

**THE MARYLAND JUDICIARY**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**  
  
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY ADMINISTRATION

**A REGISTRY**  
OF  
**JUVENILE COURT PROGRAM INITIATIVES**  
  
2013

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## INTRODUCTION

Through its 1969 enactment of the revised Juvenile Causes Subtitle, the Maryland General Assembly intended to create a separate system of courts, procedure and method of treatment for juveniles that is civil in nature, rather than criminal. The underlying concept of juvenile law is the protection of the juvenile, so that when judges make dispositions in juvenile cases, they consider the child's need for protection or rehabilitation, not the child's guilt. Juvenile law does not contemplate the punishment of children where they are found to be delinquent, instead it attempts to correct and rehabilitate them.

The sensitivity, significance and separateness of juvenile proceedings is underscored by the legislative amendments added in 2001, which require the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to approve the circuit administrative judge's juvenile assignment selection. The amendments further state that juvenile judges possess a personal interest in and experience with children, as well as the desire and temperament to address problems likely to come before the juvenile court. The rotation of judges through juvenile court was also modified to specifically state that juvenile judges are not subject to automatic rotation, presumably precluding assignment of judges better suited to other matters while preserving the ability of effective judges to remain longer than a minimum term.

The General Assembly's recognition that youth charged with delinquent acts (crimes if committed by adults) require unique proceedings and consequences was echoed by the United States Supreme Court in *Roper v. Simmons*. Relying largely on psychological and scientific evidence the Court held that execution for a crime committed by a juvenile under the age of 18 is cruel and unusual punishment that violates the Eighth Amendment. The Court considered three differences between juveniles and adults in reaching these conclusions: 1) comparative immaturity and irresponsibility, 2) increased vulnerability and susceptibility to negative influences and outside pressures, including peer pressures, and 3) a juvenile's character being less formed than an adult's, with personality traits that are more transitory and less fixed.

Historically, the executive agencies have been responsible for programming for families and children involved with juvenile court. However, the Judiciary has recognized that families with increasingly complex problems are appearing in their courtroom. For example, child neglect can be a result of parental substance abuse, delinquent youth often have learning difficulties that lead to spiraling truancy and dropout rates, and abused children committed to the Department of Social Services sometimes "cross over" to the delinquency system and are in need of mental health treatment.

The Judiciary has responded to the spirit and latitude of the unique nature of juvenile proceedings as legislated. Within the courtroom judges have adapted national models of problem solving courts to respond to local issues. Juvenile drug courts and family recovery courts specifically address the substance abuse of delinquent youth and parents who have had their children removed from their care as a result of their misuse of controlled substances. The models listed in this registry range widely among counties, but share the core values of treatment and of accountability to the Court. Intensive monitoring of these participants by the assigned judge results in a relationship that research has demonstrated plays a key role in the participant's recovery.

Further, the Maryland Courts have supported the extended use of alternative dispute resolution methods in delinquency, child in need of assistance and termination of parental rights cases. Youthful offenders who are confronted by their victims in a structured Community Conference, a restorative justice model, are more likely to pay restitution and less likely to re-offend. Mediation of post adoption contact agreements between biological and adoptive parents lessens the trauma to all parties, lowers the number of contested termination of parental rights cases and reduces the time to achieve permanency.

This Registry of Juvenile Court Program Initiatives demonstrates many collaborative, innovative and effective strategies that are based on national models and implemented throughout the state. These joint efforts demonstrate understanding by the judicial, legislative and executive leadership in Maryland that juveniles are unique, requiring judges to extend law and justice beyond the courtroom to achieve the ultimate safety and welfare of youth and the community.

The registry is the first compilation of these programs and marks the beginning of a comprehensive review and analysis of court-based and court-referred programs in the juvenile delinquency arena. The Department of Family Administration will begin compiling and evaluating available data on these programs with the hope of learning which programs are effective and warrant further investment and expansion.

# ALLEGANY COUNTY

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### **Domestic Mediation Program**

Mediation with contractual mediators is used in child in need of assistance cases. Two sessions are ordered, but more may be approved by agreement of all parties. Attorneys may be present.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The court refers cases to the family mediation program, usually based on a request from the Department of Social Services. The referrals can be made any time throughout the case, but usually are utilized to affect some type of visitation arrangement between the different parties towards the end of DSS and court involvement.

#### FAMILIES INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, 5 cases were referred.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration.

#### CONTACT

Lyn Pecoraro, Family Support Services Coordinator  
30 Washington Street, Cumberland, MD 21502  
linda.pecoraro@mdcourts.gov  
301-777-210

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### **Mountainside Community Mediation Center**

Neutral mediators help people involved in disputes communicate, understand each other and, if possible, reach a mutually satisfactory resolution.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals include self-referrals, police, courts, community organizations, civic groups, religious institutions, government agencies and others.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

P.O. Box 3582, LaVale, MD 21504  
240-727-0408  
info@mountainsidemediation.org

## Juvenile Diversion

Juvenile Diversion is a pre-court diversion program designed for first time non-violent juvenile offenders and offers a meaningful alternative to the Juvenile Services System through the intervention of responsible, community based strategies.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Juvenile Diversion operates at the direction of the Allegany County Sheriff's Office. The Juvenile Review Board is comprised of community members and is facilitated by a coordinator who is funded by the Local Management Board.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### CONTACT

Local Management Board of Allegany Count  
Lori Sadlier, JRB Coordinator  
125 Virginia Avenue, Cumberland, MD 21503-2235  
301-783-1888

## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### Truancy Prevention Program

The Truancy Prevention Program is a pre-court diversion program operated by the Allegany County Public School System.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Truancy Prevention is a collaboration between school administrators, pupil personnel workers, the State's Attorney's office and Department of Juvenile Services.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided by the Local Management Board of Allegheny County.

### CONTACT

Local Management Board of Allegany Count  
Laura Witt, Acting Executive Director or Melissa Crowe  
125 Virginia Avenue, Cumberland, MD 21503-2235  
301-783-1888

# ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAM

### Juvenile Treatment Court

Eligible participants in Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC) are juveniles ages 12 to 17.5 years old with non-violent property or drug charges and incident(s) of habitual substance use, particularly those not successful in previous treatment attempts and/or with financial or other barriers to accessing treatment. The program has three phases that can be completed in a minimum of 10 months. During Phase 1 (30 - 45 days), participants develop and implement a treatment plan and attend school or GED classes and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) meetings.

Court reviews are conducted twice a month. A parent or guardian must be present. During Phase 2 (3 - 12 months), participants attend school or GED classes, maintain employment (if not a full-time student), complete Individualized Treatment goals, participate in individual and family counseling, complete MRT group, attend treatment court reviews twice per month, complete 20 hours of community service/pro social activity and exhibit an appropriate and positive attitude. The average cost per participant is \$27,234.

In Phase 3 (30 to 60 days) participants must attend school or GED classes, maintain employment (if not a full-time student), complete discharge paperwork, and complete a Reflections essay. To graduate, participants must complete all program requirements, have 60 continuous clean days, fully participate in meeting Treatment Plan goals, have a positive recommendation for graduation from the JTC team, and have the approval of the JTC judge. When all of the above requirements are met, the judge will enter a not delinquent finding and probation is completed.

Sanctions include increased number of drug tests, essay-writing assignments, community service hours, book reports, curfew restrictions, length of phase extensions, increased court appearances, participation in a support group, attendance at an adult violation of probation hearing, community detention (with or without electronic monitoring), time in a juvenile facility and revocation of program participation (termination).

The program's goals are to: 1) reduce substance abuse among juvenile offenders, 2) reduce delinquent conduct/recidivism among JTC participants, 3) increase the level of individual functioning among JTC participants, and 4) increase the level of family functioning among all JTC participants and their families.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The JTC team consists of a judge, coordinator, probation officers from the Department of Juvenile Services and attorneys from the State's Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office. The team also includes school personnel, treatment providers, law enforcement, mental health providers and community agencies. Pamela L. North is the presiding judge.

Following arrest, DJS Intake officers refer eligible youth to the State's Attorney's Office. The coordinator reviews the case, meets with the family and either refers the case to the judge to be considered for JTC or it is returned for prosecution.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Since December 2009, 34 people have been admitted to the program; 5 were terminated unsuccessfully, and 6 have graduated from the program. Since its creation in 2003, 185 participants have been served. The average number of days in the program is 316.

## OUTCOMES

Substance abuse - as measured by positive drug tests, participants' controlled substance use declined over time.

Reoffending - in the 24 months following entry into the program, 53% of all participants and 44% of graduates were re-arrested, while 73% of non-participants were re-arrested. The overall graduation rate was 55%.

## STAFFING

One full-time employee works on both the juvenile and adult drug court program. The program is also staffed by personnel from the Department of Juvenile Services, Office of the Public Defender and Assistant State's Attorney and by two judges.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Juvenile treatment court is funded by a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Paula Fish  
Juvenile Treatment Court Coordinator  
7 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21404  
410-222-118

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### **Anne Arundel County CASA, Inc.**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The goal of the CASA program is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.



## YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served live in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

In fiscal year 2011, this program served 112 children with 96 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 32 had their cases closed during the year with 94% of those children living in permanent homes.

## STAFFING

The program is staffed by one full time and five part time employees.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Anne Arundel County, Private Foundations, National CASA Association, Corporate Donations, Private Donations, Fundraising/Events, and Federated Charity Campaign.

## CONTACT

Rebecca Tingle, Executive Director  
94 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
rebecca@aacasa.org  
410-267-7877

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## CINA Mediation

Mediation issues include post adoption contact for biological parents, visitation issues for siblings in separate placements and cases involving placement/treatment providers for profoundly disabled children. Most referrals come in TPR (termination of parental rights) cases for post adoption contact. There is usually one mediation session, but requests for follow up sessions can be made when progress is being made. The court schedules the case for three hours of mediation and uses a co-mediation model. Lawyers can attend the mediation.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Either counsel or the Court may request that a case be mediated. There is no fee to the litigants. The last referred case was in early 2010. Mediation referrals have dropped due to more settlement conferences between the attorneys, as well as to more Family Involvement Meetings and team decision making sessions being held by the Department of Social Services.

## FAMILIES INVOLVED

Due to budget restrictions, the court is only referring a few cases a year to mediators who volunteer their time.

## OUTCOMES

Of the 28 cases referred to the program between 2004 and 2006, 68% reached a full or partial agreement.

## STAFFING

The Family Law Administrator oversees this project and is the only staff person.

## FUNDING SOURCE

The program was initially funded through a grant from the Foster Care Court Improvement Project, and subsequently by the Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Family Administration. With reduced grant funding, the county no longer receives funds targeted for the mediation program. However, the mediators have agreed to mediate pro bono if the court needs to refer a case.

## CONTACT

Jennifer Cassel, Family Law Administrator  
7 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21404  
ctcass00@aacounty.org  
410-222-1448

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## Community Conferencing

Community conferencing is a research based initiative that diverts youth offenders from the juvenile justice system by involving them in a variety of experiential learning initiatives including mentoring, community service and victim restitution. The model is based on the principles of restorative justice, which includes promoting collective participation of offender, victim and the community and emphasizes repairing and restoring relationships.

The conference is a meeting of the community of people affected by behavior that has caused serious harm. It provides a forum in which offenders, victims and their respective supporters can seek ways to repair the damage caused by the incident and to minimize further damage. Attendees of a community conference include the offenders and their supporters, the victims and their supporters, the conference facilitator and anyone involved in investigating the incident. All participants are given an opportunity to recount what happened at the time and since, to provide a clear understanding of the full impact of the behavior. A written agreement is recorded that establishes what needs to be done to repair the damage and to minimize further harm. The terms of the agreement can include an apology, assurances that it will not occur again, repayment of money, repair of any property damage, community service work and seeking appropriate support. Conferences, on average, last about 90 minutes.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the Anne Arundel Partnership for Children, Youth and Families.

## CONTACT

Vincent Taylor  
1 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 103, Annapolis, MD 21401  
srtayl44@aacounty.org  
410-222-7423

## Juvenile Mediation

The Juvenile Mediation program conducts mediation for youth committing minor offenses such as trespass, telephone abuse, malicious destruction of property, some assaults; and also intra-family and neighborhood disputes. Participants are referred, as appropriate, to agencies for skill building, or for individual or family counseling. There is no cost to participate.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The program accepts referrals from multiple sources. Juvenile intake officers and the state's attorney's office make referrals after a youth has been through juvenile intake and the filing of a petition is pending. After the petition is filed, prosecuting attorneys from the juvenile trial team can also make a referral. In addition, referrals can come from a juvenile case associated with an adult criminal case, where the connection might be the activity, family relationship, etc. Most referrals are from juvenile intake and are not automatically subject to review by the state's attorney.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### CONTACT

Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office  
Nancy Hirshman  
251 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, MD 21401  
sahirs36@aacounty.org  
410-260-1870

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## Teen Court

In Teen Court, juveniles ages 10 to 17 who have been charged with a misdemeanor offense appear before a jury of their peers. In order to participate, the youth must admit involvement because teen court is a dispositional intervention. For most participants, this is their first offense.

Cases heard in Teen Court involve crimes such as shoplifting, disorderly conduct, destruction of property and possession of alcohol. The jury recommends a disposition to the judge, including a minimum number of community service hours and service on at least one and up to four teen court juries. Other sanctions include attending educational programs and writing essays and apology letters. The youth has 60 days to complete the disposition to have the original charge dismissed. If the disposition is not completed, the case returns to the referring agency for formal processing. The goals are to increase wellness and sobriety among the adolescent population and to reduce recidivism by strengthening families and supporting drug free communities. Teen Court is held at the District Court buildings in Glen Burnie and Annapolis.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Teen court is a cooperative effort of the County Executive, Anne Arundel County Police Department, State's Attorney's Office, Anne Arundel County Schools and Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice. Teen Court Program is sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the referring agency.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Since its inception in January, 1998 over 1,400 cases have been heard and over 41,203 community service hours have been assigned to respondents.

## OUTCOMES

The overall program completion rate is 85% with a recidivism rate of 11%.

In fiscal year 2010, 111 of 116 cases were adjudicated successfully, a 96% completion rate, and 4,158 community service hours were completed. In fiscal year 2009, 131 of 140 cases were adjudicated successfully, a 94% completion rate, and 4,788 community service hours were completed. In fiscal year 2008, 95 of 103 cases were adjudicated successfully, a 92% completion rate, and 3,684 community service hours were logged.

## STAFFING

Teen Court has one full time employee, in addition to volunteers.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland.

## CONTACT

Anne Arundel County Police Department  
Anne Shawkey, Teen Court Coordinator  
8495 Veterans Highway, Millersville, MD 21228  
ATTN: School Safety Section/Teen Court  
ashawkey@aacounty.org  
410-222-0504

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## Gang Awareness Program

The Gang Awareness Program was initiated by the Circuit Court and is operated by Sheriff's Department. The program provides education and resources for parents and family members of children who have delinquency charges and who are at risk of gang involvement. Parents participate in classes and view presentations on recognition and identification of gang related behavior. Sessions focus on topics such as language, tattoos, graffiti, clothing and other at-risk factors, including media awareness. Home visits and other supportive services are available to help parents understand gang culture. The program will continue through 2012.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals come exclusively from the court in delinquency cases. The court refers parents to the program when their child is suspected of gang involvement.

## FAMILIES INVOLVED

Classes are held quarterly, with 15 to 25 court referrals per class. The program began in early 2011.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Department  
Deputy Greg Kies  
7 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-222-1490 (main) or 301-609-0860 (cell)

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## Juvenile Intervention Family Independence

Juvenile Intervention Family Independence (JIFI) is a case management program for youth who have entered the juvenile justice system. The goal of the program is to decrease and prevent additional youth contacts with the juvenile justice system by stabilizing and improving family functioning. JIFI conducts assessments of youth who participate and makes appropriate recommendations to community based resources. Services include in-home family assessment, substance abuse screening, development of a treatment plan, educational advocacy, transportation to court hearings and school appointments and assistance with completion of court ordered conditions. The program provides community referrals for GED, counseling, support groups, medical services, job training, energy assistance, substance abuse and parenting groups. JIFI is voluntary, free and not time limited.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Youth and their families ages 12 to 17 are targeted, although younger children may be considered. The youth must be a resident of Anne Arundel County or have been charged with an offense in the county. The youth must be dealing with legal, educational, social or mental health issues.

Approximately 80 to 120 youths participate in the program per year.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided by the Anne Arundel Partnership for Children, Youth and Families.

## CONTACT

Chesapeake Center for Youth Development  
301 East Patapsco Ave., Baltimore, MD 21225  
Ivan Leshinsky  
Ivanl@ccyd.org  
410-355-4698

Joe Hargadon, Case Manager  
JoeH@ccyd.org  
410-636-7943

Erica Rosen, Deputy Director  
EricaR@ccyd.org  
410-355-4698 ext. 24

## Juvenile Offenders In Need of Supervision Program

Juvenile Offenders in Need of Supervision (JOINS) is a diversion program for first time, non-violent, non-felony juvenile offenders. Participants who successfully complete the 90 day program will have a chance to expunge records of the offense. The program uses a variety of sanctions, including supervision by law enforcement, counseling, anger management, drug treatment, community service hours and apology letters.

In order for an offender to participate, the parent and child must accept responsibility for the delinquent act and must live within a moderate radius of Annapolis. In addition, the victim must agree to the diversion.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Annapolis Police Department and the Department of Juvenile Services are the principal referral sources to the program.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### CONTACT

Annapolis Police Department  
Officer Ridley  
199 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401  
JMRidley@annapolis.gov  
410-268-9000

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## Youth Empowerment Services Program

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) is a 16 week after school diversion program for status offenders and first time, non-violent offenders ages 12 to 18. The program focuses on school performance, drug involvement and behavioral and emotional distress. Activities include homework assistance, creative recreational activities and individual, family and group counseling.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### CONTACT

Anne Arundel Partnership for Children, Youth and Families  
TyJuan Thompson,  
1 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 103, Annapolis, MD 21401  
srthom99@aacounty.org  
410-222-7423

## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### **Annapolis Youth Service Bureau**

Annapolis Youth Services Bureau provides free counselling for youth ages 5 to 19 and their families. The program addresses juvenile delinquency and prevention, youth development and amelioration of conditions that create dysfunction. The program also provides community referral and information, crisis intervention and suicide prevention, substance abuse assessment and referral and informal counseling. In addition, tutoring, educational and cultural activities, youth employment assistance and alternative leisure time activities are offered.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING**

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Funding is from the Anne Arundel Partnership for Children, Youth and Families.

#### **CONTACT**

Community Action Partnership  
Sascha Lipczenko  
92 West Washington St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
aysb2001@yahoo.com  
410-626-1800

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### **Robert A. Pascal Youth Service Bureau**

The youth service bureau is a counseling center dedicated to the emotional and mental health of children, adolescents and families.

Youth programs includes Cage Your Rage, an eight-week anger-management program for youth in middle and high school, and a substance-abuse education program for youth 13-18 years old, where participants submit to random urine screens, attend 12 program sessions and at least six 12-step meetings outside of the agency. The bureau also has an outpatient facility located in Severna Park.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING**

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

The Anne Arundel Partnership for Children, Youth and Families supports this program.

#### **CONTACT**

Adel O'Rourke  
PO Box 1012, Severna Park, MD 21146  
adel@rpascal.org  
410-975-0067

# BALTIMORE CITY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAM

### Family Recovery Program

The Family Recovery Program (FRP) is a comprehensive problem solving court program. It targets custodial parents who have at least one child age 0 to 5 in foster care for the first time and where substance abuse has been a factor in the child's removal. The primary objective of the program is to implement a substance abuse case management system for substance involved parents in order to accelerate reunification with the child or to assist the court in establishing other permanency options for the child. Parents can participate in the program for one year. Supportive services include mental health care, transportation, housing assistance and case management.

Parents may voluntarily enter the FRP at any time before their child's child in need of assistance (CINA) dispositional hearing. After the hearing, the court may order them into the program. Parents are assigned a case manager who assesses the parents' treatment needs, refers them to appropriate treatment and monitors their progress. The Juvenile Court conducts weekly hearings to further monitor their progress, awards incentives and imposes consequences on the parents based on compliance with their recovery service plan.

FRP Court runs separately but parallel to the child's CINA hearings. It is held every week, and presided over by the Administrative Juvenile Judge. Prior to the court session, all cases are reviewed by the FRP Docket Team, comprised of FRP staff and representatives of all attorneys and caseworkers involved with the children's CINA cases. At court, parents speak with the judge regarding progress and any additional services needed. FRP uses different types of service vendors under the Local Management Board protocol of The Family League of Baltimore City. Vendors include Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems/Baltimore Healthcare Access, Dayspring Programs, The Lanvale Institute, and Baltimore Area Association of Supportive Housing.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

*See above*

### FAMILIES INVOLVED

Since fiscal year 2007, over 626 parents have been served. 322 parents have been reunified with their children and 224 achieved permanency. Currently, 72 parents are enrolled.

### OUTCOMES

An independent evaluation was conducted by the Office of Problem Solving Courts from August 2005 through December 2006. The evaluation compared families receiving program services to comparable families not receiving services. It found:

- 1) Foster care - FRP families experienced 252 days of non-kinship foster care versus 346 days for non-FRP families.
- 2) Reunification - FRP families were 1.5 times more likely to be reunited than non-FRP families, 70% of FRP families achieved reunification compared to 45% of non-FRP families.



3) Treatment completion - Of families reaching permanency, FRP parents were nearly twice as likely to complete treatment as non-FRP parents; 64% of FRP parents completed treatment versus 36% for non-FRP families.

4) Time in treatment - FRP parents spent an average of 138 days in treatment versus 82 days for non-FRP families.

5) Costs to the child welfare system - FRP families utilized less foster care and were more likely to achieve reunification, and therefore were less costly than other CINA families. The total net cost savings per year of FRP operations was nearly \$1,004,456, or approximately \$5,022 per family served.

## STAFFING

The Baltimore Family Recovery Court is staffed by a court coordinator, a director, a case management coordinator, four case managers, a re-engagement specialist, a program liaison, a data analyst, a community outreach specialist, a drug tester, a program assistant and an administrative assistant.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided by the Family League of Baltimore (the Local Management Board) and the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Family League of Baltimore  
2305 N. Charles Street, Suite 200, Baltimore, MD 21218  
Stephen Lawrence, Family Recovery Program Court Coordinator,  
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410-605-0492 ext. 107

Jocelyn Gainers, Director, Family Recovery Program  
jgainers@flbcinc.org  
443-692-0090

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## Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court provides substance abuse treatment to chemically dependent juvenile delinquents in order to reduce drug use and criminal behavior. Participants are closely supervised through intensive case management and frequent judicial reviews. They are provided with substance abuse services, are encouraged to increase their involvement in pro-social activities and healthy living and are given a system of rewards and recognition for accomplishments. Each respondent is seen in court for a review, initially every two weeks, and subsequently on a monthly basis.

In order to participate a youth must be between 13 and 17.5 years old, must have a current eligible drug-related criminal charge, no history of violent crimes, be chemically dependent and amenable to treatment, have no serious mental illness and must be a resident of Baltimore City. In addition, each youth must have a parent or legal guardian willing to comply with conditions of the program. Certified screening tools are used to confirm the youth's eligibility as a substance abuser.

If the youth has remained substance free, has continued to meet the requirements of Aftercare, and has not picked up new charges, the youth will have the charges which brought them into court dropped from his record.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Juvenile Drug Court is a collaboration between the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender and Department of Juvenile Services.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, 42 youth participated, in fiscal year 2010 63 youth participated and in fiscal year 2009 60 youth participated.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The Juvenile Drug Court is funded by grants from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts and is financially supported by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City Juvenile Division, the State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender and Department of Juvenile Services.

#### CONTACT

Sheila Peksenak, Coordinator  
300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
sheila.peksenak@mdcourts.gov  
443-263-2734

### COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (CINA mediation)

The Baltimore Model Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program provides mediation services to the participants in children in need of assistance (CINA), termination of parental rights (TPR), and permanency planning proceedings in the Baltimore City Juvenile Court. Contractual mediators address issues such as visitation and allocation of responsibilities among parents, caretakers and the Department of Social Services.

Mediation can occur at various stages. Cases not settled at the permanency planning settlement hearing are routinely scheduled for mediation at the same time they are set for a contested hearing. Mediations are set prior to the contested hearing and at least three weeks after the settlement hearing. Mediation in TPR matters is voluntary.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Families are referred by juvenile judges and masters, parents' attorneys, children's attorneys and by the Department of Social Services.

#### FAMILIES INVOLVED/OUTCOMES

Between August 1, 2011 and January 31, 2012, 151 referrals for mediation were received. Of those, 102 resulted in written and signed mediated agreements and post adoption contact agreements in TPR cases.

## STAFFING

The program is staffed by one full-time court certified mediator and 10 court certified contractual mediators.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the Administrative Office of the Courts jurisdictional grant.

## CONTACT

Harry Smith, ADR Coordinator  
300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
harry.smith@courts.state.md.us  
443-263-3901

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## Baltimore City Day and Evening Reporting Centers

The Baltimore City Day and Evening Reporting Centers program is a community based alternative to secure detention that offers guidance, encouragement, redirection and alternatives to at risk youth. It aims to decrease the recidivism rate and the revolving door cycle for youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System by reducing failures to appear at court hearings and opportunities to re-offend through intensive supervision. Supervision includes nightly phone contacts after drop-offs and phone and face-to-face contacts on weekends and holidays.

The program also provides three hot meals a day, recreational activities, computer skills training, teacher instruction and group sessions for anger management, skill streaming, conflict resolution, cultural competency, character development and job readiness.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The program is operated by the Department of Juvenile Services. Youth are selected during the arraignment, pre-adjudication hearing or during the pre-disposition hearing. The program is coordinated with parents/guardians, schools and other stake holders.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

The program's capacity is 42 youth. The length of stay is four to six weeks. The program accepts boys and girls ages 12 to 17 who meet the criteria for community supervision recommended by the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument. Youth are diverted to the reporting center from detention. Exclusionary criteria include first degree assault, sex offenses, arson and youth on psychotropic medications.

## OUTCOMES

The program reports a 90% success rate in preventing recidivism and failures to appear for scheduled court hearings.

## STAFFING

The center is currently staffed with 15 full-time DJS employees, one program manager, one office secretary, two case management specialists, one group life manager, five residential advisors, one youth transportation officer, one teacher supervisor, two general educators and one instructional assistant. Additionally, there are 14 non-DJS staff members who are screened and approved by DJS Community and

Family Partnerships and assigned to assist sporadically. These include three foster grandparents, eight college student interns, two college student tutors and a community volunteer.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Funding for the program is provided by the Department of Juvenile Services.

#### **CONTACT**

Salah Fatah, Director  
Department of Juvenile Services  
909 Druid Park Lake Drive, Baltimore, MD 21217  
Fatahs@djs.state.md.us  
410-230-3293

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#### **CASA of Baltimore, Inc.**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES**

In fiscal year 2011, CASA of Baltimore served 199 children with 195 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 31 had their cases closed during the year with 97% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

#### **STAFFING**

CASA of Baltimore is staffed by one part-time Office Manager, an Executive Director, three full-time Supervisors of Volunteers, two part-time Supervisors of Volunteers and three part-time employees working on volunteer recruitment and retention. CASA of Baltimore participates in a program that employs low-income elderly people and also participates in AmeriCorps through CivicWorks.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Funding sources include the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, the National CASA Association, corporate and private donations, fundraising events, and the federated charity campaign.

## CONTACT

Susan Burger, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 13004, Baltimore, MD 21203-3004  
sburger@casabalt.org  
410-244-1465

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## Community Conferencing Center

Community Conferencing is a diversion program that targets young minority offenders in Baltimore City. The program addresses the need for effective community-based juvenile diversion programs that lower recidivism and reduce minority over-representation in the juvenile justice system. The program holds offenders accountable for their actions by bringing together offenders, victims and their families to collectively decide case outcomes. Conference participants discuss what happened, how everyone was affected and how to resolve the matter and prevent it from happening again. Conferences produce a written agreement, which outlines tasks for offenders to complete. If the agreement is completed the case will be closed. If the agreement is not completed, then the case is returned to the referral source to be processed in the usual manner.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Juvenile Court, the Department of Juvenile Services, State's Attorney's Office and others work with the program to identify cases that can be diverted from formal adjudication in juvenile court and from the juvenile justice system entirely. Referrals come from Baltimore City Police, Baltimore City School Police, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services and Maryland State's Attorney's Office.

The program accepts youth charged with felonies and misdemeanors in addition to diverting youth prior to the filing of a petition by the State's Attorney.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

In 13 years, over 12,000 young offenders, victims and supporters have safely and successfully resolved their own crimes and conflicts.

## OUTCOMES

Reoffending rates for young offenders who go through Community Conferencing are 60% lower than for those who go through the juvenile justice system. Compliance with the written agreements is over 95%.

## STAFFING

The program is staffed by seven full-time employees and one part-time employee.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Community Conferencing receives funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, Maryland State Police, Division of Corrections, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Baltimore City, Open Society Institute, Blaustein Foundation and private contributions.

## CONTACT

Lauren Abramson, Executive Director  
1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2700, Baltimore, MD 21211  
labramso@jhmi.edu, info@communityconferencing.org  
410-889-7400

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## Crossover Youth Initiative

The Crossover Youth Initiative is a pilot attempt to conduct joint agency planning for children with cases in both the delinquency and child welfare systems. The Administrative Juvenile Judge is in the process of reinvigorating the program and agency participation.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The program is a collaboration of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Department of Juvenile Services and Department of Social Services.

## YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

Circuit Court for Baltimore City  
Master Patricia (Pat) Brown, Master for Juvenile Causes  
300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
443-263-2700

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## Juvenile Court Early Intervention Program (JCEIP)

Upon receiving a court order and adolescent referral form, a substance abuse assessment and appointment date are scheduled. After an intake, screening, and urine sample, appropriate youth are referred to outpatient/inpatient counseling/treatment for drugs/alcohol.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The JCEIP accepts referrals from the Court, Department of Juvenile Services, the Public Defender's Office and the State's Attorney's Office.

## YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, Inc.

## CONTACT

300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
443-263-2731

## Juvenile Intervention Family Independence -Bridges Program

The Juvenile Intervention Family Independence (JIFI)-Bridges program is a court-housed, referral-based program housed in the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center that provides the voluntary JIFI project with ease of access to the hard to engage, underserved, court-involved youth. JIFI provides family and community support services for juveniles and their families, beginning with an in-home family assessment to determine the individual/family strengths and needs. Issues addressed by the program include educational advocacy, family issues, parenting teens, peer-related issues and substance abuse screening.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

JIFI is a partnership between the Circuit Court and the Chesapeake Center for Youth Development. Referrals are made by the Department of Juvenile Services-Probation, Office of Public Defender, masters, judges and the Chesapeake Center for Youth Development.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

The program focuses on youth identified as generally disconnected or having significant educational related issues, such as not attending school, having multiple absences, failing more than one class, having out-of-date Individualized Education Program (IEP), or having the school be non-compliant with a current IEP. The program also includes youth with social-emotional deficits that create significant barriers to their permanency planning and successful transition out of the system.

Thirty-one youth have participated in the program and 6 have completed it.

### OUTCOMES

As of 2011:

- 92% did not reoffend while in treatment with the program
- 94% of received the SASSI screening for substance abuse
- 100% of JIFI clients have active medical insurance either private or medical assistance
- 100% of JIFI clients who require educational placement are receiving educational advocacy
- 100% have been screened through our psychosocial assessment tool for mental health issues.

### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

The program is staffed by one part time employee provided by the court.

### CONTACT

Felicia Roach, Educational Specialist/JIFI-Bridges Coordinator  
300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
felicia.roach@mdcourts.gov  
443-263-8529

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## LINKS Project

The LINKS Project is a family focused initiative that aims to stabilize youth in their homes and communities with the least restrictive environment. The court-based staff conducts mental health services coordination and needs assessments, provides treatment recommendations and consultant services and links youth and families to appropriate community-based service providers.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Youth are referred by the court to this joint partnership between Baltimore Mental Health Systems and the Baltimore juvenile court.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Tonia Johnson, Coordinator,  
Juvenile Court Services Office  
300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
443-263-2741

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### **Operation Safe Kids Court/Violence Prevention Initiative**

Operation Safe Kids (OSK) Court is an intensive, community-based program that provides accountability and immediate response for juvenile offenders who continue to exhibit delinquent behavior within the Violence Prevention initiative of the Department of Juvenile Services. The program targets youth who are at risk of out-of-home placement and is designed to identify youth who are at the highest risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of violent crime.

During a dedicated docket, the judge and OSK personnel work with the youth to provide services designed to help and rehabilitate the youth and to increase compliance with the terms of probation. The program provides intensive community-based case management and monitoring of high-risk juvenile offenders, including substance abuse and mental health treatment. Other services include an employment counselor (from the Mayor's Office of Employment Development), education coordinator, family support, extracurricular activities and transition services for reentry youth.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Operation Safe Kids is a partnership including the Juvenile Court, Baltimore City Health Department, Department of Juvenile Services and various other stakeholders. Referrals are from the Department of Juvenile Services. High-risk youth who meet the eligibility requirements are court-ordered to participate in the program under the supervision of a Judge.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Approximately 350 high-risk Violence Prevention Initiative youth are involved annually.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

No information has been provided by the program.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The Violence Prevention Initiative is partially supported by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Second Chance Act demonstration project.



## CONTACT

Baltimore City Health Department  
Orin Howard, Director  
218 W. Saratoga Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
443-984-4012

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## Teen Court

Baltimore City Teen Court (BCTC) encompasses two distinct components: Diversion and Leadership Development. The Diversion component allows minors who have been arrested for a misdemeanor offense a viable alternative to the Department of Juvenile Justice. BCTC emphasizes self accountability, community restitution and positive peer influence for youth. At the Teen Court hearing, held in a courthouse and presided over by a volunteer judge or lawyer, a jury of peers questions the youth about the incident. The jury then gives the youth sanctions, including but not limited to community service, jury duties, apology letters, essays and counseling. If the sanctions are completed within the allotted time, charges are dismissed. If the sanctions are not completed or a youth re-offends, the case is sent back to the referring agency.

The Leadership component is an important and unique aspect of the BCTC. Through bi-weekly sessions, youth volunteers (and youth respondents who transition into volunteers) increase their civic literacy and earn meaningful service learning hours, which are also necessary for high school graduation.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Baltimore City Police and Baltimore City School Police are the referring agencies. Partnering agencies include Department of Juvenile Services, Mayor's Office of Crime and Prevention, Maryland Judiciary, Baltimore City Public Schools, State's Attorney Office, Baltimore Mental Health System, Youth volunteers and local non-profit or for-profit agencies.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Eligible youth must be 11 to 17 years of age, have no more than four prior arrests, no outstanding charges other than the offense that brought them to Teen Court and admit responsibility for their actions.

## OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, 209 cases were adjudicated, 186 of which were successful, and 4,250 hours of community service were completed. In fiscal year 2010, 195 cases were adjudicated, 157 of which were successful, and 3,626 hours of community service were completed. The recidivism rate for BCTC participants is 14%, compared to 60% in the traditional juvenile system.

In fiscal year 2011 youth volunteers earned 2,210 hours of service learning. In fiscal year 10 youth volunteers earned 1,910 hours of service learning.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Baltimore City Teen Court is funded by foundations and private donations.

## CONTACT

Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP)  
Leslie Wright, Baltimore City Teen Court and Outreach Coordinator  
520 West Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201  
law@clrep.org  
410-706-5364

## OTHER COURT INVOLVED JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### Juvenile Court Services Office

The Juvenile Court Services Office is designed to improve the responsiveness of the juvenile court by connecting youth to community based resource alternatives, and by increasing coordination between court services and community providers on data collection systems on available services. The office focuses on the immediate mental health and imminent resource needs of youth and their families, whose cases are dismissed or in the pre-adjudicatory phase of either the delinquency or child welfare systems.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

Tonia Johnson, Coordinator  
300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
443-263-2741

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### Model Court

Through its designation as a model court, Baltimore has adopted the best practice guidelines of child delinquency and child welfare and embraced the initiatives of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, including one family/one master, alternative dispute resolution, reduction of minority disparity and enhanced court medical and education evaluations and referrals. In delinquency matters, alternatives to detention and diversion for services have been emphasized. An executive committee oversees the court. (*See above for Model Court CINA Mediation program*).

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
Judge Bonita J. Dancy (retired)  
443-263-8528  
Joan P. Green, Assistant  
443-263-3930

## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### Children in Need of Supervision (CINS) Pilot Program

The goal of the Children in Need of Supervision (CINS) Pilot Program is to divert status offending youth from penetrating the juvenile justice system by providing a community youth and family services agency to develop a comprehensive family-focused assessment and service plan for youth who have a CINS complaint. The assessment and service plan will then be given to the Department of Juvenile Services so that a recommendation can be made to the family about services that would help resolve the issues that led to the CINS complaint.

A CINS is a child who requires guidance, treatment or rehabilitation, and 1) is required by law to attend school and is habitually truant, 2) is habitually disobedient, ungovernable and beyond the control of the person having custody of him/her, 3) deports himself/herself so as to injure or endanger themselves or others, or 4) has committed an offense applicable only to a child.

Program assessment occurs prior to a Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) intake decision. A juvenile intake officer who receives a CINS complaint must refer the child and the parents to a provider unless the officer concludes that the court has no jurisdiction or that neither an informal adjustment nor judicial action is appropriate. The provider must meet with the child and the parents between two and six times to discuss the child's school performance, family interactions, peer relationships and health, including drug and alcohol use. The provider must review all records concerning the child, conduct an assessment and establish a case plan and record for providing services. Within 25 days the assessment must be completed, a service plan must be developed to address needs identified and a report must be filed with DJS Intake. Family Conferencing and other counseling services are also offered.

An intake officer may not authorize the filing of a delinquency or CINS petition or peace order request or propose an informal adjustment for the child unless the provider has filed a report with the court stating the date of the initial meeting with the child and that all attempts to provide assessment, intervention and referral services have failed.

HB 1139, which took effect in 2006, required the Department of Juvenile Services to establish a CINS Pilot Program in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and to be implemented by the Local Management Board.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The juvenile intake officer, after receiving a complaint that the child is in need of supervision, refers the family for an assessment.

The Baltimore City program is administered by Family League of Baltimore City, services are provided by the East Baltimore Community Corporation. The program is located in the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

917 referrals were assessed between the program's inception in 2007 through fiscal year 2010.

## OUTCOMES

As of 2008, the program provided family conferencing assessments to 100% of the 275 referrals and completed Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Comprehensive Multi-System Assessment (CANS) and service plans for 243 of the referrals (88% compliance). In addition, 100% of all assessed cases were connected with at least one service provider, and 88% were connected with two or more. The program also had 100% compliance with filing reports with DJS within 25 days.

In fiscal year 2010, 298 (100%) youth were contacted, with 85% receiving full services (family conferencing, CANS Assessment and comprehensive service plan) and 94% receiving significant services (family conferencing or full complement of program services). Of those, 298 youth, 88%, had no formal DJS involvement within six months of participation.

For the period from fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2010, 917 (100%) youth were contacted, with 69% receiving full services and 91% receiving significant services. 83% had no formal DJS involvement within six months of participation.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

House Bill 1139 initially directed DJS to fund the program at \$167,000 per year through the Family League of Baltimore City through fiscal year 2010. During the 2009 session, the General Assembly passed HB 788, which extended funding through fiscal year 2013.

## CONTACT

East Baltimore Community Corp  
Lisa Procks, CINS Program Director  
301 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
443-263-8747

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## Continuum of Opportunity Reentry Program & Services (CORPS) Initiative

The Continuum of Opportunity Reentry Program & Services (CORPS) Initiative is a federally funded, comprehensive effort to link youth to appropriate educational, vocational and employment opportunities. The program also includes a mentoring component. The Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice operates two on-going community service sites (one on the east side and one of the west side), as well as various community engagement activities scheduled at various times.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Corps is operated by Department of Juvenile Services in partnership with the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice and the Family League. Participating youth are referred by advocate agencies.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

It is intended to serve 400 Baltimore City male and female Department of Juvenile Services youth 14 to 21 years old returning from placements, detention or on probation.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the U.S. Department of Labor.

## CONTACT

Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

Rian Parent, Prevention Specialist

City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, Room 334, Baltimore, MD 21202

443-984-2371

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## Diversion Assessors

Diversion Assessors are based in the Baltimore City police department's juvenile booking unit and refer cases to Teen Court (if there is no identifiable victim), to Community Conferencing (if there is an identifiable victim) and to mental health and substance abuse treatment centers. If the youth completes the diversion option, the case is not formalized through the court system. To be eligible, a juvenile must have been charged with one to three minor misdemeanors.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Baltimore City Police Department and Baltimore City School Police are the diversion agents.

## YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## STAFFING

There are two assessors, 1 full-time and 1 part-time.

## CONTACT

Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

Karlice Moss-Teams

City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, Room 334, Baltimore, MD 21202

Karlice.Moss-Teams@baltimorecity.gov

443-263-8540

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## Partnership for Learning

The mission of the Partnership for Learning program is to prevent future crimes by first time offenders with reading difficulties by re-engaging them in learning, educational and vocational opportunities. The program provides tutoring and mentoring services weekly for two hours to first-time juvenile offenders who are struggling in school, and monitors school attendance and grades. In order to participate, youth must have a history of special education, a learning disability, have failed a grade and/or be two or more grade levels behind in reading. Once admitted to the program, a youth's case can be postponed for six months while the youth participates in the program. Youth who successfully complete the program (50 hours attended, regular school attendance and no new charges) will have their case dismissed. Those not completing the program will have their cases advanced for trial.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Youth are referred by state's attorneys, public defenders, judges and masters at arraignment and are screened for learning disabilities.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office  
Joyce Wright, Juvenile Division Chief  
300 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-396-4001

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#### Roberta's House

Roberta's House partners with the Violence Prevention Initiative of the Department of Juvenile Services. The 10 week sessions are designed to give juveniles the skills to cope with unresolved grief. Male and female teens ages 14 to 17 years old in the probation system who have experienced the death of a loved one, witnessed a violent death or were impacted in other significant ways by violence are eligible to participate.

The program aims to guide the youth to acknowledge the reality of the death, provide a safe environment for them to experience the pain while being nurtured physically, emotionally and spiritually, convert the relationship with the deceased person to one of memory, develop a new self-identity based on life without the deceased person, relate the experience of death to a context of meaning and experience continued supportive adult presence in future years. Establishing healthy coping skills will result in youth being less likely to engage in violence, experience academic failure or participate in other negative behavior including drug use, attempted suicide and teen pregnancy.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals come from DJS, the Family Bereavement Center, Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City and the courts.

Partners include Sheppard Pratt Health System, Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Baltimore City Public Schools, Black Mental Health Alliance, Baltimore City Police Department and Departments of Health and Social Services, and the Center for Prevention of Youth Violence at Johns Hopkins University.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES

This is a new program; outcomes are not yet available.

#### STAFFING

The program is staffed by a director, volunteer coordinator and administrator

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration.

## CONTACT

Roberta's House Family Grief Support Center  
Darnell Baylor  
1900 N. Broadway, Suite 101, Baltimore, MD 21213  
darnellbaylor@yahoo.com  
443-362-2211

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## Truancy Court Program

The Truancy Court Program (TCP) is a voluntary, early intervention program that operates entirely in the schools. The target population is students with 5 to 20 unexcused absences or tardiness. The program runs for ten weeks, with two sessions per year, and generally is focused on middle schools. Each school has a truancy court coordinator. A mentor coordinator teaches character building classes to participating students and calls parents to provide weekly updates. Judges (an actual judge, master or attorney) volunteer to preside over weekly TCP sessions at the schools. The judge and program staff, school administrator, teachers and the TCP coordinator meet individually with participants (and their parents, if they attend) as a team every week to review the student's attendance, academic performance, etc. The judge aims to identify the causes underlying truant behavior and, together with the team, tries to problem solve. This may involve providing advice to assist the student with any problems, suggesting resources or addressing problems in the school.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Participating schools identify students and send out letters of invitation. TCP holds an orientation for responding parents to explain the program and to have parents to sign a permission slip.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

About 10 to 15 students per school per session participate. In 2010-11, there were 8 participating schools in Baltimore City, and in 2011-12, 6 schools participated. The program has been operating since 2005.

## OUTCOMES

TCP tracks attendance data for the ten weeks prior to a student's admission to the program, the time participating in the program and the ten weeks following participation. Initial data indicate an overall 75% decrease in absences for students during and immediately following their TCP participation.

## STAFFING

Staff includes two full-time employees and several part-time staff, as necessitated by the number of schools participating.

## FUNDING SOURCE

The program has been supported by funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts, a three-year grant from U.S. Department of Justice Office of Special Programs in 2009 (the grant covered replication of the TCP in two additional Baltimore City schools and in two schools in each of the following counties: Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, and Montgomery County) and several foundations. Currently the program's largest private funder is the Charles Crane Family Foundation. Other funding has been provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Wright Family Foundation, the Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund and the Ober/Kaler law firm.

## CONTACT

University of Baltimore Center for Families, Children & the Courts  
1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
Professor Barbara A. Babb, Director  
bbabb@ubalt.edu  
410-837-5661  
Gloria Danziger, Senior Fellow  
gdanziger@ubalt.edu  
410-837-5613

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## Baltimore Students: Mediation About Reducing Truancy

The Baltimore Students: Mediation About Reducing Truancy (BSMART) BSMART truancy mediation program targets youth in grades K-8 who are at risk for becoming chronically truant. The goal is to improve attendance by encouraging communication between the family and school through mediation. The mediations are free, voluntary and private.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

BSMART mediation is available before the truancy becomes chronic or the family has been referred to the court system. The initiative provides services in four Baltimore City schools.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

The participating schools are each provided the opportunity to refer 2 families for mediation per week. In 2011, the program received 162 referrals.

## OUTCOMES

Survey results demonstrate that 94% of parents and 98% of teachers found the mediation experience to be satisfactory or very satisfactory. In general, more than half of the referred students improved their attendance, but of those students who were referred at the early stage, 88% improved their attendance.

## STAFFING

BSMART has four employees.

## FUNDING SOURCE

The program received a grant from the Charles Crane Family Foundation from 2007-2011. Current funding from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention is to directly provide services in Baltimore City, and facilitate the expansion of truancy mediation services into three additional jurisdictions. Through a collaboration with Community Mediation Maryland and its affiliate organizations, truancy mediation services will be offered in certain schools in Spring 2012 in Washington, Anne Arundel and Dorchester counties.

## CONTACT

University of Maryland School of Law  
500 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
Deborah Eisenberg  
deisenberg@law.umaryland.edu  
410-706-6723



# BALTIMORE COUNTY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

### CINA Enhanced Drug Treatment Referral Program

The Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) Enhanced Drug Treatment Referral Program aims to enhance the substance abuse treatment referral process for parents whose children have been removed from their care and custody due substantially to ongoing substance abuse. The court conducts prompt treatment assessments, and monitors and supports compliance with treatment referrals. The goal of the program is to improve treatment outcomes in order to promote reunification efforts for children and families.

At the time a child is removed, the parent will be referred from the court to the program's case coordinator for substance abuse treatment assessment. The parent meets with the case coordinator on the day the case is referred, if possible. The coordinator conducts an evaluation to determine whether the individual is an appropriate candidate for treatment. The coordinator also explains the goals and objectives of the program to the parent and confirms the schedule for ongoing treatment.

If the parent is not appropriate for treatment or does not meet program requirements, the coordinator returns the case to court. If the parent enters the program but fails to comply with treatment or fails to meet with or to contact the coordinator when scheduled, the participant will be scheduled for a status hearing before the court. The parent is then required to explain to the court why they have not followed through on the treatment terms. The parent can continue to participate in program for six months from the date of referral. The court, upon a showing of good cause, may extend the period. Satisfactory participation in the program is a factor that the court will consider in reviews of custody and visitation, and in assessing the permanency plan for the child.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The court refers participants to the program. Other participating agencies include the Department of Social Services, Baltimore County Health Department, parents, attorneys for the parent(s) and children's attorneys.

### FAMILIES INVOLVED

As of August 2010, 15 participants were enrolled in the program, all of whom have since been transferred to the Family Recovery Court.

### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

The project is supported by the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

### CONTACT

Janice Gage, Substance Abuse Specialist

401 Bosley Avenue, Towson, MD 21204  
410-887-6159

## Family Recovery Court

The mission of the Family Recovery Court is to treat chemical dependency, preserve families and protect children. The target population for the program is comprised of parents or guardians whose substance abuse is a substantial cause for child in need of assistance (CINA) jurisdiction. An individual is disqualified from participating in the program if: 1) it is a case where "waiver of reasonable efforts" applies, or 2) the individual has been diagnosed with severe mental illness or retardation. The assigned Substance Abuse Specialist (SAS) determines whether individuals are appropriate and eligible for the program.

Clinical assessments conducted by the SAS determine the treatment level of care for the participant. Levels of care include: 1) outpatient treatment for clients who require 1-8 hours of programming per week, 2) intensive outpatient treatment for clients who require nine or more hours of treatment and detoxification per week, 3) medically monitored intensive inpatient treatment, which provides 24 hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment, 4) continuing care facilities for clients in recovery from alcoholism and drug dependency, who require long term, structured residential treatment, and 5) halfway houses, which offer living space in a recovery oriented environment that promotes 12-step involvement, personal responsibility, fellowship and the opportunity for reintegration.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Each participant has a treatment team comprised of a clinical case manager/SAS employed by the court and a Department of Social Services caseworker. The SAS assists the Juvenile Court judge and master in referring and monitoring program participants.

## FAMILIES INVOLVED/OUTCOMES

During fiscal year 2011, 51 individuals in CINA cases were referred to the Family Recovery Court and 26 individuals entered the program. In fiscal year 2011, 2 individuals successfully completed the program.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Family Recovery Court is funded by a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Kristy Maurath, Permanency Planning Coordinator  
401 Bosley Avenue, Towson, MD 21204  
410-887-2744

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## Juvenile Court Dependency Mediation Project

The Juvenile Court Dependency Mediation Project offers parents with children in foster care an opportunity to work together with social workers to plan for their children's future. Mediators (trained and employed by the court) act as neutral parties dedicated to helping participants come to agreement on goals and services related to planning for children in foster care. Mediation takes place at an early phase

(child in need of assistance stage), where the Department of Social Services and the parent work to agree and create a Services Agreement.

The goal of the project is to give parents the opportunity to understand what is expected of them, e.g., what parents will need to do to have their child return home and how their social worker can help, a visitation schedule for parents and children, a target date to return home, if that is the goal and an alternative plan, if the child cannot return home. When a child cannot return home, mediation may be ordered to help all parties decide whether an agreement can be reached on an action plan for that family. Mediation may not resolve all issues. Issues that cannot be resolved will be returned to the court for resolution. Mediation services are provided at no cost to the participants.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Participants are referred by the Juvenile Court. When children are placed in the legal custody of the Department of Social Services, the Juvenile Court will order mediation. Parents will be provided with a mediation appointment date and are required to attend. Mediation may be ordered at future Juvenile Court hearings when requested by parents, attorneys, social workers or children.

#### **FAMILIES INVOLVED/AGREEMENTS REACHED**

In fiscal year 2011, 33 dependency mediations were conducted, with 24 reaching a full agreement.

#### **OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE**

*No information has been provided from program.*

#### **CONTACT**

Wendy L. Sawyer, Director  
410-887-6570

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### **Baltimore County Juvenile Drug Court**

The goals of the Baltimore County Juvenile Drug Court (BCJDC) are to increase wellness and sobriety among adolescents and to reduce recidivism by strengthening families and supporting drug free communities. Participants in the BCJDC program must admit to drug or alcohol abuse, be amenable to treatment and be between 13 and 17 years old. Program guidelines indicate that the original focus of this program was nonviolent offenders with a substance abuse problem. However, as of December 2007, the program began to consider youth with prior violent offenses (e.g., misdemeanor assault charges) for program acceptance. A parent or legal guardian must also be willing to participate and support the youth throughout the program.

The BJCDC program has four phases that can be completed by participants in a period as short as 12 months. The first two phases are highly structured with frequent treatment sessions, supervision meetings and drug testing. The last two phases are designed as aftercare phases, with decreasing supervision and treatment sessions, and a focus on relapse prevention and re-entry. Upon graduating from the program, charges against the youth are dismissed.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Typically, participants are referred to the drug court by their Department of Juvenile Services case manager. Once the referral has been made, the State's Attorney's Office sends a letter to each prospective participant advising them that they may be eligible for drug court and that they should seek counsel in the form of a private attorney or the public defender. A copy of the letter is also forwarded to the Public

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Defender. Prior to arraignment, prospective participants can meet with the BCJDC coordinator to discuss eligibility and interest in the program. If an eligible youth indicates intent to participate, her/his case will be set for adjudication on the next BJCDC hearing date.

The program is operated on a collaborative basis by the Juvenile Drug Team, which includes a Judge, a State's Attorney, a Public Defender (or youth's private attorney), a DJS Probation Officer and an Addiction Counselor from the Bureau of Substance Abuse.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES

The program has a capacity to serve 80 participants per year. In fiscal year 2011, 53 participants were enrolled. The program screens an average of 15 to 20 referrals per month and admits an average five new participants per month. In fiscal year 2011, 15 participants graduated.

#### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The program is supported by grants from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

#### CONTACT

Angela Shroyer, Drug Court Coordinator  
401 Bosley Avenue, Towson, MD 21204  
410-887-2199

### COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### **CASA of Baltimore County, Inc.**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. It is the CASA program's goal to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

#### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, CASA served 199 children with 151 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 43 had their cases closed during the year with 85% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

#### STAFFING

CASA of Baltimore County has eight staff members including a director and an Americorps volunteer.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Baltimore County Office of Community Development, Private Foundations, National CASA Association, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, corporate donations, private donations, fundraising/events and Federated Charity Campaign.

#### CONTACT

Susan Daddio, Executive Director  
305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 117, Towson, MD 21204  
SDaddio@casabaltco.org  
410-828-0515

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### Community Detention Enhancement

The Community Detention Enhancement program targets Baltimore County youth who are alleged to be delinquent. The program provides youth the opportunity to reside in the home of a parent or guardian as an alternative to detention. This program works intensively with youth and families to ensure that the youth adjusts successfully to community detention, appears for court hearings and does not reoffend. The Department of Juvenile Services also offers community detention programs throughout the state as a condition of probation.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Community Detention is funded by the Department of Juvenile Services.

#### CONTACT

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services  
Lisa Reynolds, Director of Community Detention  
reynolis@djs.state.md.us  
443-802-5472 (cell)

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### Conflict Resolution Center of Baltimore County

Community Conferencing is a conflict transformation process that uses a restorative justice framework to address incidents of harm in schools, communities and within the juvenile and criminal justice systems. The program brings together all those involved in, and affected by, an incident or conflict in order to hear what happened directly from those involved, tell how each individual has been affected by the situation and create a written agreement that addresses what needs to be done to repair the harm and stop it from

happening again. Non-compliant juveniles are returned to the referring agency (Department of Juvenile Services, police, State's Attorney's Office).

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Participant referrals are made by DJS Intake Officers, the State's Attorney's Office, public defenders and police.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

540 youth participated in the program over the last three years (of which seven had multiple conferences). 98% of all conferences reached an agreement that resolved the situation.

#### OUTCOMES

A Maryland Department of Juvenile Services study reported that recidivism rates were 60% lower for juveniles participating in Community Conferences than in a matched sample of juveniles participating in the traditional juvenile justice system process.

#### STAFFING

The project has three part time staff.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The program is funded entirely by grants. There is no cost to participants.

#### CONTACT

Misty Fae, Director  
8707 Harford Rd, Suite A, Parkville, MD 21234  
410-663-7070

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### Juvenile Offenders in Need of Supervision

The mission of the Juvenile Offenders in Need of Supervision (JOINS) is to prevent juvenile delinquency by diverting threshold offenders from the juvenile justice system. Threshold offenders are first-time non-violent offenders or those youth deemed to be at the beginning of a pattern of delinquency. The program embodies and promotes the principals of restorative justice, including the payment of restitution to the victim. Before a juvenile is admitted to JOINS, the victim is contacted to see if there are any objections to the juvenile's involvement. If there are no objections and the juvenile agrees to admit involvement in the incident, the juvenile is admitted to the program. A counselor will assess the needs of the victims and recommend treatment. The juvenile also has a hearing where the victim is allowed to give a statement, if they choose, and a recommended treatment plan is developed for participants.

Treatment may include, but is not limited to, writing an essay on their offense, giving a presentation with two visual aides, restitution, curfew, directive to attend school and community conferencing. On average, it takes a juvenile 90 days to successfully complete the program. If the juvenile fails to adhere to or complete the program requirements, or the juvenile receives a subsequent charge after being admitted to the program, then they are referred back to the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

All first-time non-violent offenders are referred to the program by the police (pre-DJS involvement/intake). The following categories of offenders are not eligible for the program: sex offenders,

violent offenders, juveniles who engage in ongoing criminal enterprises and re-offenders. Participating agencies include the DJS, the court and the Baltimore County Police Department.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Approximately 1,500 juveniles are admitted to the program each year. Of those admitted to the program, 1,250 successfully complete the program.

#### OUTCOMES

The program tracks recidivism rates (in conjunction with DJS) for one year following successful completion of the program. Within a year, 96% of juveniles do not offend (in the state of Maryland.)

#### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Dr. Mark Metzger, Director  
mmetzger@baltimorecountymd.gov  
410-887-3273

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### Children in Need of Supervision Project

The Children in Need of Supervision (CINS) Project offers services to families when a parent or guardian contacts the Department of Juvenile Services Intake for assistance with a truant, ungovernable or runaway child. DJS Intake staff refer the family and child to the program. The police officer and counseling team initiate contact with the referred youth and the youth's family to schedule an assessment/intake interview. During the interview, the police officer assesses the juvenile's needs and recommends treatment. Treatment may include, but is not limited to, community conferencing, in and out patient counseling, physical and/or mental health treatment, an education plan and a family plan. Treatment plans are individualized and not "one size fits all." The length of time for program completion varies based on the nature of the offense and the needs of the juvenile. Participation in the program is voluntary.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Direct referral by DJS sent to the director of the program, who then assigns all cases to an officer and counseling team.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Approximately 100 youth are referred per year. Out of those referred, approximately 65 will agree to come in for an intake interview. On average approximately 45 to 50 juveniles successfully complete the program.

#### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2010, 95% of participants had no contact with DJS within six months following program completion and 73% of participants had no contact with DJS within 12 months following program completion.

#### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

John Worden, Director  
jworden@baltimorecountymd.gov  
410-887-5823

# CALVERT COUNTY

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CASA of Southern Maryland

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

CASA of Southern Maryland is a program of the Center for Children and serves children in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011 in Calvert County, this program served 21 children with 11 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 1 had their case close during the year. That child was living in a permanent home at closure.

### STAFFING

CASA of Southern Maryland has three full time staff, including the director.

### FUNDING SOURCE

CASA of Southern Maryland is financially supported by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, the United Way, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, private donations, fundraising/events and undirected funds from the parent organization.



## CONTACT

Heather Balderson, Program Director  
422 Solomons Island Road North, Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
Balderson@center-for-children.org  
301-855-1056 or 410-535-3047

## Community Mediation Center

The mission of the Community Mediation Center is to provide conflict management services that educate and empower people involved in the child welfare system to create their own solutions. The program employs specially trained mediators who assist Department of Social Services caseworkers, parents, children and their respective attorneys to reach agreements on foster care issues, permanency planning and termination of parental rights. There is no charge for the participants.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by the Circuit Court Family Services Coordinators.

## FAMILIES INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2010, 7 cases were referred for mediation. Of those 7 cases, 6 mediations were conducted, each resulted in mediation agreements.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

The program is funded by a grant from the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office.

## CONTACT

Susan Rork, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 80, Solomons, MD 20688  
calvertmediation@hotmail.com  
443-295-7456

## CAROLINE COUNTY

### COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

#### **Caroline County Juvenile Drug Court**

Potential participants in Caroline County Juvenile Drug Court (CCJDC) must be residents of Caroline County, and be between the ages of 12 and 17 years. In addition, they must have a history of at least two of the following: 1) prior substance use or abuse-related charges or dispositions, 2) moderate to severe substance use or abuse, 3) prior offenses recorded by the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) or Teen Court, and/or 4) willingness of a guardian to be involved in a treatment program. Generally, prospective participants have not responded to regular probation and outpatient treatment.

A DJS case management specialist completes an intake assessment within two weeks of receipt of arrest paperwork to determine if the youth may be an appropriate candidate for the program. If a parent or guardian and the youth are willing to participate in the program, the referral is forwarded to the Counseling Center, the coordinator and the state's attorney. The state's attorney screens the participant for eligibility and the Counseling Center performs a needs assessment. Individuals are then assessed through the Counseling Center using the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI). The SASSI instrument is a brief psychological screening measure to identify individuals with a high probability of substance abuse.

The CCJDC operates as a pre and post dispositional and violation of probation program, depending on the individual's need. The program has four phases that generally take 255 to 345 days (approximately 8 ½ to 11 ½ months) to complete. The length of each phase is dependent upon the participant's compliance with the drug court requirements.

Phase I consists of addictions treatment, drug testing, daily curfew calls, life skills meetings and court hearings twice a month. Phase II consists of aftercare appointments, weekly check-ins with DJS and court hearings once a month. Participants must have 30 consecutive days of clean urine analysis tests, which are conducted two to three times per week, be in compliance with all of the program requirements and make at least one payment toward treatment fees. During Phase III, participants must attend drug court hearings once per month and continue submitting one urinalysis sample per week. They must also complete their educational plan, which is generally to obtain a GED. Participants are held to these requirements for 60 to 90 days and must have 60 consecutive days with clean drug tests. Phase IV of participation is intended to provide final opportunities for completing case plan goals and for assessing any unmet needs. This phase lasts 45 to 60 days, during which the participant is required to complete Moral Reconciliation Therapy, and any assigned community service hours. Court appearances continue monthly.

In order to graduate from CCJDC, participants must satisfy program requirements for all four phases and complete a minimum of all program requirements, including completion of community service and other program assignments, and 45 consecutive days being clean and sober.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Participants are referred to the program exclusively through DJS. The CCJDC operations team is made up of the judge, the program coordinator, the DJS juvenile case management specialist, attorneys from the state's attorney's and public defender's office, the director of the Caroline Counseling Center, adolescent addictions counselor with the Department of Health, the therapist and assistant from the Caroline Counseling Center and the pupil personnel worker with the Caroline County Board of Education.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

The JDC has a capacity to serve 20 participants. Currently, the program has about eight participants.

#### OUTCOMES

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### STAFFING

The Juvenile Drug court is staffed by two full time employees and two part time employees.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

#### CONTACT

Samantha Parker, Coordinator  
109 Market Street, Suite 200, Denton, MD 21629  
410-479-4134

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### **CASA of Caroline, Inc.**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

## OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, this program served 25 children with 18 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 3 had their cases closed during the year, with 75% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

## STAFFING

CASA of Caroline has three part time staff.

## FUNDING SOURCE

CASA is funded by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, the United Way, private donations, fundraising/events, and the Federated Charity Campaign.

## CONTACT

Katie Parmer, Executive Director  
114 Market Street, Suite 100, P.O. Box 114, Denton, MD 21629  
carolinecasa@verizon.net  
410-479-8301

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## Mid Shore Community Mediation Center

The Mid Shore Community Mediation Center serves the counties of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot. Mediation is often ordered in cases involving child access issues. There is no charge for services.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by the court.

## PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, 52 cases were referred to mediation.

## OUTCOMES

Of 52 referrals, 48 mediations were conducted and 40 mediations resulted in settlements.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding is from the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office supports the program.

## CONTACT

Peter Taillie  
300 Talbot Street, Suite 206, Easton, MD 21601  
mscmc@goeaston.net

## Teen Court

Teen Court provides an opportunity for first or second time juvenile offenders who have committed minor crimes to voluntarily opt out of the Juvenile Services intake process and participate in a court of their peers to receive consequences for their actions. Respondents between the ages of 11 and 17 are eligible. The most common cases are second degree assault and possession of tobacco and alcohol.

At a Teen Court hearing, a jury of other teens (volunteers and former juvenile respondents) questions the juvenile offender, both to understand the incident and to determine whether the respondent is likely to re-offend. After questioning is complete, the jury deliberates in private to decide what sanctions the youthful offender should be given. Sanctions can include community service, anger management classes, counseling, etc. If the youth completes the sanctions assigned within the allotted time, the charges are dismissed. If the sanctions are not completed, the case is sent back to the original referring agency.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The program is administered collaboratively by the Caroline County Health Department and the Caroline County Sheriff's Department. Both agencies have a strong alliance with the Circuit Court system and the proceedings occur in the court room and jury rooms. Both a Sheriff's Deputy and the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Coordinator co-lead the court sessions, meet with parents and train the student volunteers who serve as judge, jury and court officers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2010, 99 cases were adjudicated.

### OUTCOMES

Of the 99 cases adjudicated, 94 cases were successfully completed.

### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided by the Local Management Board.

### CONTACT

James Gossage  
410-479-8080

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## Caroline County Mentoring Program

The Caroline County Mentoring Program is based on the Big Brothers/Big Sisters model. Mentors are asked to meet with their mentees at least two hours a week. Youth up to 18 are eligible to participate.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Youth are referred by their guidance counselors and must have their guardian's permission to participate.

## YOUTH INVOLVED/STAFFING/OUTCOMES

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

The mentoring program is funded by a community initiative grant from the Human Services Council.

## CONTACT

Tony Cianninoto, Coordinator  
410-479-3060

# CARROLL COUNTY

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CASA of Frederick County/Voices for Children Carroll County

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

Voices for Children of Carroll County recently became a program of the Frederick County Mental Health Association.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

## OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, CASA served 30 children with 24 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 10 had their cases closed during the year, with 90% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

## STAFFING

CASA/Voices for Children is staffed by two part time employees.

## FUNDING SOURCE

CASA is funded by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, National CASA Association, National CSEA Emergency Grant, private donations, fundraising/events.

## CONTACT

Jennifer Fuss, Program Coordinator  
255 Clifton Boulevard, Suite 311, Westminster, MD 21157  
jfuss@fcmha.org  
410-840-2495

c/o Frederick County Mental Health Association  
263 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701  
301-663-0011

## Children in Need of Assistance/Termination of Parental Rights Mediation

The Children in Need of Assistance/Termination of Parental Rights (CINA/TPR) Mediation Program is offered at no charge to participants, and focuses on visitation during the CINA process, agreements for post adoption contact and clarification and allocation of responsibilities among parents, agency staff and caretakers. The program refers CINA cases to a panel of specially trained mediators.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals can be made at any point during the process upon the request of a party or order of the court.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Three mediations were conducted in fiscal year 2010 and one in fiscal year 2011. Mediations have declined as the Department of Social Services diverts more cases prior to the filing of a petition.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

The program is funded by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration and a grant from the Local Management Board for eight CINA or TPR mediations with remaining funds returned to the state. The cost for each CINA mediation is \$600.

## CONTACT

JoAnne Kreider, Mediation Coordinator  
55 N. Court Street, Courthouse Annex, Westminster, MD 21157  
jkreider@ccg.carr.org  
410-386-2736

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## Community/Juvenile Mediation Program

The Community Mediation program is a free, informal alternative to resolving cases in the courtroom. The program focuses on misdemeanor criminal acts, such as family or neighborhood disputes, trespassing, telephone misuse, harassment, Humane Society cases and simple assaults. These are conflicts that, if not resolved, would eventually result in criminal charges being filed.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are from the court, State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, the police, Carroll County public schools, private defense attorneys and the Department of Juvenile Services.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/ OUTCOMES

In 2011, 22 youth participated. They had 12 cases, with 9 resulting in agreements.

### STAFFING

Juvenile Mediation is staffed by one full time and two part time employees.

### FUNDING SOURCE

Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office

### CONTACT

Carroll County Community Mediation Center  
Patricia Ryan, Director  
255 Clifton Boulevard, Suite 301, Westminster, MD 21157  
pryan@carrollcc.edu  
410-848-1764

## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### Adventure Diversion Program

The Adventure Division Program (ADP) is an alternative intervention program for juveniles who have violated probation or are at risk of out-of-home placement. The program is a mandatory, supervised evening reporting center that provides experiential learning, conflict resolution and pro-social skill development, blended with outdoor recreational activities. ADP operates on the principle that strong and responsible adults have a positive influence on youth.

The goals of the program are to provide positive elements in youth's lives to help them grow as individuals, work in teams, develop leadership skills and learn an appreciation for the outdoors. To achieve these goals, the program provides a combination of outdoor wilderness activities and experiential learning, including hiking, canoeing and nature exploration. Skills for these activities are taught through a core subject model that blends practical knowledge with team and character building exercises designed to help youth to develop new ways to respond to relationships, stressors and responsibility.

A growing component of the program is community service (e.g., stream cleaning, landscaping) to promote a level of citizenship and commitment within the group. The overall intent is for the youth to develop pro-social skills and appropriate recreational interests in an effort to decrease vulnerability to negative peer influence and divert further delinquent behavior.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Partners include the Carroll County Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County Youth Service Bureau, Department of Juvenile Services, Carroll County Local Management Board and the Boy Scouts of America.



#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The program was awarded \$55,000 in federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program awarded through the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention. Funding is designated for programs that promote accountability among juveniles for their acts.

#### CONTACT

Carroll County Board of County Commissioners  
Jolene Sullivan  
225 North Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157  
410-386-2044

## CECIL COUNTY

### COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### Custody/Visitation Mediation

The Custody/Visitation Mediation program addresses custody matters and helps parents and caretakers improve communication regarding the care and parenting of children, to reach agreements and define issues. Program staff facilitate child consultations with judges in CINA cases and participate in Department of Social Services conferences for client families. Parties meet with a mediator to clarify issues of agreement and disagreement, and to work toward development of a parenting plan. Mediation is ordered early in the litigation process as the first step to dispute resolution.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by the court.

#### PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, family support services contractual mediators conducted 96 mediations.

#### OUTCOMES

Agreements were reached in 81 of the 96 cases mediated.

#### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Circuit Court for Cecil County, Family Support Services  
410-996-1157

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## Community Mediation Upper Shore

The mission of Community Mediation Upper Shore (CMUS) is to provide accessible conflict resolution services, principally in family disputes, through mediation, education and training throughout Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's counties.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Approximately half of the cases are referred by the State's Attorney's Office; the remaining cases come by word-of-mouth.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### OUTCOMES

Over 79% of CMUS mediation participants reach an agreement. In the case of court-ordered mediations, the written agreement is submitted directly to the court and generally forms the basis for the court's decision.

### FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding from the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office supports the program.

### CONTACT

Penni W. Doyle  
100 North Cross Street, Suite 5, Chestertown, MD 21620  
410- 810-9188

# CHARLES COUNTY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

### Family Recovery Court

The Charles County Family Recovery Court (FRC) was implemented in January 2011. Its mission is to build strong and healthy families by offering timely, intensive treatment and support for parents with substance abuse problems that prevent them from providing safe and appropriate care for their children. It serves parents with new and existing child in need of assistance (CINA) cases, in addition to cases from the family court where substance abuse is identified as a barrier to parents providing safe and adequate care for their children. Participants are assessed by the FRC team for determination of eligibility.

Parents in the CINA system must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible: 1) have a pending CINA proceeding with a permanency plan that includes reunification, 2) have a child under an Order of Protective Supervision by the Department of Social Services, or 3) have a custody or visitation matter with a court order mandating substance abuse treatment. The program provides two types of treatment. Level 1 Outpatient Treatment encompasses organized treatment services that are provided in regularly scheduled sessions, generally one to two hours per week. The Outpatient Program requires a minimum of nine hours per week, which is divided into three sessions of three hours each.

Hearings usually occur every two to four weeks, based on the FRC participant's level of progress. Prior to each hearing, a staffing is held to allow the drug court team to discuss each case and to give the judge a foundation for team recommendations. Relevant background information is provided for each participant to enable the team to meaningfully address their needs. FRC hearings are conducted in open court to monitor participants' progress and to alter case management plans as necessary. Attendance at the hearings is mandatory, and their frequency is based on the FRC participant's level of progress.

### REFERRAL SOURCE /PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by the court. The FRC team includes the judge, master, family resource specialist, Department of Social Services caseworker, drug court coordinator and addictions specialist, who work collaboratively to develop the case management plan, schedule court reviews and access necessary ancillary services (counseling, GED prep, employment training, anger management, etc.).

### FAMILIES INVOLVED

FRC is designed to serve up to 25 adults referred by the Circuit Court. As of March 2011, two months after initial operation, FRC had 10 participants.

### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the Office of Problem Solving Courts and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

## CONTACT

Merianne Grigoriuc, Case Manager  
301- 932-3286

## Charles County Juvenile Drug Court

The mission of the Charles County Juvenile Drug Court (CCJDC) is to reduce juvenile drug use and related delinquent offenses by holding youth accountable and identifying goals. The program uses intensive supervision, incentives, sanctions and family involvement to foster healthy families and drug-free, responsible youth. The CCJDC is a dispositional court, meaning the decision about whether to admit someone to the drug court program is made after a verdict in the adjudication process is obtained. The individual needs to admit or be found guilty prior to being offered drug court as an option. Following adjudication, the youth can then be referred to the drug court. The drug court team decides by consensus whether or not to accept the individual into the program. Parents/guardians must agree to participate in the CCJDC program in order for their children to be eligible.

CCJDC is designed to be a 9 to 16 month program. Phase I focuses on stabilization and assessment, Phase II on abstinence and basic skills, Phase III on behavioral and attitudinal changes. Phase IV is a transition phase. To be considered for graduation from the CCJDC, participants must successfully complete all substance abuse treatment and all phase and program requirements, have continued school and/or work participation, have no new offenses and be drug free from the start of Phase IV until graduation.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

All individuals must go through Department of Juvenile Services intake before being referred to drug court. The intake officer may order an assessment from the Health Department. The referral is faxed the same day as the intake, and by law the Health Department must screen the individual within two weeks. Participating agencies include the Department of Social Services, the State's Attorney's Office, the Department of Juvenile Services and the Public Defender.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Between July 1, 2010 and October 2011, 17 youth were referred to the program and seven entered.

## OUTCOMES

Four out of seven participating youth graduated.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

## CONTACT

Maryellen Kraese, Coordinator  
200 Charles St., La Plata, MD 20646  
merianne.grigoriuc@mdcourts.gov  
301-932-333

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CASA of Southern Maryland

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

CASA of Southern Maryland is a program of the Center for Children and serves children in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and may range in age from birth to 21.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011 Charles County CASA served 42 children with 30 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, four had their cases closed during the year; 100% of those children were living in permanent homes at closure.

### STAFFING

CASA in Charles County is part of CASA of Southern MD serving Charles, Calvert and St Mary's counties. The program director is in Charles County; the other two counties have part time program coordinators.

### FUNDING SOURCE

CASA of Southern Maryland is supported by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, the United Way, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, private donations, fundraising events and National CASA.

### CONTACT

Heather Balderson, Program Director  
6100 Radio Station Road, P.O. Box 2924, La Plata, MD 20646  
Balderson@center-for-children.org  
301-609-9887

## Teen Court

Teen Court is a diversion program in which first-time offenders between the ages of 12 and 17 are judged by a jury of their peers and offered the opportunity to accept accountability for minor crimes without having to incur a permanent record. Cases are those in which an arrest has been made or a traffic citation has been issued. Teens are required to admit involvement and to understand that both their admission and participation in the program is voluntary. Cases are presented in one of two formats: Petit Court and Grand Jury. Once the case is heard and the jury determines a suitable sanction, the Teen Court coordinator will review the jury's decision with the respondent and his or her parents. Respondents sign a contract agreeing to complete the imposed sanctions within the allotted timeframe. If the sanctions are completed within the time limit, the judge is notified and no further action is required.

Teen Court sanctions vary according to the offense and typically involve future participation on a Teen Court jury, an apology letter to the victim(s), community service, a research paper, newspaper project, prevention or education projects, in-school informal probation and/or an emergency medical services ride-along. Respondents who fail to complete their sanction obligations will be required to appear before a District Court judge or to be processed by the Department of Juvenile Services where the offense will become part of the State's official records.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Eligible youth may be referred to the program by a presiding judge for traffic violations or, in instances of misdemeanors, selected by the Teen Court coordinator or a Sheriff's Office Juvenile Intervention Officer assigned to the child's school.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2010, 192 cases were adjudicated.

### OUTCOMES

Of the 192 cases adjudicated by teen court, 185 youth successfully completed the requirements in their agreements.

### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

Teen Court is operated by the Charles County Sheriff's Office and supported by additional grant funding from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. Private sponsors make other contributions to the program.

### CONTACT

Sarah Vaughan  
6915 Crain Highway, La Plata, MD 20646  
vaughans@ccso.us  
301-609-3916

# DORCHESTER COUNTY

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CASA of Talbot and Dorchester Counties

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

CASA of Talbot County expanded to include service to Dorchester County in late 2009.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011 in Dorchester County, this program served 16 children with 12 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 5 had their cases closed during the year, with 80% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

### STAFFING

There are a total of 6 staff members, five of whom are part-time.

### FUNDING SOURCE

Financial support comes from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, the National CASA Association, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, private donations, fundraising events and the United Fund.

### CONTACT

CASA of Talbot County  
Robin Davenport, Executive Director  
1 South Washington St., Suite 2, P.O. Box 2409, Easton, MD 21601  
rd@casaoftalbot.org  
410-822-2866

## Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

The Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (TRPP) was created by the legislature to provide the court with resources to intervene in cases where children are habitually truant. Truancy is a strong predictor of pre-delinquent behavior. If a child is found to be truant, the judge or master is able to individualize court guidance and supervision, as well as services ordered. It serves students ages 5 to 16 who have 12 unexcused absences from school. Students graduate after they have gone 90 days without an unexcused absence and have completed all treatment programs. Linkages to services include after school programs, transportation, anger management counseling, mental health evaluation, medical evaluation, parenting training and mentoring.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

In Dorchester County this project is a collaborative effort involving the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, the Dorchester County Board of Education, For All Seasons, Inc., Sailwinds Family Center, local legislative representatives and other service providers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

For the four counties of the First Judicial Circuit, since December 2004, a total of 373 young people have been admitted to TRPP. Of students entering, 44% met program requirements and successfully graduated from the program, 27% failed to meet program requirements and left, and 12% left the program due to relocating out of the jurisdiction. Of the remaining 17% who did not complete the program, the main reasons were that they aged out, were taken into Department of Juvenile Services custody or were home schooled.

The average participant is age 13 and in the ninth grade. The average GPA is 0.82. When participants enter the program, on average, they have a record of 0.67 misdemeanor adjudications.

### OUTCOMES

Of all program participants, 37% were referred to individual counseling and 30% were referred to substance abuse evaluation. In addition, 86% percent of their families were successfully referred to family assessments,

In Dorchester County, students who did not successfully complete the program experienced a rate of unexcused absences of 68% at TRPP exit, versus a rate of 19% for students who completed the program. Participants had an average GPA of .94 upon entry and one semester after completion their average was 1.25. Students who did not complete the program had an average of .62 one semester after exit.

### STAFFING

The program is staffed by a first circuit coordinator. Judges and masters have absorbed the extra docket because of their commitment to youth in the community.

### FUNDING SOURCE

The funding was specifically designated in legislation.

### CONTACT

Reid Sterrett, Regional Truancy Court Coordinator  
30512 Prince William Street, Princess Anne, MD 21853  
Reid.Sterrett@mdcourts.gov  
410-621-7594



## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### **Dorchester County Department of Youth Services**

The Dorchester County Department of Youth Services program provides counseling and related services to promote responsible behavior and prevent juvenile delinquency. The program works with youth ages 5 to 18 years old and their families and provides services including individual, family and group counseling, information and referral, crisis and suicide prevention, drug and alcohol assessment and referral, case management, consultation, tutoring, anger management, job placement facilitation, leisure activities and youth advocacy.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Families and youth are referred by the court.

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING**

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### **CONTACT**

Madeline Moore, Director  
501 Court Lane, Rm. 103, Cambridge, MD 21613  
mmoore@docogonet.com  
410-228-9100

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### **Return/Diversion Program**

The Return/Diversion program is offered to youth who are at risk of being placed in out-of-state residential treatment centers or those returning to Maryland from out-of-state treatment facilities, and who are experiencing intense psychological and/or behavior problems.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Community Crossroads, Inc., a behavioral health care agency that provides case management and psychiatric rehabilitation services to children and adults, manages individual cases for the Local Management Board.

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE**

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### **CONTACT**

Dorchester County Local Management Board  
Nancy Shockley, Director  
501 Court Lane, Rm. 103, Cambridge, MD 21613  
410-228-0281

## FREDERICK COUNTY

### COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### **CASA of Frederick County/Voices for Children Carroll County**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

Voices for Children of Frederick County is a program of the Frederick County Mental Health Association.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

#### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, this program served 85 children with 55 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 24 had their cases closed during the year, with 92% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

#### STAFFING

The program employs one full time and two part time staff.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

CASA is supported by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Frederick County Government, private foundations, National CASA Association, National CSEA Emergency Grant, private donations, fundraising/events.

#### CONTACT

c/o Frederick County Mental Health Association  
Jennifer Fuss, Program Coordinator  
263 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701  
jfuss@fcmha.org  
301-663-0011

## Child Welfare Mediation

The Child Welfare Mediation program is available at every stage in a child dependency case. Mediation can occur prior to adjudication, during permanency planning or around a particular issue, such as visitation and contact at the guardianship/termination of parental rights (TPR) stage.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by any party, including the Department of Social Services, child's counsel, parent's counsel and the court.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

Most mediations occur in contested TPR/guardianship cases, with fewer occurring in child in need of assistance cases.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, 29 sessions were held, with full settlement for 31% and partial settlement for 38%. In fiscal year 2010, 10 sessions were held, with full settlement for 50% and partial settlement for 20%. In fiscal year 2009, six sessions were held, with full settlement for 50% and partial settlement for 33%.

### STAFFING

The program is operated by one in-house mediator and a panel of paid mediators that the court refers to. Mediations occur at the courthouse.

### FUNDING SOURCE

The program is funded by the Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Family Administration.

### CONTACT

Victoria A. Jones, Permanency Planning Liaison for the Sixth Judicial Circuit  
100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701  
vjones@frederickcountymd.gov  
301-600-6032

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## Community Conferencing

Community Conferencing is a restorative conflict resolution program that focuses on youth who are on informal or formal probation (at risk of out-of-home placement), referred by the Department of Juvenile Services, referred by law enforcement or by schools for bullying.

As part of the restorative conflict resolution program, trained mediators provide community conferencing, restorative circles and mediation services for youth and families to resolve, reduce and deescalate issues and to mediate restitution. Restorative justice is a process whereby all the parties with a stake in a particular offense come together to resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offense and its implications for the future. The process has four steps: acknowledgment of the wrong, sharing and understanding of the harmful effects, agreement on terms of reparation and reaching an understanding about future behavior.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are from Department of Juvenile Services, law enforcement and schools.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The juvenile accountability block grant program awarded \$36,960 in 2011 federal funds through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to support Restorative Conflict Resolutions for at-risk youth and families.

#### CONTACT

Community Alternative Mediation, Inc. (CALM)  
Linda Hardman, Director  
629 North Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701  
calmfrederick@aol.com  
301-631-2256

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### Juvenile Entry Diversion Initiative

The Juvenile Entry Diversion Initiative (JEDI) program provides services to first-time youthful offenders cited for civil offenses or accused of misdemeanor crimes, and to child in need of services (CINS) youth who do not have any criminal charges, but are having behavioral issues and are at high risk of committing a crime. Intense case management is provided in CINS cases for a minimum of 6 months to 1 year. In order to participate, youth must be between 10 and 18 years old.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Department of Juvenile Services refers first time offenders; CINS referrals come directly from the families.

#### OUTCOMES

There are no outcomes reported yet, as the program is just completing its first year of operation.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the Governor's Office of Children through the Frederick County Office of Children and Families.

#### CONTACT

Jennifer Gauthier, Lead 4 Life  
Gauthier@lead4lifeince.org  
301-672-4319

## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### Positive Choices for Life

Positive Choices for Life is an off shoot of the Positive Alternative to Dangerous and Destructive Decisions (PADD INC.). The program is an injury prevention and violence prevention program that incorporates PowerPoint presentations, DVDs, group interaction and volunteers from the community to persuade teens to make better choices. The objectives of the program are to reduce reoffending and to enable youth to share injury prevention tools learned in the class. Participating youth are involved in first-time offenses for traffic, DWI/DUI, drugs, misdemeanors or first time delinquent behavior. The Frederick site can accommodate up to 20 youth in a class.

The inspiration for developing this program came from more than 25 years of trauma nursing as a Certified Prevention Professional working with at risk teens ordered to take an injury program.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The program works with the State's Attorney's Office in Frederick County and the Department of Juvenile Justice, and is available to partner with other agencies and in surrounding counties.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES

The program is in its first year of operation and has no outcomes to report yet.

### STAFFING

Staff includes one registered nurse, a speaker who was involved in violence as a teen and/or a speaker who was injured due to impaired driving.

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding for the project is paid by the class participants. The charge is \$50.

### CONTACT

Positive Changes for Life  
Debbie Yohn, R. N.  
PO Box 548, Manchester, MD 21102-0548  
padd@comcast.net  
410-530-7455

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### Truancy Mediation Program

The Truancy Mediation Program is a free service provided by the State's Attorney's Office for misdemeanor cases it deems appropriate, such as parent's failure to send children to school. These cases are mediated before charges are filed against the parent. If conditions do not improve or if the parent or guardian fails to appear for the mediation, then charges are filed.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Youth are referred by school personnel who also attend the mediation.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

According to the information provided, staffing and funding are absorbed by the State's Attorney's Office.

#### CONTACT

Frederick County State's Attorney's Office  
Erin Moloney, Assistant State's Attorney  
100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701  
emoloney@fredco-md.net  
301-600-1523

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### **Youthful Offender Program**

The Youthful Offender Program was created by the Frederick County States Attorney's Office and provides an alternative to the juvenile justice system. The program includes an educational component, site visits, guest speakers and community service, including with the Frederick County Fire Departments and Frederick County Parks. Negative sanctions are also used when needed.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Participating agencies include the Sheriff's and Police Departments, Fire Department, Western Maryland Children's Center, Adult Drug Court, University of Maryland Shock Trauma, Health Department, Hartley House, Frederick County Detention, Project 103, Mount Saint Mary's and Maryland State Police.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Over 1,400 Frederick County youth have participated in the program.

#### OUTCOMES

The recidivism rate for participants is less than 35%.

#### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

State's Attorney for Frederick County  
Michael Folio  
100 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701  
301-600-2980

## GARRETT COUNTY

### COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### Youth Diversion Program

The Youth Diversion Program supports pre-intake diversion services to youth referred to the local Department of Juvenile Services for non-violent offenses and first-time, minor moving traffic violations. It targets youth at risk for juvenile justice and/or court involvement.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The Youth Diversion program received \$14,729 in 2011 federal grant funds through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

#### CONTACT

Garrett County Core Service Agency/Local Management Board  
Tiffany Fratz and Frederick Polce  
Garrett Co. Health Department, 1025 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD 21550  
301-334-7443

# HARFORD COUNTY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

### Family Recovery Court

The mission of Family Recovery Court (FRC) is the provision of timely intervention and intensive and comprehensive treatment with consistent monitoring to substance abusing parents or caregivers in order to achieve and sustain sobriety and improved life skills. Eligibility is based upon an individual's need for substance abuse treatment and their involvement in child in need of assistance (CINA) cases. Participants referred to the program could be either new participants in the juvenile system, or have existing CINA cases where drugs or alcohol is identified as a present problem that led to the filing of the petition alleging abuse or neglect. Participation is voluntary and is subject to the discretion of the master.

Participants appear before a master every other week for case review. The master discusses their progress or lack thereof and will commend them for their progress or offer suggestions on how to overcome their violations of the program rules and regulations. FRC provides substance abuse screening and assessment and referrals to treatment with a focus on issues related to mental health, trauma, parenting and family dynamics. The length of the program is nine months, commencing with the parent's agreement to participate. This project closely monitors progress with the Department of Social Services service agreement, including a specialized plan for substance abuse intervention. Participants also receive therapeutic intervention, intensive case management and wrap-around services.

Key components of the FRC include early identification and placement of eligible participants in the drug court program, identification of risk factors for negative outcomes, access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and related treatment and rehabilitation services, monitoring of abstinence by frequent alcohol and other drug testing, a coordinated strategy to govern drug court responses to participants' compliance, ongoing judicial interaction with each participant, monitoring and evaluation to measure the program outcome and effectiveness and continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective planning, implementation and operations. During the course of the program, participants can gain visitation rights (if they lost custody) by complying with the rules and regulations. Counseling sessions are held several times a week.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The FRC team consists of the administrative judge, master, attorneys representing the parents and children, the Department of Social Services, treatment providers and mental health providers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

As of February 2012, there were 15 participants.

### OUTCOMES

From 2004 through 2011, 62% of children of graduates were reunified and 12% of children of graduates were adopted.



## STAFFING

There are 8 full-time team members.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Kathy A. Dow, Coordinator  
20 West Courtland Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014  
kdow@dhr.state.md.us  
410-836-4989

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## Juvenile Drug Court

The purpose of Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) is to reduce substance abuse and related delinquent activities for selected non-violent juvenile offenders. JDC accomplishes this by providing a continuum of multi-faceted services that are age-appropriate, culturally relevant and gender specific in a timely and effective manner. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) will consider referring juveniles between the ages of 13 and 17 at the time of the offense. The prior record of the juvenile will be reviewed by DJS to determine eligibility. DJS will then refer the juvenile to the Health Department to clinically assess amenability to treatment.

The State's Attorney's Office will assess the current violation and review prior history. The Assistant State's Attorney will draft a contract, which will be signed by all parties at the first JDC appearance. The first appearance will take place after the juvenile has been found facts sustained on a regular court docket. JDC meets twice a month. The Harford County JDC is a post-adjudication program. Upon a participant's successful completion of the program, the charge that led to participation in Drug Court (and all other charges associated with the arrest) is stricken from the record and the individual is found "non-delinquent."

The program has three phases of 90 days each. Each phase has its own treatment and probation requirements. The amount of time spent in each phase is somewhat flexible depending upon when each participant satisfies the phase requirements. The program is designed for nine months, and the average time in the program is 9.7 months. Treatment in the various phases includes random drug testing, counseling, curfew and participation in ancillary services.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Entry into JDC begins with a referral to the program by DJS caseworkers (who send the majority of the referrals), Assistant Public Defenders, Assistant State's Attorneys or a Juvenile Master. All referrals go through Community Services Supervision (Juvenile Probation) initially.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

The Harford County JDC was designed for 30 participants.

## OUTCOMES

Between July 1 and December 31, 2010, the program had 19 participants. Two participants successfully graduated & five were administratively removed to standard probation.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

JDC receives a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Charles Hamilton, Coordinator  
20 West Courtland Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014  
410-638-3333

# COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

## **CASA of Harford County, Inc.**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

For a child to be served by a volunteer advocate assigned by the program, the court must order it. However, in addition to the court appointing CASA volunteers on their own initiative, CASA volunteers are also often requested by the children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

All children served by CASA are children who have been found to be children in need of assistance. The majority of children served are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and can range in age from birth to 21.

## OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, this program served 88 children with 53 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 23 had their cases closed during the year, with 96% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Harford County, Harford County Generous Jurors Fund, National CASA Association, RBC Wealth International, private foundations, private donations and fundraising/events.

## CONTACT

Ross DiEdoardo, Director  
101 South Main Street, Suite 303, Bel Air, MD 21014  
casa@harfordcountymd.gov  
410-638-4938

## Dependency Mediation

Dependency Mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) that provides a confidential, non-adversarial process in a termination of parental rights (TPR) case. Dependency Mediation establishes an informal forum in which each participant is provided an opportunity to express feelings and offer potential solutions to the identified issues for the child and family. This form of ADR is multi-party mediation that may include birth parent, foster/adoptive parents, attorneys for the children, attorneys for the Department of Social Services, social workers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and sometimes children (depending upon their age and circumstances of the case).

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by the court. Other participating agencies include the Department of Social Services, attorneys for the children, attorneys for the parents and CASA.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, 14 cases were scheduled. Of those, nine cases were settled, two cases were cancelled and the remainder went to trial.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Dependency Mediation is funded by a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

## CONTACT

Sharon M. Iannacone, LCSW, Director, Office of Family Court Services  
410- 638-310

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## Harford County Community Mediation

The Hartford County Community Mediation Center mediates intrapersonal and family disputes, excluding divorce, custody and domestic violence cases. Mediation is an informal process conducted in a neutral setting with two skilled mediators. Trained mediators will guide parties through a process that helps those involved to identify the issues and generate their own resolutions. Mediations are voluntary and confidential. Parties should come to the process with an open mind, and be willing to create a win-win situation. Mediation allows for both parties to be heard. The mediation is a safe environment for people to address their conflicts.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals come from courts, police, civic groups, community organizations, government agencies, friends and family.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The Harford County Mediation Center is supported by grant funding from the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office.

#### CONTACT

Department of Community Services - Community Mediation Program  
319 South Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014  
410-638-4807

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### Teen Court

The Teen Court, piloted in the spring of 2011, targets youth who are first time offenders between the ages of 13 and 17 and who have committed a non-violent misdemeanor offense. Offenders agree to participate in the Teen Court program, and if successful, avoid becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Harford County District Court Judge Susan Hazlett presides over the court with a jury comprised of teens from throughout the county. For teen jurors, this is a volunteer experience and a chance to see firsthand how the criminal justice system works. With the help of adult volunteers, the jury develops a ruling for the offending youth, such as writing an apology letter, performing community service hours or serving on the teen jury in the future.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Harford County Teen Court has been developed in partnership with the Department of Juvenile Services, State's Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Public Schools, and the Office of Drug Control Policy.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Teen Court has the capacity to serve 25 participants.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The Harford County Teen Court receives grant funding from the Local Management Board.

#### CONTACT

Harford County Sheriff's Office  
410-838-6600

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## Truancy Reduction Program

Truancy Court aims to reduce truancy through court intervention and supervision. A truancy case is started when the Board of Education files a truancy petition against a child age 12 or older, outlining the child's attendance record and attempts to address the problem prior to filing. At the hearing, the pupil personnel worker responsible for the case provides a brief summary of the attendance situation and the child and parent are given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. The juvenile court master presides at the hearing, which is on the record but conducted in an informal manner.

If the court finds that the child's truancy is chronic, the court goes on to disposition, which may include various remedial steps directed at the school, or referrals for psychological evaluations, counseling, mentoring, community service work, tutoring and essays.

The case stays open as long as the chronic truancy continues. The petition may be terminated at any time that the Court finds that the issue of truancy has been resolved. Cases may also be closed as a result of Department of Juvenile Services assuming custody of the child for a delinquent offense, aging-out of the program, receipt of a GED or transfer to another jurisdiction.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Representatives of the Board of Education have undertaken to identify and refer cases of chronic truancy, which may be amenable to guidance through Truancy Court. Participating agencies include the court, DJS, Department of Social Services and the school board.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, 22 cases were filed and monitored and 15 cases were closed. Of those 15, six cases were closed successfully (student graduated), 4 cases aged out, 2 cases were transferred out of the county, 1 participant became involved with DJS, 1 was non-compliant and 1 was not adjudicated truant.

### OUTCOMES

Seven participants (out of the 15 closed cases) decreased their absence rate while in school, on average by 65%, as well as improved their academic performance.

### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

The truancy court is funded by the State Justice Institute and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

### CONTACT

Janice Waltemeyer, Coordinator  
Harford County Truancy Program  
102 South Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014  
[Janice.waltemeyer@mdcourts.gov](mailto:Janice.waltemeyer@mdcourts.gov)  
410-809-6243

## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### Celebrating Families

Celebrating Families is a drug education program that focuses on empowering all family members through a combination of education and counseling. Families that participate have addiction problems. Many of the children have also been in foster care as a result of addiction or legal issues. The program is a 16 week comprehensive program that teaches the life skills requisite to both addicted parents and children in high risk environments. The workshops are specifically geared to address the age and special needs of attendees starting with children age four and continuing through teenagers and adults. Workshops, activities, and materials are age appropriate. The mission of the program is to prevent relapse by those who have completed treatment programs and to prevent children from following their parents' drug involved path by strengthening the family.

Each week the program starts with a meal where families experience the "normal" and simple ritual of sharing a meal together. After the dinner, the group breaks down into specified age groups that are facilitated by trained leaders. These workshops offer children the unique opportunity to share experience in drug addicted homes with children having similar experiences without the fear of judgment. These workshops include fostering the needed coping skills frequently absent in these homes. The topics include proper health and nutrition, communication, conflict resolution, chemical dependency as a disease, goal setting and anger management.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals often come from the Family Recovery Court and local halfway houses. The program is run in conjunction with local churches that assist with providing a meeting place and volunteers.

### PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, 76 people participated in this program.

### OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### CONTACT

Circuit Court Family Court Services  
410-592-5972

## HOWARD COUNTY

### COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### **Children in Need of Assistance /Termination of Parental Rights Mediation**

Since 2005, mediations in child in need of assistance (CINA) cases have taken place at the Circuit Court and are provided at no cost to the parties. The goal is to achieve a permanent living situation for children in the child welfare system who have been removed from their parents or guardians. If an agreement is not reached, the case will proceed to the next scheduled hearing and the court will make a determination. The program will accommodate any requests for mediation on any issues in CINA and termination of parental rights cases, subject to funding constraints.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES / STAFFING**

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED**

Ten cases were referred to mediation in fiscal year 2010 and five reached a full agreement.

#### **OUTCOMES**

The program was evaluated in fiscal year 2008 by the Center for Dispute Resolution at the University of Maryland. Additional mediator training was recommended and implemented by the program.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Funding support comes from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration.

#### **CONTACT**

Karin Wilson, Permanency Planning Liaison  
8360 Court Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
karin.wilson@mdcourts.gov  
410-313-3650

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#### **Restorative Dialogue/Restorative Reflection Program**

The Restorative Dialogue (RD) Program provides a safe environment for juveniles involved in minor crimes to talk with each other, opening the door to a variety of outcomes, such as an apology and

enhanced insight and an attempt to repair property or financial damage. Trained RD facilitators speak individually with the victim and the offender to explain the program, learn more about the offense, discuss the harm to the victim and explore resolution for the victim and the offender. If participants voluntarily agree to meet, it is facilitated by RD facilitators, and if participants reach a resolution, they draft and sign an agreement together.

Restorative Reflection (RR), a subset of RD cases, provides a restorative procedure for a single participant. Both RD and RR sessions include the juvenile's parent or guardian in order to provide the youth and family with additional tools to handle future conflicts in a healthier way. Scheduling is flexible and sessions are typically held at Howard Community College.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Cases are referred by the Howard County Police Department and by the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). Juveniles referred by police qualify for diversion, and RD is a component of programs or services to complete within 30 days to avoid referral to DJS intake. DJS refers youth when they believe that a juvenile accused of committing criminal acts would benefit from a dialogue or reflective session.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

At the midyear point of 2012 30 youth had been referred to the program. In fiscal year 2011, 79 referrals were made, and in fiscal year 2010, 48 referrals were made.

#### OUTCOMES

Completion of an RD/RR session within the 30 day referral window is the principal outcome measure. Very few RD/RR juvenile referral cases do not result in a face-to-face session (one or two per year) because participants are highly motivated to avoid going to court.

#### STAFFING

One full-time employee manages the program. In addition, there are approximately 50 active, volunteer RD/RR Facilitators. All volunteers are required to have the 40-hour Basic Mediation training plus 16 hours of RD/RR training provided by MCRC. Volunteer facilitators work in pairs.

#### FUNDING

Funding support is from Howard Community College. Facilitator training funds have been provided by the Columbia Foundation and the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office. The program has also received a one-year grant for administrative support through a juvenile accountability grant administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

#### CONTACT

Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center at Howard Community College  
Kathy Rockefeller, Director  
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044  
kathyrockefeller@howardcc.edu  
443-518-1888



Voices for Children, Inc. is a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Howard County. CASA programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving, and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A court order triggers the appointment of a CASA. In addition to appointing CASA volunteers on its own initiative, children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers ask the court to appoint CASA volunteers.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in child In need of assistance proceedings. Most children are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and range in age from birth to 21.

#### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, Voices for Children assigned 54 volunteer advocates to 69 children. Of the 69 children, 21 had their cases closed during the year, with 86% living in permanent homes.

#### STAFFING

Voices for Children has one full time and three part time staff.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Howard County, corporate and private foundations and donations, the United Way/Combined Federated Campaign and fundraising events.

#### CONTACT

Pam Grady, Executive Director  
5550 Sterrett Place, Suite 215, Columbia, MD 21044  
pgrady@voicesforchildren.org  
410-740-0933

## KENT COUNTY

### COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### CASA of Queen Anne and Kent Counties

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Court orders the appointment of a CASA. In addition to appointing CASA volunteers on its own initiative, children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers ask the court to appoint CASA volunteers.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in child in need of assistance proceedings. Most children are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and range in age from birth to 21.

#### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, this program served 10 children with 8 volunteer advocates. Of the children served, 3 had their cases closed during the year, with 100% those children living in permanent homes at closure.

#### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, the National CASA association, corporate and private foundations and donations, the United Way, the Queen Anne's Mental Health Committee and fundraising events.

#### CONTACT

Executive Director  
105 North Liberty Street, Unit #5, Centreville, MD 21617  
casework@casackent.org  
410-758-8610

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## Community Mediation Upper Shore

Community Mediation Upper Shore serves Upper Eastern Shore counties - Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's. See description above under Cecil County.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

### Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court is in the process of restructuring the program. There are no clients in the program currently. The Juvenile Drug Court has been on hiatus since the beginning of fiscal year 2011 and was scheduled to recommence operation on April 6, 2012.

The goal of the drug court is to help youth in the juvenile justice system to achieve and maintain abstinence from drug and alcohol through the coordinated efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, treatment and social services. This intervention seeks to break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction and crime. Drug Court utilizes a range of intervention strategies, a graduated sanctions model with swift and certain consequences, weekly court appearances, smaller caseloads that allow for intensive supervision and substance abuse treatment. The Juvenile Drug Court model requires participating youth to perform community service hours, submit to urinalysis and transdermal monitoring, attend substance abuse education and treatment and cooperate in individual and family counseling and mental health services, if recommended. Weekly hearings with the drug court judge are required in Phase I, and biweekly hearings in Phases II, III, & IV. Treatment is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services through the Journeys Program

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Participating agencies include the State's Attorney Office, Office of the Public Defender, Journeys (Maryland Treatment Centers), the Montgomery County Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Health & Human Services' Outpatient child and adolescent behavioral health services...

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In order to participate, youth must 1) be between ages 14 and 18, 2) abuse substances, 3) be unable to stay clean and sober, and 4) charged or on the verge of being petitioned for a violation of probation after having been previously adjudicated delinquent. Violent offenders are not eligible.

- In fiscal year 2011, 24 youth were enrolled and 7 graduated
- In fiscal year 2010, 23 youth were enrolled and 5 graduated.
- In fiscal year 2009, 24 youth were enrolled.
- In fiscal year 2008, 20 youth were enrolled.
- In fiscal year 2007, 22 youth were enrolled.
- In fiscal year 2006, 12 youth were enrolled.

## OUTCOMES

An evaluation by NPC Research in October 2007 cited the program's accomplishments, stating that it "integrates services, strong collaborative relationship between team members, broad range of community agencies and ongoing judicial interaction."

## STAFFING

All staff on the drug court team are part-time with the exception of the drug court coordinator who is the full-time staff member for both the juvenile and adult drug courts. Since December 2004, the majority of the team members' time is donated by the various agencies committed to drug court.

## FUNDING SOURCE

The program began in fiscal year 2004 with a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. It has been funded by the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts, and became county-funded in fiscal year 2009.

## CONTACT

Augustine Long, Drug Court Coordinator  
50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
along@mcccourt.com  
240-777-9141

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CASA of Montgomery County, Inc.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Montgomery County recruits, trains and supervises volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A court order triggers the appointment of a CASA. In addition to appointing CASA volunteers on its own initiative, children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers ask the court to appoint CASA volunteers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in child in need of assistance proceedings. Most children are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and range in age from birth to 21.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, CASA of Montgomery County assigned 254 volunteer advocates to 288 children. Of those 288 children, 82 had their cases closed during the year, with 98% living in permanent homes at closure.

## STAFFING

CASA of Montgomery County has three full time and six part time staff members.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Montgomery County, Montgomery County United Way Foundation, private foundations, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, corporate and private donations, fundraising events and United Way Combined Federal Charity Campaigns.

## CONTACT

Francha Davis, Executive Director  
1010 Grandin Avenue, Rockville, MD 20851-1300  
fdavis@casamontgomery.org  
301-340-7458

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## Community Conferencing

Community Conferencing is a research based program that supports dialogue between victims and offenders, along with their support networks of parents, friends, school staff and other community members. The objectives are to hold juveniles accountable for their actions, establish restitution that everyone involved agrees is reasonable and restore the relationship between those who have been harmed and those who have caused harm. The program brings together people involved in, or affected by, an incident or conflict in order for everyone to: 1) understand better what happened and why, 2) hear how everyone has been affected, and 3) create an agreement that will mitigate the harm and let everyone move forward in a more productive way.

Youth who participate in a Community Conference have the opportunity to avoid the traditional juvenile justice process, while making amends directly to the victims. The agreement can include an apology, assurances that it will not occur again, restitution, repair of damaged property, community service, a strengthened support network and a commitment to seek needed services.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Community Conferencing works with school administrators, the Department of Juvenile Services and the police to provide an alternative process for youth involved in troubling conflicts who are accused of delinquent acts.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

During the past two years the program has received approximately 200 referrals from schools, the police, parents and the Department of Juvenile Services.

## OUTCOMES

Of the 200 referrals received in two years, 134 community conferences were held and agreements were reached in all but one. A total of 977 juvenile court respondents, potential respondents, victims and supporters were diverted from juvenile court and engaged in a restorative justice strategy to remedy harm and resolve conflict to. The agreements were followed in 95% of the cases.

Participant evaluations show a high level of satisfaction with the process. Between 90-95% of participants either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the Community Conference: 1) made the situation better, 2) helped them better understand the other people involved, 3) gave them the opportunity to say what they needed to say, and 4) that they would recommend the program to friends and family.

#### STAFFING

Community Conferencing operates with two full-time staff and over twenty trained volunteers.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The Community Conferencing program is currently supported by grants from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Montgomery County Council, the Maryland’s Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office and by private donations. There is no cost to participants.

#### CONTACT

Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County  
Agnetha Hansgardh, Youth Restorative Justice Initiative Director  
agnetha@crcmc.org  
301-652-0717

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center  
4805 Edgemoor Lane - 2nd floor, Bethesda, MD 20814

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### Juvenile Dependency Mediation – Pre-Adjudication

Juvenile Dependency Mediation provides a non-adversarial alternative to resolution of child in need of assistance (CINA) cases at the adjudicatory stage, resulting in a new normal in Montgomery County characterized by compromise and collaboration.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The court orders cases to mediation at the pretrial/settlement conference, which is attended by all parties and occurs two to four weeks after the initiation of a case in court. Cases with domestic violence or sexual abuse are not referred to mediation. Parties report to the court after mediation is completed and agreements are put on the record.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

The target population is children and families in juvenile court CINA proceedings.

#### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, 202 cases were eligible for mediation and 139 (69%) were mediated. Of those 139 cases, 65 (47%) reached a complete agreement, and 45 (32%) reached a partial agreement.

#### STAFFING

A panel of 35 contractual mediators conducts the mediations. Mediator must have completed 40 hours of basic ADR training, 32 hours of CINA mediation training and 8 hours of court observation. The court offers mediator training and continuing education. A juvenile case manager maintains the mediation roster.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The program began in fiscal year 2003 with grants obtained by the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and their Families from the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration. It has been incorporated into the Court's Family Administration grant.

## CONTACT

Madeleine Jones, Family Division Coordinator  
50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
mjones@mcccourt.com  
240-777-9061

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## Juvenile Dependency Mediation – Post-Disposition: Permanency Planning/Termination of Parental Rights Mediation

Post-disposition mediation addresses issues associated with establishing permanency for a child. Matters include determining the custodial structure for a child whose family is ready for reunification and establishing a visit/contact schedule between a parent facing termination of parental rights and a pre-adoptive parent.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Either the court or the parties can initiate a referral to post disposition mediation at any stage of the proceedings post adjudication.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

The program is available to all children who are the subject of child in need of assistance proceedings and are in an out-of-home placement.

## OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, 52% of cases that were mediated reached a full or partial agreement.

## STAFFING

A panel of 16 contractual mediators has completed Permanency Mediation training, in addition to the courses required for eligibility for the pre-adjudication mediation panel. A juvenile case manager maintains the mediation roster and determines mediator availability for each month.

## FUNDING SOURCE

The program began in fiscal year 2005 on an as-needed basis. Circuit Court funds have supplemented Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office grant funds for Permanency Mediation training.

## CONTACT

Madeleine Jones, Family Division Coordinator  
50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
mjones@mcccourt.com  
240-777-9061

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## Juvenile Mediation

The Juvenile Mediation program addresses disputes that involve, or could escalate into, criminal conduct. Types of offenses could include assaults, thefts and destruction of property. Mediations are held at the State's Attorney's Office on the fifth floor of the Montgomery County Judicial Center in Rockville.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Youth referred to the Juvenile Mediation program can be referred by the Police Department, Department of Juvenile Services, the State's Attorney's Office or by schools.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In 2011, 10 cases were referred to the mediation program.

### OUTCOMES

Of the 10 cases referred, 7 mediations were held and all resulted in agreements. In 2 cases, parties did not want to participate in mediation and in 1 case the parties were not able to be reached.

### STAFFING

The program is staffed by 1 full time, 2 part time employees and 10 volunteer mediators.

### FUNDING SOURCE

This program is funded entirely by the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office.

### CONTACT

Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office  
Georgine DeBord  
50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
Georgine.DeBord@montgomerycountymd.gov  
240-777-7344

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## Montgomery County Teen Court

Teen Court is a diversion program operated by the police department and the State's Attorney's Office of Montgomery County. Youth, usually first time offenders, are given the option to be tried by a jury of volunteer teens instead of being referred to the Department of Juvenile Services or to the Juvenile Court. Presiding judges volunteer their time and are drawn from county district court and circuit court judges or from the private bar. After hearing from the youth, questioning them and being advised on the law by the judge, the jury deliberates and announces its disposition.

The sentence is usually several sanctions, such as community service, writing apology letters, attending an educational program or group or sitting on a specified number of teen juries. If the youth completes the sanctions within 60 days of their Teen Court hearing, a notice is sent to the police department recommending that charges be dropped and the youth will not have a permanent record. If the disposition is not completed, the case returns to the referring agency for formal processing.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES



Attorneys from the State's Attorney's Office, other agencies and the private sector volunteer to teach teens in grades 9 to 12 about the laws and the judicial system. Judges from the circuit and district courts and the Court of Special Appeals support the program by volunteering as presiding judges. Most referrals are made by the police department.

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED**

In 15 years, over 3,810 teens have gone through Teen Court, with 90% completing their sanctions.

#### **OUTCOMES**

In fiscal year 2011, 346 of 412 cases were successfully adjudicated, with an 84% completion rate and 12,455 community service hours completed. In fiscal year 2010, 331 of 390 cases were successfully adjudicated, with an 85% completion rate and 11,375 community service hours completed. In fiscal year 2009, 247 of 277 cases were successfully adjudicated, with an 89% completion rate and 8,601 community service hours completed.

#### **STAFFING**

Teen court is staffed by one full time and one part time employee. There are also four volunteers during the court sessions, in addition to the volunteer judges.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Teen court is funded by the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office.

#### **CONTACT**

Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office  
Georgine DeBord  
50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
Georgine.DeBord@montgomerycountymd.gov  
240-777-7344

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### **Voices VS Violence - Voices2Empower Pilot Program**

The program seeks to reduce reoffending by providing services to youth involved in juvenile court and to their families. Objectives are the increase of youth insight and acceptance of responsibility for behaviors, development of positive relationships, development of problem solving and social skills, access to community services and education about the juvenile court process. Services include life skills groups, case management and cognitive behavioral treatment. Life skills sessions address decision making, anger management, goal setting, character and relationship building, job readiness and community service. Youth are referred by bilingual case managers for appropriate services, e.g., food and clothing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, mentoring and recreational programming.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Participants are referred by the juvenile court, Montgomery County Public Schools, probation officers, the public defender's office and the Maryland Multicultural Youth Center. The program refers youth to a variety of services, including the Street Outreach Network, Interfaith Clothing, Montgomery County recreation department, the Ghandi Brigade and the Suburban Hospital Addiction Treatment Center.

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED**

The target population is male and female youth who have been arrested for misdemeanor offenses and do not require residential programming. The program plans to provide services to 26-30 youth.

#### OUTCOMES

As a new program, outcomes are currently unavailable. Some of the issues the program has addressed include job readiness skills and mentoring, planning an emergency plan for a domestic violence victim, anger management, mental health evaluation, and creation of safety plans for youth exiting gangs.

#### STAFFING

Services are provided by the program director, a licensed clinic social worker and a youth coordinator.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funded is provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration.

#### CONTACT

Mental Health Association of Montgomery County  
1000 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20851  
Jessica Soussana  
jsoussana@mhamc.org  
301-424-0656

### OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

#### Children in Need of Supervision Pilot Program

The Children in Need of Supervision (CINS) Pilot Program is a planned expansion of the CINS Pilot Program already operating in Baltimore City and Baltimore County (*program descriptions listed in each county*). The program was authorized via legislation in the 2011 General Assembly session and funding will be available July 1, 2012.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/ FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program; startup is planned for July, 2012*

#### CONTACT

Department of Juvenile Services  
Frank Duncan, DJS-Rockville  
7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20855  
duncanf@djs.state.md.us  
301-610-8511

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#### Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center and Up County Youth Opportunity Center

These Centers provide case management, positive youth development and mental health services to high risk and gang involved youth. The Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center (CYOC) is open to both

Montgomery and Prince George's county residents, and conducts outreach, engagement and mediation for conflicts involving violence. The Center operates programs in schools and projects in the community, in addition to referring youth for other services.

Programs include a youth development program, a family building program for Latino parents, the African-American Male Empowerment Network program (AMEN), one-on-one mentoring, retreats/recreational opportunities, job training and placement, group support for incarcerated youth, re-entry case management, relocation and safety planning, individual, group and family therapy, case management and referral services and legal support and representation.

#### [REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES](#)

Youth are referred by the Montgomery and Prince George's county police departments and the Departments of Juvenile Services, Health and Human Services and Corrections and Recreation. Self-referred youth and those referred by nonprofit organizations also participate. CYOC is operated by Identity, Pride, Inc. and the Prince George's Office of Youth Strategies. UCYOC is operated by Identity.

#### [YOUTH INVOLVED](#)

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### [OUTCOMES](#)

Performance outcomes range from decreased recidivism to increased academic achievement.

#### [STAFFING](#)

CYOC has eleven staff, including a site coordinator, case managers, a mental health worker, an outreach worker and youth development workers.

#### [FUNDING SOURCE](#)

CYOC is funded by the Montgomery County Department of HHS and the U.S. Department of Justice.

#### [CONTACT](#)

Up County Youth Opportunity Center  
Eyal Bergman, Site Coordinator  
414 East Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
301-591-1790

Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center  
Tarek Maassarani, Site Coordinator  
7676 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 411, Takoma Park, MD 20912  
301-422-1270

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### [Linking Youth with Diversion Options](#)

The objective of Linking Youth with Diversion Options is to engage eligible youth and their families in diversion programs to avoid further involvement with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). Youth referred to DJS who may qualify for diversion, but have not responded to an initial letter offering diversion options, are located by a Juvenile Case Manager and offered services and/or resources. The program targets youth charged with a misdemeanor delinquent offense who are eligible for diversion.

#### [REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES](#)

The program partners with the Montgomery County Police Department Family Crimes Division and the Department of Health and Human Services' Screening and Assessment Services and Children and Adolescents (SASCA) to prevent intake/referral to DJS and a resulting juvenile record.

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES**

In fiscal year 2011, of the 221 youth referred, 209 were served, 75% of families contacted by the case manager followed up with diversion options (e.g. SASCA, Teen Court) and 92% of diverted youth did not re-offend while involved in the program.

#### **STAFFING**

The program has one full-time staff person and a part-time intern.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Funding support is from the Governor's Office for Children through the Montgomery County Collaboration Council.

#### **CONTACT**

Lead 4 Life

Jennifer Gauthier

P.O. Box 306, Olney, MD 20830

Gauthier@lead4lifeince.org

301-672-4319

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### **Street Outreach Network**

The Street Outreach Network (SON) program is designed to prevent, neutralize and control hostile behavior in high risk youth and youth gangs through the development of positive relationships between youth/community stakeholders and the outreach workers. Outreach workers utilize positive youth development programs and leisure time activities as the principal intervention for redirecting antisocial and aggressive behaviors.

Programming includes street outreach, gang intervention and education in the communities and schools and resolving or managing gang related community and school conflict. Activities include life skills training, boxing, video production workshops, graffiti alternatives, gender specific intervention groups, elementary, middle and high school youth groups, employment and job readiness trainings and health and wellness instruction. Youth may be referred to other community agencies to address specific needs.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/ YOUTH INVOLVED**

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### **OUTCOMES**

Of SON's total clients, 40% are not re-arrested, 60% are not re-suspended from school and 95% of are not expelled from school.

#### **STAFFING**

Five outreach workers are stationed at various sites, including recreation centers, and provide services for schools throughout Montgomery County.

## FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services  
Luis Cardona, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator  
401 Hungerford Drive, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850  
Luis.Cardona@montgomerycountymd.gov  
240-777-1001; 240-372-3829 (cell)

## Targeted Intervention and Prevention Program

The Targeted Intervention and Prevention Program (TIPP) receives referrals for youth who are at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system from the Pathway to Services Office. If appropriate, Maryland Choices, using a wraparound approach, will provide care coordination to youth and their families. Formal and informal supports through combined services are outlined in a youth's plan of care and implemented by their assigned child and family team. Services can include therapy, medication management, after school programs and tutoring and can last for six months. The Collaboration Council is the local management board for Montgomery County.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by the Department of Juvenile Services, the Montgomery County Public Schools System or families.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

The program focuses on high risk youth who have committed low level offenses and who usually are first time offenders. Participating youth are often truant, acting out in school, have a history of suspensions or have been detained by the Department of Juvenile Services. Approximately fifteen youth per year participate in the program.

## OUTCOMES

No outcomes are available, as participants are still active in the program.

## STAFFING

A full time care coordinator connects families to resources and service providers as needs are identified.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding of \$144,000 in 2011 from a federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program was awarded through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

## CONTACT

Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families  
Elijah Wheeler, DMC Reduction Coordinator  
12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852  
elijah.wheeler@collaborationcouncil.org  
301-610-0147, ext. 217

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

### COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

#### Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court's (JDC) mission is to reduce substance abuse and delinquency, strengthen family and community ties, improve educational opportunities and enhance the quality of life for juvenile offenders and their families. The JDC is a family focused program aimed at eliminating drug use and associated criminal behavior through intense supervision and family participation in therapeutic services. The JDC identifies and builds on family and participant strengths to positively change lives.

Candidates must be a resident of Prince George's County, between the ages of 14 and 18, have a documented substance abuse problem and be a non-violent offender. A case management specialist maintains court supervision and facilitates needed services. Candidates are required to submit to a clinical assessment performed by the Health Department and an initial drug treatment plan is based on the assessment. Participation is voluntary. The program consists of frequent drug tests, case management, substance abuse treatment, judicial supervision and community service. The major activities contributing to the success of the program include drug testing efficiency, GED classes to promote self-sufficiency, mentoring to assist with any lack of family support and art therapy sessions to enhance the youth's constructive self-expression.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The court makes the majority of referrals, however, the Department of Juvenile Services also refers appropriate youth. JDC is a collaborative project involving the Circuit Court, Public Defender's Office, State's Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Services and the Health Department.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

The program capacity is 60 participants. As of December 31, 2010, there were a total of 59 participants in the program, and a waitlist of 5.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has yet been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Kimberly Short, Coordinator  
14735 Main Street, Room M2407, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
301-952-2780

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### **CASA of Prince George's County, Inc.**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The court orders the appointment of a CASA. In addition, children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers can ask the court to appoint CASA volunteers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in child in need of assistance proceedings. Most children are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and range in age from birth to 21.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, CASA of Prince George's County assigned 115 volunteer advocates to 119 children. Of the 119 children, 17 had their cases closed during the year, with 82% were living in permanent homes.

### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, Prince George's County Government, private foundations, National CASA Association, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, corporate and private donations, fundraising/events and the United Way and Combined Federal Charity Campaigns.

## CONTACT

Ann Marie Foley Binsner, Executive Director  
6525 Belcrest Road, Suite G55, Hyattsville, MD 20782  
ambinsner@pgcasa.org

## Community Mediation Prince George's

Mediation is a neutral process in which participants are able to have a facilitated conversation about their dispute. Mediation can be used in conjunction with an existing court case or in lieu of court. Community Mediation services are free of charge and offered to businesses and residents of Prince George's County.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Mediation referrals come from the courts, police, community organizations, civic groups, religious institutions, government agencies, community leaders and individuals.

### PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED/ OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, approximately 300 cases were referred for mediation. Of those cases referred, about 200 mediations were conducted and approximately 135 mediations resulted in a resolution.

### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding from the Office of Community Relations supports the program.

### CONTACT

Office of Community Relations  
Kathleen P. Thornton  
9200 Basil Court, Suite 308, Largo, MD 20774  
301- 952-4729

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## Prince George's County Evening Reporting Centers

The evening reporting center is a community based alternative to secure detention and offers guidance, encouragement and redirection to at risk youth. It utilizes intense supervision to decrease the recidivism rate and the revolving door cycle for youth involved in the juvenile justice system by reducing failures to appear and opportunities to re-offend. Supervision includes nightly phone contacts after drop-offs and phone and face-to-face contacts on weekends and holidays.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The program is operated by the Department of Juvenile Services. Eligible youth are identified prior to the adjudication or disposition hearing. The program is coordinated with parents/guardians, schools and other stakeholders.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In the northern county the evening reporting center has the capacity for 15 males. The southern county center can admit ten male and female youth. Youth selected are eligible for detention, have not been prescribed psychotropic medication and have not been alleged to have committed or found facts sustained on first degree assault, a sex offense or arson.



## OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

The Department of Juvenile Services operates the northern center; a Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention grant funds the southern center.

## CONTACT

Roger Rice, Group Life Manager  
99 Commerce Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Largo, MD 20774  
RiceR@djs.state.md.us  
301-333-3310

## Truancy Reduction Court Program

The goal of the Truancy Reduction Court (TRC) Program is to ensure that students defined as truant by the Prince George's County schools demonstrate consistent, sustained improvement in attendance and comply with court ordered services such as tutoring, mentoring and counseling. TRC cases generally remain active for six to nine months.

Upon a determination by the Prince George's County Public Schools that a student is truant, a petition is filed by the public school system with TRC. The student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are summoned to appear before the court for a truancy adjudication hearing. The program is divided into two phases. During Phase I, the parent/guardian and the student are expected to attend bi-weekly review hearings. The student is expected to show improved attendance and engage in court ordered services and projects. At each review hearing, the master is apprised of the student's and family's compliance with the program and the master will address any issues. The program utilizes the incentives and sanctions model documented as a best practice. During Phase II, the frequency of the review hearings will be reduced to once a month. The format of Phase II is identical to Phase 1. The criteria for graduation are two months with no unexcused absences and compliance with the orders of the court. Students failing to show improvement or to comply with the mandates of the court may be terminated from the program.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Prince George's County Public Schools files a petition alleging that the child is truant. The program is a collaborative effort between the county circuit court, public schools, county Department of Social Services, Department of Juvenile Services and the county Health Department.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Through fiscal year 2011, the court received 95 referrals, of which 73 were adjudicated. In fiscal year 2011, the court received 31 referrals and carried over 47 cases from 2010. There are currently 32 active participants and 8 students are scheduled for adjudication. Eleven participants graduated during the year, 9 were dismissed and 18 were discharged. Of the discharges, 1 is being home schooled, 1 is pursuing a GED, 6 moved out of the court's jurisdiction, 5 aged out (turned 16) and 5 were unsuccessful (they failed to show improvement in attendance or compliance with TRC mandates). At the end of the 2010-11 school year, 66% of active participants were promoted and 53% had improved their attendance. The average age at referral is 14, and the student is most frequently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, 33% of the participants completed the program, 40% were terminated due to age, alternative schooling or moving out of the jurisdiction and 22% were unsuccessful. Fifty-three percent of students improved their attendance during the school year and 66% were promoted to the next grade.

## STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts supports the truancy court.

## CONTACT

Vicky Mitchell, Coordinator  
14735 Main Street, Room M0415, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
LVMitchell@co.pg.md.us  
301-780-2052

# QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CASA of Queen Anne and Kent Counties

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Court orders the appointment of a CASA. In addition to appointing CASA volunteers on its own initiative, children's attorneys and Department of Social Services social workers ask the court to appoint CASA volunteers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in child in need of assistance proceedings. Most children are living in foster care situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and range in age from birth to 21.

## OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, CASA of Queen Anne and Kent Counties assigned 13 volunteer advocates to 17 children. Of these 19 children, 2 had their cases closed during the year. Permanency was not achieved for these children.

#### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

CASA of Queen Anne and Kent counties is funded by Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, National CASA Association, the United Way, Queen Anne's Mental Health Committee, private foundations, corporate and private donations and fundraising events.

#### CONTACT

Executive Director

105 North Liberty Street, Unit #5, Centreville, MD 21617

casework@casackent.org

410-758-8610

### Community Mediation Upper Shore

Community Mediation Upper Shore serves Upper Eastern Shore counties - Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's. See description above under Cecil County.

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### Teen Court

The goal of the Teen Court program is to simultaneously educate young people about the system of justice while providing first-time misdemeanor offenders with an opportunity to learn from their mistakes and to avoid a juvenile record. Instead of appearing in Juvenile Court before a master or judge, juveniles charged with minor offenses who admit they were involved in the incident appear before a jury of their peers. The jury hears from the accused youth, questions him or her and meets to decide the appropriate sanctions. Sanctions may include teen court jury service, community service hours, participation in extracurricular activities after school, apology letters, a detention center tour or referrals to a smoking cessation program, the Queen Anne's County Department of Health or a Mothers Against Drunk Driving program. Queen Anne's County Teen Court is run by teens for teens. The circuit court judge and master rotate each session as the sitting judge.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Teen Court is a collaboration of the State's Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Services, Board of Education and the Health Department.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/ OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2010, 15 cases were adjudicated and all youth completed the program successfully, emerging without a juvenile record. In fiscal year 2011, the program has 31 participants.

#### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program on reoffending.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

The teen court is funded by grants; no source was specified.

## CONTACT

State's Attorneys' Office  
Kathy Wright, Coordinator  
136 N. Commerce St, Centreville, MD 21617  
410-758-1306 ext. 304

# SAINT MARY'S COUNTY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

### Juvenile Drug Court

The mission of Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) is to improve the well-being of youth and the community through a caring and integrated multi-system approach that reduces juvenile alcohol and substance abuse and increases public safety. Participants in the JDC program must be under 18 years old at the time of their violation and have no history of violent offenses or drug trafficking. The JDC program has four phases which can be completed by participants in a period as short as 12 months. JDC participants are rewarded for advancing to the next phase and achieving program goals. The program includes sanctions for unacceptable behavior. Graduation indicates that all program requirements have been met, that participants have been consecutively abstinent for a minimum of 120 days and that a facts sustained finding can be stricken from the youth's record.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Typically, participants are referred to the drug court by their Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) case manager who has received an arrest report from the Sheriff's Office indicating that the youth may be a suitable candidate for the program. DJS then performs an intake interview. If the prospective participant appears to be eligible, DJS Intake forwards his or her information to the State's Attorney's Office. The DJS case manager conducts a mental health screening and contacts the treatment provider to schedule a substance abuse screening. The referral then goes to the drug court coordinator, who discusses admission with the entire team. During this time period, the youth is counseled by the public defender. After counseling, if the youth feels the program is his or her best option, a court date is set where the judge records the youth's admission to the drug court program.

Participating agencies include DJS, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Department of Health.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

As of December 2010, there were 19 participants. The rate of successful completion was 60%.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is through a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Peter Cucinotta, Coordinator  
41605 Courthouse Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301-475-7844, ext. 4162

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### **CASA of Southern Maryland (St. Mary's County)**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. CASA volunteers provide a report and recommendations that assists the judge to make decisions for children. The program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for children served. CASA of Southern Maryland is a program of the Center for Children and serves children in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A court order is required for appointment of a CASA and assignment of a volunteer. Courts appoint CASA volunteers on their own initiative, or in response to a request by the children's attorneys or Department of Social Services social workers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in child in need of assistance court proceedings. Most volunteers are advocate for children in out of home placements (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.). Children range in age from newborn to 21.

### OUTCOMES

CASA of St. Mary's assigned 21 volunteers to 39 children in 2011. Of the children served, 13 had their cases close during the year, with 100% of those children living in permanent homes at closure.

### STAFFING

CASA of St. Mary's has one full time staff person and shares staff with CASA Southern Maryland.

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, the United Way, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, private donations, fundraising/events and the National CASA Association.

### CONTACT

Heather Balderson, Program Director  
23507 Hollywood Road, Suite 2, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
P.O. Box 2205, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (mailing address)  
Balderson@center-for-children.org  
301-475-6667

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## Community Mediation Center of St. Mary's County

The Community Mediation Center handles referrals for mediation made by the circuit court family services coordinator. Parties are referred in all child access cases where there are no allegations of domestic violence, child abuse or neglect. Mediators trained in family law and child development conduct sessions involving parents, children, Department of Social Services representatives and their respective attorneys to resolve custody and visitation issues in family and foster care settings, and in the context of domestic, children in need of assistance and termination of parental rights proceedings.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Child access cases are referred to the Community Mediation Center by the St. Mary's County Family Services Coordinator.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

The Center is supported by a grant from the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office.

### CONTACT

Lindsey Bradley, Operations Manager  
41620 Courthouse Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301-475-9118

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## Teen Court

Teen Court in St. Mary's County is a juvenile delinquency prevention program aimed at reducing recidivism and increasing community activity for youth and adult volunteers. At a Teen Court hearing, a jury of other teens (made up of volunteers and former juvenile respondents) questions the juvenile offender, both to understand the incident and to determine whether the respondent is likely to re-offend. After questioning is complete, the jury deliberates in private to decide what sanctions the youth offender should be given (sanctions can include community service, anger management classes, counseling, etc.).

The sanctions are assigned to the youth offender and, if those sanctions are completed within the allotted time, the youth's criminal charges are dismissed. If the sanctions are not completed, the youth's case is sent back to the original referring agency.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Teen Court diverts youth from the Department of Juvenile Services, who have been arrested for a misdemeanor offense and have admitted involvement. At the initial meeting with the local Teen Court Coordinator, the youth explains the incident and the coordinator determines whether the youth is eligible for a Teen Court hearing.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Of 73 that were adjudicated, 70 were completed successfully, resulting in a completion rate of 96%.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

Reggie Spruill

Office of Community Services, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650

301-475-4200 ext. 1852

# SOMERSET COUNTY

## COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

### Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court is a post adjudicatory program for youth between the ages of 12 and 18 with a qualifying substance abuse diagnosis. Eligible youth are non-violent repeat offenders or adjudicated youth who have failed informal supervision. The program has four phases. During the first phase, participants meet with the juvenile master in court at least every two weeks. In the other phases, participants meet with the master once a month. Treatment is provided by Somerset County Health Department, Behavioral Health Program.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Juvenile Drug Court is a collaboration between the Maryland Judiciary, Department of Juvenile Services, State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender, schools, substance abuse and mental health providers and the Family Services Program. Referrals are made to the court by the Department of Juvenile Services case manager or State's Attorney.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2012, 12 youth participated. Since the program began in 2006, 20 participants have graduated and incurred no subsequent delinquent or criminal charges.

### OUTCOMES

Of the 12 participating youth in fiscal year 2012, 2 graduated during the first half of the year. The process evaluation conducted by NPC Research in September 2008 documented the following accomplishments: integration of substance treatment services with the juvenile justice system case process, frequent testing, minimal staff turnover on the drug court team and resolution of transportation challenges.

### STAFFING

The Juvenile Drug court has one part-time staff person.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from Drug Treatment Court Commission, Family Services Program and the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Jack Paul, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator  
11774 Somerset Ave., Princess Anne, MD 21853  
410-621-7588

## Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

The Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (TRPP) was established by the General Assembly to reduce truancy, which is linked to negative life outcomes. Students ages 5 to 16 who have 12 unexcused absences from school are eligible. Each participant completes a family assessment and substance abuse screening. Review hearings are held monthly to monitor attendance and behavioral performance. If a child is found to be truant, the judge or master is able to individualize court guidance and supervision and to order appropriate services. Students graduate from the program after 90 days with no unexcused absences and upon completion of all treatment programs. Service links include after school programs, transportation, anger management counseling, mental health evaluation, medical evaluation and mentoring.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

In Somerset County, this collaborative effort involves the Circuit Court for Somerset County, the Somerset County Board of Education, Maple Shade Youth & Family Services, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Social Services, local legislative representatives, the Local Management Board and other service providers.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Since December 2004, a total of 373 young people have been admitted to TRPP from the four counties in the First Judicial Circuit. Of students entering TRPP, 44% met program requirements and successfully graduated from the program, 27% failed to meet program requirements and left and 12% left the program due to relocating out of the jurisdiction. The reasons given for the remaining 17% who did not complete the program were that they aged out, were taken into Department of Juvenile Services custody or were transferred to home school programs.

The average participant age is 13 and is in the ninth grade. The average GPA is 0.82. When participants enter the program, on average, they have a record of 0.67 misdemeanor adjudications. In fiscal year 2011 70 truancy court petitions were filed, and 9 were filed in 2010.

## YOUTH OUTCOMES

Over 86% of families of program participants were successfully referred to family assessments, 36% of youth admitted to TRPP were referred to individual counseling and 30% of participants were referred to substance abuse evaluation. In fiscal year 2011, 55 youth completed the program.



Students who did not successfully complete the Somerset County program experienced a rate of unexcused absences of 25% at TRPP exit, versus a rate of 8% for students who had completed the program. Participants had an average GPA of 1.05 upon entry, 1.3 upon completion and 1.74 a semester after completion. Students who did not complete the program had an average of .5 one semester after exit. From program entry to one-year post-program, individuals who completed TPRR on average experienced .43 new misdemeanor adjudications and .13 new felony adjudications as compared to 1.04 and .22 for program non-completers.

#### STAFFING

TRPP has three full time staff.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The program is funded through the Administrative Office of the Courts.

#### CONTACT

Reid Sterrett, Regional Truancy Court Coordinator  
30512 Prince William Street, Princess Anne, MD 21853  
Reid.Sterrett@mdcourts.gov  
410-621-7594

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### Children in Need of Assistance Mediation

Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) mediations are conducted by court-approved mediators once a month. The cost for participants is \$100 for a two-hour session, however, fee waivers are available for eligible participants through the Family Services Program.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made by the Department of Social Services.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Two cases have been mediated in the last year. The use of family involvement meetings (FIMS) conducted by DSS have reduced the need for mediations.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is through the circuit court family services program.

#### CONTACT

Karen Brimer, Coordinator, Family Services Program

30512 Prince William Street, Princess Anne, MD 21853  
karen.brimer@mdcourts.gov  
410-621-7582

## OTHER JUVENILE PROGRAMS

### Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program is an educational program for fifth grade students in two public schools and one private school. The curriculum focuses on the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and ways to say no, be in charge of their lives and build healthy friendships.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The program is operated by the police department with funding from the Circuit Court. Princess Anne Police Department volunteers teach the DARE program.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, 44 students completed the DARE program and 185 students participated in group discussions about the harmful effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

### OUTCOMES

Thirty-four youth graduated and three moved and were unable to graduate.

### STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is from the Administrative Office of the Court and MAC Recycling Clothes Bins.

### CONTACT

Princess Anne Police Department DARE instructors  
11780 Beckford Avenue, Princess Anne, MD 21853  
Corp. Scott B. Carew  
carew@princessannepolice.com

Officer Kara Meeks  
meeks@princessannepolice.com  
410- 651-1822

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### "K" is for College

The mission of "K" is for College is to intervene in the lives of young people who are at risk of gang involvement and delinquent/criminal offending. Services include violence prevention education, reading interventions, leadership building programs, homework assistance and tutoring and recreational activities such as sports and music. Hot meals are provided daily. Services are offered through the

Garland Hayward Youth Center in Princess Anne and the Village Youth Center in Crisfield. The age range for referred youth is from kindergarten through graduation.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Most referrals come from parents and schools. The program is establishing a referral process from the State's Attorney's Office for youth charged for the first time with minor offenses.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding is provided by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

#### CONTACT

Somerset County Local Management Board  
Darlene Taylor, Program Director  
P.O. Box 486, Crisfield, MD 21817  
240-475-4638

## TALBOT COUNTY

### COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

#### Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) program's goals are to help participants successfully transition to a drug-free life and to prevent recidivism. The program provides the groundwork for the participants to make lifestyle changes that will enable them to stay clean and sober after the support system ends. Drug court is voluntary and based on a contract between the offender, defense attorney, state's attorney and judge.

The court can place a youth in JDC either after adjudication but prior to disposition or after a finding of delinquency and as a condition of the youth's probation or aftercare status. JDC is designed to be a nine month program. However, completion is based on meeting program expectations rather than on how long the participant remains involved in the program.

Phases I and II are the most intense phases, when participants are involved with weekly moral reconnection therapy (MRT) sessions, once a week addictions group meetings at the Health Department, individual sessions with the addictions counselor and case manager and participation in art therapy. Participants are seen by the judge in court every other week.

In Phase III, MRT has ended. The participant attends an addictions task group every other week and individual sessions weekly. Court appearances are required once a month. In Phase IV, participants have

monthly sessions with the addictions counselor and with the case manager, and monthly court appearances. Staff work to connect participants with support groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA) or Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and assist them to identify a sponsor and to take the next steps necessary to be in charge of their own recovery.

Eligibility for graduation from JDC depends on participants' successful completion of all required treatment, including MRT, art therapy and all four phases of the drug court program. Graduation usually occurs about seven to eight months after an individual enters the program. Participants must also have maintained sobriety for at least 90 continuous days at the time of graduation, and have completed all court-ordered requirements. Upon a participant's successful completion of the program, the charge that led to participation in drug court is stricken from the youth's criminal record.

#### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### **YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES**

The program capacity is 25. In fiscal year 2010, 10 youth participated, 3 graduated and 2 were discharged administratively. In fiscal year 2011, 13 youth participated, 4 graduated and 6 were terminated administratively.

#### **STAFFING**

There are 2 staff members.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Grant funding is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

#### **CONTACT**

Glen Plutschak, Coordinator  
11 North Washington St., Easton, MD 21601  
410-770-6823

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### **Talbot Circuit Problem Solving Court** (formerly Family Recovery Court)

The Talbot Circuit Problem solving Court (PSC) has two programs: 1) Criminal and 2) child in need of assistance (CINA) and family law. The mission for the criminal program is to enhance public safety through close and frequent court monitored substance abuse and mental health treatment, coupled with responsive community supervision.

For CINA and family law cases, a judicially led interagency collaboration provides a structured program for substance dependent and/or mentally ill caregiver and parents, promoting and supporting rehabilitation to protect children and strengthen families.

Hearings are held to monitor parents' participation and progress and to revise case management plans as needed. Conferences usually occur every two to four weeks depending on the level of the participant's progress. Generally, they are more frequent at the initial stages of the program. If necessary, the court clerk will summon the participant to appear before the judge for an accelerated hearing.

Based on participants' progress in the program, and recommendations from the PSC team in the status conference, the judge may apply graduated incentives or sanctions. Treatment is organized into several core programs, addressing the addictions treatment needs of individual clients. Treatment typically lasts twelve weeks and includes the following treatment components: Adult Outpatient Program, Extended Outpatient Program, Co-Occurring Disorders Program, Women's Relapse Prevention and Men's Relapse Prevention. There is only one phase. If a participant's addiction is too severe for the program they will be referred to a treatment program independent of family recovery court.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The PSC team is comprised of the court, parents' and children's attorneys, Department of Social Services attorneys and caseworkers and substance and mental health treatment providers.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Maximum program enrollment is 30. Between July 1, 2010 and January 15, 2011, the program opened 11 cases. The goal for fiscal year 2011 is to admit 30 participants. Of the 11 cases in fiscal year 2011, only 1 case was CINA; the remainder of the cases were criminal.

#### OUTCOMES

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### STAFFING

The program has 2 staff members.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The program receives funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

#### CONTACT

Julian Markham, Coordinator, 410-770-6823  
11 North Washington St., Easton, MD 21601

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#### Truancy Court

The Talbot County Truancy Court Pilot Program was funded by the General Assembly in the 2011 session, and will be operated according to the model established in the First Circuit (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties)

*For information on this program, see Somerset County Truancy Court.*

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

## **CASA of Talbot & Dorchester Counties**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

CASA of Talbot County expanded to include service to Dorchester County in late 2009.

### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

A court order is required for appointment of a CASA and assignment of a volunteer in a children in need of assistance (CINA) case. Courts appoint CASA volunteers on their own initiative, or in response to a request by the children's attorneys or Department of Social Services social workers.

### **YOUTH INVOLVED**

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in child in need of assistance court proceedings. Most volunteers are involved in cases where children are placed in foster care living situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.) and range in age from newborn to 21.

### **OUTCOMES**

In fiscal year 2011 in Talbot County, CASA assigned 36 volunteers to 41 children. Of the children served, 14 had their cases closed during the year and 100% of those children were living in permanent homes at closure.

### **STAFFING**

There are a total of 6 staff members in the Southern Maryland CASAs, 5 of whom are employed part-time.

### **FUNDING SOURCE**

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, the United Way, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, private donations, fundraising/events and the National CASA Association.

### **CONTACT**

CASA of Talbot County

Robin Davenport, Executive Director

1 South Washington St., Suite 2, P.O. Box 2409, Easton, MD 21601

rd@casaoftalbot.org

410-822-2866

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## **Mid Shore Community Mediation Center**

The Mid Shore Community Mediation Center serves the counties of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot. Mediation is often ordered in cases involving child access issues. There is no charge for Mid Shore Mediation Center services.

### **REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Referrals are made by the court.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Between July 2010 and June 2011, 25 child access mediations were referred to the Mid-Shore Community Mediation Center.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The Mid Shore community Mediation Center is supported by grant funding for the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office.

#### CONTACT

Peter Taillie  
300 Talbot Street, Suite 206, Easton, MD 21601  
410- 820-5553

### Teen Court

Teen Court is a voluntary diversion program run by teens for teens. Respondents must, be between the ages of 13-17, admit their involvement in this first delinquent charge and reside in Talbot County. Volunteers act as prosecuting and defense attorneys, bailiff, clerk, judge and jury.

Sanctions are based on the severity of the offense. All respondents are assigned to perform between eight and sixty hours of community service and to serve on one to four teen court juries. The jury may also require the youth to attend educational programs, write an apology letter or compose an essay about the incident.

If the respondent does not complete the sanctions within 60 days, the case is referred to the Department of Juvenile Services, where a petition may be filed for formal action

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Cases are referred to Teen Court by local law enforcement agencies, school systems and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Statistics for Talbot County Teen Court are not available.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Bob Coleman, Coordinator  
600 Dover Rd., Suite 104, Easton, MD 21601

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

### COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

#### Juvenile Drug Court

Juveniles enter Washington County Juvenile Drug Court prior to disposition. Cases are identified by the Department of Juveniles Services, forwarded to the State's Attorney's Office for processing and set in for an adjudication hearing. Participants agree to participate in drug court and waive their right to a timely hearing. The adjudication is deferred pending successful completion of the program. Participants who complete the program will have their cases dismissed.

The program lasts nine months and has five phases. Judicial review hearings are held twice per month for Phases 1, 2, and 3 and monthly for Phases 4 and 5. Substance abuse treatment is offered by Washington County Health Department, Adolescent Addictions Unit and Alternative Drug and Alcohol Counseling.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Youth are identified and referred by the Department of Juvenile Services. Participating agencies include the Department of Juvenile Services, Washington County Circuit Court, Washington Public Schools, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Hagerstown Police Department, Washington County Health Department, Alternative Drug and Alcohol Counseling, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office and Potomac Case Management Services.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

The program is designed for youth between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of offense or 18 at the time of violation of probation. Eligible youth have substance abuse issues and are in need of treatment. They cannot be violent offenders or have a history of sex offenses or drug trafficking charges.

The program began in May 2007 and in the first five years 118 youth were referred. Of those, 62 youth were accepted in the program. On February 2012, there were 13 active participants in the program.

#### OUTCOMES

Eighteen youth have graduated from the program.



## STAFFING

The Juvenile Drug Court is staffed by one full time coordinator.

## FUNDING

Funding is from Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts and Washington County.

## CONTACT

Jennifer Bricker, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator  
95 West Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740  
jennifer.bricker@mdcourts.gov  
240-313-2595

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CINA Mediation

Children in need of assistance (CINA) mediation is scheduled for contested cases with a proposed or adopted permanency plan of adoption.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The court makes referrals for CINA mediation.

### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### FUNDING SOURCE

Mediation is scheduled and funded by the county Department of Social Services.

### CONTACT

Laurie Baker, Permanency Planning Liaison  
Court House Annex, Rm. 116, 24 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740  
240-313-2590

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### Community Mediation Program

Mediators assist Washington County residents at no charge in inter-personal, neighborhood, family and parent/teen conflicts and in designing separation and divorce parenting plans.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Office of the State's Attorney refers cases to the Washington County Community Mediation Center for mediations that are non-violent in nature, such as interpersonal or neighbor disputes.

## YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### CONTACT

Washington County Community Mediation Center  
Jack Carpenter, Executive Director  
wccmced@gmail.com  
301-665-9262

State's Attorney's Office  
Sharon Cunningham, Director of Alternative Sanctions  
101 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740  
scunningham@washco-md.net  
240-313-2027

### CASA of Washington County

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A court order is required for appointment of a CASA in a child in need of assistance case. Courts appoint CASA volunteers on their own initiative, or in response to a request by the children's attorneys or Department of Social Services social workers.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in (CINA) court proceedings. Most volunteers are involved in cases where children are placed in foster care living situations (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.). Children range in age from newborn to 21.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, this program served 39 children with 32 volunteer advocates. Of the 39 children, 4 had their cases closed during the year, and 100% of those children were living in permanent homes at the time their cases were closed.

### STAFFING

The program is staffed by one full time and one part time staff person.

### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, Washington County Health Department, Washington County Gaming Commission, the United Way, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, private donations, fundraising/events, the National CASA Association and the Combined Federal Charity Campaigns.

### CONTACT

David Bonebrake, Program Director  
c/o Washington County Health Department  
13114 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 210, Hagerstown, MD 21742.  
dbonebrake@DHMH.State.MD.US  
240-313-3383

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## Washington County Diversion Program

The Washington County Diversion Program provides services to first-time youthful offenders who commit civil and misdemeanor crimes and children in need of services (CINS). Intense case management is provided to CINS cases for 6 months to 1 year. The program also offers CINS and delinquency diversion youth a mentor for a minimum of 1 year.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Department of Juvenile Services refers youth after verifying that the charge is a first offense. CINS referrals come directly from families.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

Youth eligible for diversion are first time juvenile offenders between 10 and 18 years old who reside in Washington County and are charged with a civil or misdemeanor offense. CINS youth must live in Washington County to receive services.

### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, 272 youth were involved in the diversion program, and 87% had their cases closed successfully. In fiscal year 2010, 76% of youth in the diversion program committed no new crimes in year following successful completion of the program.

In the CINS program, in the year after program participation, less than 20% of youth had new delinquency petitions.

### STAFFING

The program is staffed by two case managers and a program manager for the mentoring initiative.

### FUNDING SOURCE

The program is funded by the Governor's Office of Children through the Washington County Office of Community Grant Management.

### CONTACT

Dianna Courtney, Lead Case Manager  
44 N. Potomac Street, Suite 300, Hagerstown, MD  
301-791-7023

## WICOMICO COUNTY

### COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

#### Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

The Wicomico County Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (TRPP) is one of four legislatively created pilot projects in the first circuit. If a child is found to be truant, the judge or master is able to individualize court guidance and supervision and to order appropriate services, including after school programs, transportation, anger management counseling, mental health evaluation, medical evaluation, parenting training and mentoring.

The truancy court serves students ages 5 to 16 who have 12 unexcused absences from school. Students graduate when they have attended school for 90 days without an unexcused absence and have completed all treatment programs.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Program partners are the Circuit Court, Board of Education and community organizations.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

In the four participating counties of the First Judicial Circuit (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester), a total of 373 young people have been admitted to TRPP since December 2004. Of students entering TRPP, 44% met program requirements and successfully graduated from the program, 27% failed to meet program requirements and left and 12% left the program due to relocation from the jurisdiction. Of the remaining 17% who did not complete the program, the main reasons were that they aged out, were home schooled or taken into Department of Juvenile Services custody.

The average participant is 13 years old, in the ninth grade, has with a grade point average of 0.82 and a history of 0.67 misdemeanor adjudications.

#### YOUTH OUTCOMES

Of TRPP participants, 37% were referred to individual counseling and 30% were referred for substance abuse evaluation. In addition, 86% of their families were successfully referred for family assessments.

In Wicomico County, students who did not successfully complete the program experienced a rate of unexcused absences of 19% at TRPP exit, versus a rate of 12% for students who completed the program. Participants had an average GPA of .99 upon entry, 1.2 upon completion and 1.31 one semester after program completion. Students who did not complete the program had an average of .85 one semester after exit. From program entry to one-year post-program, individuals who completed TPRR on average experienced .35 new misdemeanor adjudications and .69 new felony adjudications, compared to 1.69 and .37 for program non-completers.

#### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Reid Sterrett, Regional Truancy Court Coordinator  
30512 Prince William Street, Princess Anne, MD 21853  
Reid.Sterrett@mdcourts.gov  
410-621-7594

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### CINA/TPR Mediation

Child in Need of Assistance (CINA)/Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Mediation is used to help parties to resolve contested issues in the best interest of the child and to minimize the negative emotional impact on children and families. Mediators are trained and approved by the circuit court. Participants include the Department of Social Services, children's attorneys, parents' attorneys, social workers and foster care families.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The circuit court and the Department of Social Services are the principal CINA/TPR referral sources.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Since August 2007, 20 cases have been referred. In fiscal year 2010, 7 cases were referred. Of those 7, 3 reached resolution of all disputed issues, 1 case failed to reach a resolution and 3 were not mediated.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The program is funded by the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration.

#### CONTACT

Lindsay Tayman, Family Support Services Coordinator  
P.O. Box 886, Court St., Courts Bldg., 4th Floor, Salisbury, MD 21803-0886  
lindsay.tayman@mdcourts.gov  
410-548-7107

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## Community Mediation

Prosecutors screen cases, including juvenile cases, prior to trial or adjudication to determine which cases may be appropriate for Community Mediation. Mediation topics include a variety of misdemeanor offenses, such as trespass, harassment or violation of animal control or noise ordinances for situations that have arisen amongst neighbors.

### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Office of the State's Attorney refers cases to the Center for Conflict Resolution.

### YOUTH INVOLVED

An average of 20 cases per month are referred for mediation.

### OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

### CONTACT

Wicomico County State's Attorney's Office  
410-548-4880

Center for Conflict Resolution  
Courts Building, P.O. Box 1006, Salisbury, MD 21803  
conflictresolution@salisbury.edu  
410-219-2873

## WORCESTER COUNTY

### COURT OPERATED PROGRAMS

#### Family Recovery Drug Court

The Family Recovery Drug Court Program (FRC) is designed for parents whose children have been removed and placed in foster care principally because of parents' addictions issues. Hearings are held twice per month and presided over by both a judge and a master. Prior to court, progress reports are reviewed by team of county agency and court representatives. Participants attend FRC, at a minimum, twice per month in Phases I and II and once per month in Phases III and IV. The goal is reunification in a safe and stable family environment.

All cases accepted must have both an adjudication and disposition with a child in need of assistance (CINA) finding. Referrals may be made at the shelter care hearing, but adjudication is required for participation.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals can be made by the Office of the Public Defender, parents' attorneys, private counsel, the Department of Social Services, a substance abuse treatment provider, court appointed special advocates (CASA), the child's counsel, the judge or master, mediator or client.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Since its start in June 2007, FRC has served 28 participants/parents. Of the 42 cases referred, 5 parents have graduated and 19 have been terminated. The average time spent in the program is between 12 and 16 months. Over 60% of CINA families per year are referred to the program. In fiscal year 2011, 14 parents participated in the program.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

FRC receives grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## CONTACT

Tracy Simpson-Hansford, Drug Court Coordinator  
1 West Market St., Courthouse, Rm. 220, Snow Hill, MD 21863  
410-632-3130

## Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) program offers nonviolent offenders ages 14 to 17 who are chronic drug users the opportunity to erase their charges by participating in therapy and counseling with court oversight. The program incorporates varying levels of treatment as well as vocational, educational and life skills training in an effort to support positive behaviors. JDC hearings occur twice a month. All progress reports are reviewed by an inter-disciplinary team prior to court. Participants attend the meetings at least twice per month in Phases I and II, and once per month in Phases III and IV. When a youth successfully completes the program, the court strikes the finding of delinquency.

The court accepts cases at different stages of the case: post adjudication/disposition, as a commitment alternative, and for violations of probation. Eligibility is guided by a standard screening tool.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The JDC team includes representatives from the courts, the Department of Juvenile Services, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the schools, substance abuse and mental health providers and family services coordinators.

Referrals can be made by the judge, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, other service providers or law enforcement agencies.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Since December 2005, JDC has served 65 youth out of 68 referred. Of those 65, 26 graduated and 39 were terminated. In 2010, 27 youth were placed on probation and the program received four of those. In fiscal year 2011, 13 youth participated in the program. The average length in the program is 10-14 months.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## FUNDING SOURCE

Grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Problem Solving Courts supports the Juvenile Drug Court.



## CONTACT

Tracy Simpson-Hansford, Drug Court Coordinator  
1 West Market St., Courthouse, Rm. 220, Snow Hill, MD 21863  
tracy.hansford@mdcourts.gov  
410-632-3130

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## Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

As one of the four legislatively created first circuit truancy courts, the purpose of the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (TRPP) is to identify truant students early in the school year, provide a court forum where students and parents are accountable and make appropriate referrals for individual and family services to reduce or eliminate school nonattendance.

If a child is found to be truant, the judge or master is able to individualize court guidance and supervision, as well as order services, including after school programs, transportation, anger management counseling, mental health evaluation, medical evaluation, parenting training and mentoring.

TRPP serves students ages 5 to 16 who have 12 unexcused absences from school. Students are eligible to graduate after attending school for 90 days without an unexcused absence and completing all treatment programs.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

In Worcester County collaborating agencies are the court, the Board of Education, the Department of Juvenile Services and the Worcester County Health Department.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

Since December, 2004 in the four counties of the First Judicial Circuit, a total of 373 young people have been admitted to TRPP. Of students entering, 44% met program requirements and successfully graduated from the program, 27% failed to meet program requirements and left and 12% left the program due to relocating out of the jurisdiction. Of the remaining 17% who did not complete the program, the main reasons were that they aged out, were taken into Department of Juvenile Services custody or were home schooled.

The average participant is 13 years old, in the ninth grade, has a grade point average of 0.82 and a juvenile record of 0.67 misdemeanor adjudications.

In fiscal year 2011, 16 new cases were filed, bringing the active caseload to 32. In fiscal year 2010, there were a total of 69 cases open at some point during the year.

## OUTCOMES

Of the students admitted to TRPP, 37% were referred to individual counseling and 30% were referred for substance abuse evaluation. In addition, 86% of their families were successfully referred for family assessments.

In Worcester County, students who did not successfully complete the program experienced a rate of unexcused absences of 55% at TRPP exit, versus a rate of 16% for students who had completed the program. From program entry to one-year post-program, individuals who completed TRPP experienced

an average of .59 new misdemeanor adjudications and 0 new felony adjudications, compared to 1.00 and .16 for program non-completers.

#### STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Reid Sterrett, Regional Truancy Court Coordinator  
30512 Prince William Street, Princess Anne, MD 21853  
Reid.Sterrett@mdcourts.gov  
410-621-7594

## COURT SUPPORTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### CASA of the Lower Shore

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs recruit, train and supervise volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court to ensure they are placed in safe, loving and permanent homes as quickly as possible. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to provide an informative report and recommendations that will assist the judge in making important decisions in a child's life. The CASA program's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for the children served.

CASA of the Lower Shore is a program of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A court order is required for appointment of a CASA volunteer to a child in need of assistance (CINA) case. Courts appoint CASA volunteers on their own initiative, or in response to a request by the children's attorneys or Department of Social Services social workers.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

CASA volunteers are assigned to children involved in CINA court proceedings. Most volunteers advocate for children in out of home placements, (foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, relative's homes, etc.). Children range in age from newborn to 21.

#### OUTCOMES

In fiscal year 2011, CASA of the Lower Shore assigned 47 volunteer advocates to 85 children. Of those 87 children, 22 had their cases closed during the year, with all of the 22 children living in permanent homes at closure.

#### STAFFING

CASA of the Lower Shore has two full time and one part time staff.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration, private foundations, Worcester County Commissioners, the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, private and corporate donations, fundraising/events, the National CASA Association and the Combined Federal Charity Campaigns.

#### CONTACT

Brigitte Saulsbury, Director  
c/o Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 925, Berlin, MD 21811  
bsaulsbury@gowoyo.org  
410-641-4598

#### CINA Mediation

Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) Mediation is a post CINA alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process that brings together all participants to create realistic permanency plans in the best interest of the children.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The project receives referrals from the Department of Social Services and is facilitated by the Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

The courts refer few cases for CINA mediation, as most issues are resolved in Family Involvement Meetings with DSS.

#### OUTCOMES/STAFFING

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Funding support is from the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office and Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration.

#### CONTACT

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services  
Caroline Cordial  
124 North Main Street Suite C, Berlin, MD 21811  
410-641-4598

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#### Mediation Program

Mediation is available prior to trial and at no charge to participants in misdemeanor cases, such as second degree assault, neighbor versus neighbor, family or property damage disputes.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are made from citizens' complaints and the State's Attorney's Office.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED/OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

#### CONTACT

Worcester County State's Attorney's Office  
Katharine Cropper, Director of Mediation  
106 Franklin Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863  
kacropper@yahoo.com  
410-632-2761

#### Juvenile Drug Court Mentoring Program and Care Coordination Mentoring Program

The Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) Mentoring Program and the Care Coordination Mentoring Program serve youth ages 6 to 18. Both programs target youth returning from out of home placement, youth at risk of out of home placement and those youth experiencing difficulties in school, home and the community. Mentors offer social and emotional support, school assistance, advocacy, linkages to outside resources, career development and cultural and recreational support and activities.

#### REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Referrals are from the Alternative Directions Program, Juvenile Drug Court, Department of Juvenile Services and other agencies expressing concerns about a youth and/or family in the community.

#### YOUTH INVOLVED

Program enrollment ranges from 7 to 20 participants.

#### OUTCOMES

##### **Juvenile Drug Court Mentoring**

- 100% received mentoring services
- 100% of active mentoring participants were involved in conflict resolution
- 100% of all participants accessed new support services
- 71% of eligible JDC participants reported an increase in natural supports during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi-Annual fiscal year 2011 survey
- 90% of JDC participants demonstrated a reduced risk to self or community

##### **Care Coordination Mentoring**

- 16 youth were successfully discharged from Mentoring Services
- 43 youth successfully completed one year in the Care Coordination Program and were discharged in fiscal year 2011
- 4 youth successfully completed co-occurring substance abuse and mental health treatment
- youth and families obtained health insurance through the Maryland Children's Health Program
- 9 youth had Psychiatric Medication Evaluation

- 4 youth graduated from high school
- 2 youth took the GED exam
- 1 youth applied to Wor-Wic Community College.
- Participating youth and families followed through on the following 55 recommendations for services: Family Therapy, individual therapy (15), psychiatric rehabilitation (1), mentoring (8), addictions treatment (12), recreational activities (5), Juvenile Drug Court Program (4) and employment (5)

## STAFFING

The project is staffed by 3.5 full-time employees.

## FUNDING SOURCE

The Worcester County Health Department's Case Management Unit, together with the county's Juvenile Drug Program, received a \$271,197 three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs in 2010.

## CONTACT

Worcester County Health Department  
 Eric Gray, Program Director  
 Berlin Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD 21811-1154  
 410-629-0164

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## Alternative Directions

Alternative Directions is a mental health and substance abuse diversion program that is specifically designed to meet the needs of young people and their families involved with the Department of Juvenile Services. Evaluations are used to link the juvenile to appropriate community based services or for the judge to utilize the evaluation and treatment recommendations in fashioning a disposition. Services include a comprehensive bio-psychosocial evaluation conducted with the youth and family, which yields a clinical diagnosis, and appropriate recommendations and referrals. Recommendations are explained with the youth and family, and referrals are completed within 72 hours of the evaluation date. Completed reports with recommendations are submitted to the Department of Juvenile Services and are available to the court upon request.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Youth are referred by the Worcester County Department of Juvenile Services and Worcester County Truancy Reduction Program. Participating agencies are Worcester County Courts, Board of Education, Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Social Services, Worcester County Health Department Addictions and Worcester County Health Department Care Coordination Program.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

In fiscal year 2011, the program received 99 referrals and completed 82 comprehensive evaluations.

## OUTCOMES

Of the 82 evaluations completed in fiscal year 2011, 31 youth and families were referred to the Care Coordination Program for continued support and assistance in connecting with services and mentoring and 573 specific service recommendations were made.

## STAFFING

The program is staffed by one full time employee.

## FUNDING SOURCE

Alternative Directions is funded by the Worcester County Core Service Agency, a county health department grant and the Administrative Office of the Courts Department of Family Administration.

## CONTACT

Worcester County Health Department  
Julie Rayne, Mental Health Program Supervisor  
6040 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, MD 21863  
410-629-0164

# STATEWIDE

## Community Detention Program

The Community Detention Program is a statewide alternative to detention. Youth participating in the program are seen and receive telephone calls daily and are on active electronic monitoring. Community Detention Officers work with the youth's parents to hold the youth accountable through verbal counseling, 1:1 meetings, intensive supervision and supervised outings. A youth engaging in an activity that poses a risk to public safety may be withdrawn from the program and held in secure detention.

The program permits youth to continue with school and work and to maintain community ties and alternative care. Youth are permitted to leave their residence for educational programs, court hearings, attorney meetings, case management meetings, treatment appointments and limited approved outings with their guardian.

## REFERRAL SOURCE/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The court orders and sets the parameters for community detention in a particular case. The program is administered by the Department of Juvenile Services in cooperation with the police.

## YOUTH INVOLVED

The program capacity is 650 youth statewide, divided into six regions.

## OUTCOMES/STAFFING/FUNDING SOURCE

*No information has been provided by the program.*

## CONTACT

Department of Juvenile Services  
Lisa Reynolds, Director of Community Detention  
721 Woodbourne Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212

reynolis@djs.state.md.us  
410- 464-2400