	180,000.00	57,352.00		237,352.00
Montgomery Circuit Adult / Juvenile	145,000.00		83,581.00	228,581.00
Prince George's Circuit Adult - Juvenile	137,000.00	114,024.00		458,134.00
Prince George's District Adult	112,110.00			
Prince George's Mental Health	95,000.00			
Somerset Circuit Juvenile	37,517.00			35,380.00
St. Mary's Circuit Adult / Juvenile	137,000.00	104,622.00		241,622.00
Talbot Problem Solving Court	109,643.00	46,437.00		158,580.00
Talbot District Adult	2,500.00			
Washington Circuit Juvenile	41,000.00	48,171.00		89,171.00
Wicomico Circuit Adult	223,941.00	113,042.00		456,983.00
Wicomico District Adult	120,000.00			
Worcester Circuit Adult / Family / Juvenile	225,000.00		68,255.00	311,755.00
Worcester District Adult	18,500.00			
TOTAL	3,886,631.00	1,000,000.00	731,291.00	5,615,785.00

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 out-patient, out-patient, or aftercare services.

During Fiscal Year 2013, the Baltimore City, Adult District and Circuit Court Drug Treatment Court Programs were awarded \$523,341, by the HIDTA to cover direct substance abuse treatment services for drug court participants. Also, in Fiscal Year 2013, the Anne Arundel County Adult Circuit and District Drug Courts were awarded \$178,450, while the Prince George's County's Adult Drug Court was awarded \$151,146 from HIDTA.

Jurisdiction	HIDTA Treatment Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$178,450
Baltimore City	\$523,341
Prince George's County	\$151,146
TOTAL	\$852,937

U.S. Department 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. This grant has enabled Baltimore City, Carroll, Cecil, and Wicomico Counties an 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 looks at program outcomes of the largest and most representative courts to identify the drug court characteristics and practices contributing to participant successes and failures. The analysis will use data from the Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system to compare factors affecting participant outcomes. A cost-benefit study of two drug courts compared with two traditional court process comparison samples also will be conducted. In addition, pre-post analyses of the operational improvements will be completed to assess whether the enhancements of the four drug courts had any effect on participant outcomes. The grant will enter its final year in October 2013.

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 in Fiscal Year 2013.

Training and Technical Assistance

With an estimated 70% of original problem-solving court planning team members no longer having a direct involvement in court operations, the Problem-Solving Court Training Subcommittee looked to address staff turnover. Problem-solving court team member turnover highlights a need for team specific training to ensure that new members have access to training courses, webinars, and mentors in the problem-solving court community to assist in the successful transition into a problem-solving court. The

efficacy of the problem-solving court model is based on the ability of the team members to maintain the best practices demonstrated in the field.

The Training Subcommittee plans to make available the following staff development opportunities in Fiscal Year 2014:

- Continuation of Problem-Solving Courts 101-102
- Electronic access to national problem-solving court webinars
- Electronic access to up-to-date research on problem-solving courts
- On Site/Regional Courses such as Roles Training, Co-Occurring Services, Gambling, Case Management, Trauma Informed Care, Drug Testing and Ethics & Confidentiality
- Technical Assistance Project to create strategic plans and guidelines for Family Recovery Courts
- Drug Court Team Specific Training
- OPSC will continue to collaborate with agencies in an effort to provide regional courses and certifications for various evidence-based services.

Problem-Solving Court Symposium

With over 170 problem-solving court professionals in attendance, OPSC held its annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium in Annapolis. This year's featured presenters were Paul Cary, Daryl Turpin and Delbert Boone who covered topics such as Family Intervention Techniques, Drug Testing, Understanding the Addict, Working with African American Males, and Cultural Sensitivity in the problem-solving courts.

Family Recovery Court

OPSC created a work group this fiscal year to address the changing needs of Family Recovery Courts. Beginning in January 2014, the OPSC will collaborate with the National Drug Court Institute to begin a structured six-month technical assistance session to train team members, complete strategic plans, establish state guidelines and develop new recordkeeping functions for SMART. Each team will be accountable for deliverables including, but not limited to, the completion of specified trainings, strategic plans documents, SMART improvements, and creation and implementation of family recovery court guidelines and best practices.

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance from OPSC provides aide to court programs with a level of expertise and guidance to improve operations, client services, and team communication. Teams also address protocol development, ancillary services, treatment services/types, funding opportunities, court proceedings, and role clarification. Teams also may discuss and devise plans to institute new research and evidence based practices into their current operations.

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.

Data Support
Over **43,200** records on
problem-solving court
participants were entered into
SMART in FY 2013

In addition, individual drug and mental health 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 drug and mental health 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. Additionally, new data elements were added to SMART to better differentiate between mental health and drug courts. With these additions, as well as several others anticipated for release in 2014, the mental health courts will be able to collect data that more accurately reflects the population served.

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 agencies,

Drug/Alcohol Tests
Over **80,300** drug/alcohol
specimens were collected from
drug court participants in FY 2013

mental health, social service, and treatment communities to 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 places them under strict court monitoring and community supervision that is coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment and ancillary services.

Drug Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2013
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Adult	Dec-05	26	20	2	33	113
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Juvenile	Mar-02	16	15	2	8	47
Anne Arundel	District	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	145	86	4	54	354
Baltimore City	Circuit	Adult	Oct-94	242	134	31	48	717
Baltimore City	Circuit	Family	Aug-05	81	42	3	37	163
Baltimore City	Circuit	Juvenile	Sep-98	9	7	1	6	24
Baltimore City	District	Adult	Mar-94	110	62	29	57	375
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Juvenile	Mar-03	36	22	17	16	99
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Family	Aug-10	8	6	3	4	29
Caroline	Circuit	Juvenile	Jul-04	10	2	0	5	14
Caroline	Circuit	Adult	Nov-11	12	3	0	7	20
Carroll	Circuit	Adult	Apr-07	31	21	2	13	81
Cecil	Circuit	Adult	Jun-06	51	6	1	19	96
Charles	Circuit	Juvenile	May-06	13	3	3	5	27
Charles	Circuit	Family	Jan-11	35	3	3	19	45
Dorchester	District	Adult	Jul-04	18	6	1	4	31
Frederick	Circuit	Adult	May-05	20	8	0	9	50
Harford	Circuit	Family	May-04	19	8	1	8	30
Harford	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-01	20	15	2	3	45
Harford	District	Adult	Nov-97	20	7	1	4	36
Harford	District	DUI	Jan-05	9	10	0	0	27
Howard	District	Adult	Jul-04	11	5	3	6	27
Howard	District	DUI	Jul-04	14	17	0	4	44
Montgomery	Circuit	Adult	Nov-05	33	26	0	8	101
Montgomery	Circuit	Juvenile	Nov-05	13	5	1	4	19
Prince George's	Circuit	Adult	Aug-02	14	9	0	4	97
Prince George's	Circuit	Juvenile	Aug-02	32	11	1	6	67
Prince George's	District	Adult	Apr-06	1	5	2	2	24
Somerset	Circuit	Juvenile	Apr-06	7	3	0	4	10
St. Mary's	Circuit	Juvenile	Feb-04	18	10	4	8	40

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2013
St. Mary's	Circuit	Adult	July-09	28	6	1	13	45
Talbot	Circuit	Problem-Solving	Aug-07	10	4	1	3	24
Talbot	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-04	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	Circuit	Juvenile	Jun-07	15	9	0	6	30
Wicomico	Circuit	Adult	Sep-05	22	6	0	15	51
Wicomico	District	Adult	Apr-08	8	7	2	7	41
Worcester	Circuit District	Adult	Dec-05	24	9	5	20	68
Worcester	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-05	10	5	3	7	22
Worcester	Circuit	Family	June-07	0	4	0	3	7
Total				1,191	627	129	479	3,140

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 of 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.

Participants in Maryland's Mental Health Courts stayed in the program for an average of 10.4 months*.

*For those program participants who were discharged (Completed, Unsuccessful, or Neutral) from mental health courts during FY 2013

Mental Health Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013						
County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Discharged Program	Total Served in FY 2013
Baltimore City	District	Mental Health	Oct-02	203	63	316
Harford	District	Mental Health	Jan-03	4	10	25
Prince George's	District	Mental Health	Jul-07	152	215	497
Total				359	288	838

Baltimore City Mental Health Docket

All cases in the Baltimore City District Court where competency evaluations are ordered are transferred to the Mental Health Docket. The scheduling of competency evaluations and the monitoring of cases while defendants are in psychiatric hospitals working to become competent, become the responsibility of the mental health docket. Once competency is restored, defendants either return to the court where the case was originally heard for disposition, or are placed on the mental health docket under one of the various tracks, if they qualify and agree to be sentenced by the Mental Health Court judge. The Baltimore City Mental Health Docket is a very diverse and fluid court docket comprised of various tracks/legal statuses, such as incompetent to stand trial (60 new enrollments in Fiscal Year 2013), 8-507 placements (10 new enrollments), competency (86 new enrollments), and the Mental Health Court itself.

Prince George's County Mental Health Court

The Mental Health Court of Prince George's County strives to humanely and effectively address the needs of individuals with mental health disorders who enter the Prince George's County criminal justice system. The court project is committed to providing access to resources, training, and expertise to address the unique needs of these individuals. All participating agencies have agreed to collaborate for the purpose of improving outcomes for this special population, while increasing public safety.

Harford County Mental Health Diversion Program

Harford County Mental Health Diversion Program strives to provide alternatives to incarceration for the defendants who are involved in the criminal justice system as a result of their mental illness. This is accomplished by linking persons with a mental health diagnosis to community-based treatment resources with the goals of reducing recidivism, and helping the participants to become stable, productive members of the community.

Truancy Reduction Programs

Truancy Reduction Court

The purpose of Truancy Reduction Court is to improve school attendance and 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 Court Statistical Summary
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013**

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Current Participants*	Entered Program	Graduated	Discharged from Program
Dorchester	Circuit	Truancy	Mar-07	5	5	4	2
Harford	Circuit	Truancy	Jan-08	10	16	4	4
Somerset	Circuit	Truancy	Nov-05	11	6	2	3
Prince George's	Circuit	Truancy	May-09	30	29	14	31
Talbot	Circuit	Truancy	Jan-11	1	5	1	1
Wicomico	Circuit	Truancy	Dec-04	56	55	6	32
Worcester	Circuit	Truancy	Jan-07	7	3	0	4

*As of 6/30/13

University of Baltimore Center for Families, Children, and the Courts Truancy Court Program

The University of Baltimore Center for Families, Children, and the Court Truancy Court Program (TCP) is an innovative, early intervention and holistic approach to truant behavior that addresses the root causes of truancy. Operating in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County, the program is strictly voluntary on the part of students and their families, and consists of ten weekly in-school meetings per session (with one session in the fall and another in the spring). The TCP meeting involves the student, his or her family, teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, principals, TCP staff, a law student, and a volunteer judge. TCP students also meet weekly with a mentor, who calls the home once a week to engage family members.

The purpose of the TCP meetings is to identify and address the reasons why each participating student is not attending school regularly and/or on-time. Once the causes of truant behavior are uncovered, the TCP team puts resources into place that target truant behavior and support the student's regular school attendance, graduation from high school and ultimately, service as a productive member of the community. Though technically not a Judiciary approved problem-solving court, OPSC monitors this program along with the Department of Family Administration.