



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER
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Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator
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November 1, 2018

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

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

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

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

Re: Annual Report on Problem Solving Courts
CJ § 3-8C-12; 2007_p16_JUD_Annual Report
On Problem Solving Courts (and truancy)

Dear President, Speaker and Chairpersons:

Pursuant to Courts and Judicial Proceedings, § 3-8C-12, and the 2007 Joint Chairmen's Report page 16, please find enclosed the Annual Report on Problem Solving Courts (and truancy) for Fiscal Year 2018. As you will see, these court programs seek to address the behavioral manifestations associated with drug and alcohol addiction, mental health problems, and habitual truancy.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Barton at (410) 260-3617, or via email at richard.barton@mdcourts.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator

Enc.

Hon. Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
Hon. Michael E. Busch
Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer
Hon. Maggie McIntosh
November 1, 2018
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cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
Honorable Kathleen G. Cox, Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge, District Court
Honorable Nicholas E. Rattal, Chair, Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee
Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chair, Public Safety, Transportation and
Environment Subcommittee
Honorable Keith E. Haynes, Chair, Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
Honorable Amy Craig, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Doug Hofstedt, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Faye Gaskin, Deputy State Court Administrator
Roberta Warnken, Chief Clerk, District Court
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Fiscal Year 2018

**Problem-Solving Courts
Annual Report**



Administrative Office of the Courts

November 2018

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Executive Summary

Problem-solving courts are central to the Maryland Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. Problem-solving court programs are innovative, accessible, and collaborative.

The Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC), which began in 2002 as the Drug Treatment Court Commission, was tasked to oversee the six existing operational drug courts and to expand the concept of coordinated substance abuse treatment and intensive supervision with judicial oversight.

Today, there are 32 drug courts, two re-entry courts, six mental health courts, eight truancy reduction courts, three veterans courts, and one Back-On-Track program in Maryland. Over the years, hundreds of criminal justice and treatment professionals have had access to professional development courses on a wide range of topics such as how to bring problem-solving courts to scale, an overview of the Justice Reinvestment Act, the role of the problem-solving court judge, problem-solving court case management training, pros and cons of medication assisted treatment, understanding psychiatric disorders, and community outreach.

Problem-Solving Court Definition

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

Problem-solving courts vary considerably by jurisdiction and case type. However, all focus on collaborating with the service communities in their jurisdictions and stress a multidisciplinary, problem-solving approach to address the underlying issues of individuals appearing in court.

As part of the annual appropriation to the Judiciary, OPSC provided over \$5 million in grants to Maryland's circuit and district problem-solving courts during fiscal year 2018. These funds were used for staffing, treatment, drug testing, travel and training, and ancillary services that directly benefit court participants. Overall, OPSC assists Maryland's problem-solving courts with upwards of \$9 million in state and federal funds annually.

Problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, community-based programs available to address aberrant behavior associated with substance use disorder and mental illnesses. During fiscal year 2018, 3,753 individuals participated in Maryland's problem-solving courts. Judges and magistrates met with those program participants more than 24,700 times in scheduled court hearings.

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

History and Governance

In 1994, one of the first drug courts in the country was initiated in Baltimore City to address substance abuse issues for those involved in the seemingly endless cycle of the criminal justice system. In 2002, the Maryland Judiciary established the Drug Treatment Court Commission (Commission) for the purpose of supporting the development of drug court programs throughout Maryland. The Commission led the Judiciary's effort to implement and maintain drug court programs in the state. Commission members included: circuit and district court judges, legislators, and representatives from the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) formerly known as the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), State's Attorney's Offices, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

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

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

Maryland's problem-solving court judges met with participants **24,785** times in court hearings during FY 2018.

The above-mentioned committee has a Problem-Solving Courts Subcommittee to assist courts and provide a comprehensive and collaborative approach to dealing with the issues that arise for the participants in these courts. This subcommittee assists each program in employing best practices, including providing evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, and identifying funding to support their courts.

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

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

Oversight

Office of Problem-Solving Courts

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

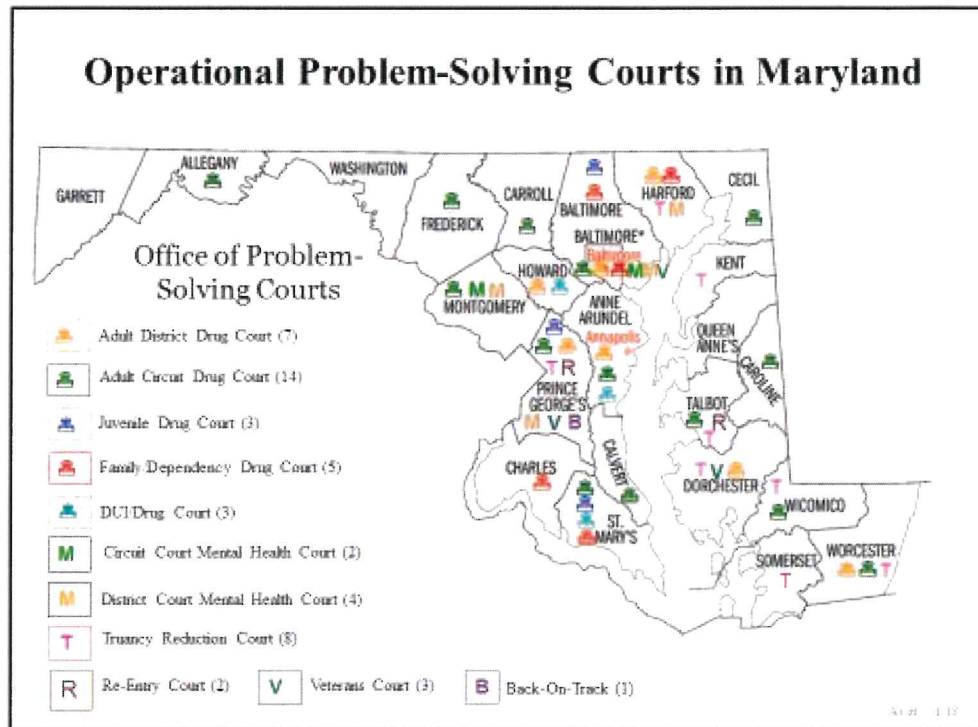
OPSC oversees the financial support for Maryland's problem-solving courts and is responsible for setting and enforcing programmatic guidelines, creating a statewide management information system, and targeting new and expanding populations for problem-solving courts. Working with the Judiciary's justice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

New Problem-Solving Courts

In fiscal year 2018, the Court of Appeals, with the recommendation from the Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee and OPSC, approved two new problem-solving courts under Maryland Rule 16-207:

- (1) Allegany County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court
- (2) Dorchester County District Court Regional Veterans Treatment Court

The map below identifies the location of all operational problem-solving courts statewide.



Funding

Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants

In fiscal year 2018, OPSC solicited grant applications to support and maintain the capacity of existing and planned problem-solving courts across Maryland. The Problem-Solving Court Discretionary Grants' core purpose areas are to support staff and services targeted for problem-solving court participants. Funds were allocated to problem-solving courts to address staffing needs within the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, to provide needed ancillary services, to provide critical drug/alcohol testing, to conduct trainings, and to fund services that are deemed non-reimbursable by managed care, with OPSC working in partnership with BHA.

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

OPSC/BHA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY 2018 by Jurisdiction

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	BHA Award	OPSC Award	Total by County
Allegany Circuit Adult	\$81,000			\$81,000
Anne Arundel Circuit Adult	\$284,102		\$286,958	\$844,842
Anne Arundel District Adult/DUI	\$273,782			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult/ Family/Mental Health	\$472,163	\$428,462	\$9,502	\$1,085,466
Baltimore City District Adult/Mental Health/Veterans	\$175,339			
Baltimore Co. Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$130,604		\$59,370	\$189,974
Calvert Circuit Adult	\$220,512		\$62,605	\$260,259
Caroline Circuit Adult	\$88,132	\$41,033		\$283,117
Carroll Circuit Adult	\$271,065		\$70,156	\$129,165
Cecil Circuit Adult	\$309,500		\$94,425	\$341,221
Charles Circuit Family	\$166,373	\$48,583		\$403,925
Dorchester District Adult/Veterans	\$66,672		\$47,505	\$214,956
Frederick Circuit Adult	\$281,018		\$69,077	\$350,095
Harford Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$92,010	\$65,841		\$281,351
Harford District Adult/DUI/Mental Health	\$123,500			
Howard District Adult/DUI	\$98,251	\$49,123		\$147,374
Montgomery Circuit Adult/Mental Health	\$257,959	\$74,470		\$501,109
Montgomery District Mental Health	\$168,680			
Prince George's Circuit Adult/Juvenile/Re-Entry/Veterans	\$315,190	\$131,637		\$506,187
Prince George's District Adult/Mental Health	\$59,360			
St. Mary's Circuit Adult/Juvenile/Family	\$284,165		\$69,077	\$353,242
Talbot Problem-Solving Court	\$135,474	\$35,640		\$171,114
Washington Circuit Juvenile	\$103,938		\$31,325	\$135,263
Wicomico Circuit Adult	\$293,937	\$49,662		\$343,599
Worcester Circuit Adult	\$223,756	\$75,549		\$325,284
Worcester District Adult	\$25,979			
TOTAL	\$5,002,461	\$1,000,000	\$767,900	\$6,802,461



The Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake's Lower Shore Career Development Center presented the Wicomico County Drug Court Team with a certificate of appreciation for their support of their programs. Goodwill Industries is a huge asset to the program, participants, and community as a whole.

Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funds treatment/criminal justice programs that provide integrated drug treatment services and criminal justice supervision for high-risk substance dependent offenders. Programs provide regular drug testing and apply graduated sanctions when individuals violate program requirements. The treatment services must include an assessment of the individual's drug use and criminal history, as well as placement in the appropriate level of care, such as residential, intensive outpatient, outpatient, or aftercare services. During fiscal year 2018, three jurisdictions received \$697,901 to fund treatment services.

Jurisdiction	HIDTA Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$120,349
Baltimore City	\$476,581
Prince George's County	\$100,971
TOTAL	\$697,901

Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) Grants

The Maryland Vehicle Administration's MHSO is dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing motor vehicle crashes through the administration of a comprehensive network of traffic safety programs. The purpose of the highway safety grant program is to fund activities aimed at reducing the number of motor vehicle-related crashes, deaths, and injuries on Maryland roadways. During fiscal year 2018, three DUI

courts received \$103,331 to fund drug and alcohol testing, treatment services, program personnel, housing, and transportation costs.

Jurisdiction	MHSO Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$48,620
Howard County	\$23,795
St. Mary's County	\$30,916
TOTAL	\$103,331

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance
 The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded a \$175,419 grant to the Judiciary in October 2015. This grant provides the means to partner with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to develop and implement performance measures for Maryland's Adult Drug Courts. Performance measurement is considered an essential activity because it "has a common-sense (sic) logic that is irrefutable, namely that agencies have a greater probability of achieving their goals and objectives if they use performance measures to monitor their progress along these lines and then take follow-up actions as necessary to ensure success." (Poister, 2003).

Professional Development and Direct Assistance

Professional development among problem-solving courts remains a priority for OPSC. On an annual basis, the OPSC staff and the Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee plan a series of events to encourage ongoing educational opportunities for problem-solving court teams and criminal justice professionals. In fiscal year 2018, OPSC arranged and implemented the following professional development events:

Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium

OPSC sponsored its annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium featuring both state and national experts presenting timely and relevant topics and materials. The event expands each year, and in fiscal year 2018, the Problem-Solving Court Symposium hosted 300 problem-solving court staff, clinical staff, attorneys, local law enforcement officers, public safety staff, Department of Human Resources staff, and ancillary service organizations across Maryland. This year's sessions included:

Bringing Problem-Solving Courts to Scale

Aaron Arnold, Director of Treatment Court Programs and Tribal Justice Exchange at the Center for Court Innovation, discussed how the problem-solving court movement began almost 30 years ago with a few experimental projects led by innovative criminal justice leaders. Today, there are more than 3,000 problem-solving courts nationwide, and these courts have become an integral feature of the justice system landscape in many areas. Spurring the expansion of these courts is an ever-growing body of research establishing their effectiveness, as well as the experience of justice system practitioners who recognize the limitations of a

business-as-usual approach. Despite this success, however, there are many challenges associated with bringing problem-solving courts to scale, including resources, training, fidelity to best practices, and program evaluation and accountability. This session addressed several specific strategies for expanding problem-solving courts throughout the state court system and for incorporating problem-solving justice principles into regular courts.

Illegal Street Drugs

Lieutenant Prendi Garcia, Maryland State Police, provided the skills to identify successfully the drug trafficker, distributor, and the drug-impaired person within problem-solving courts. Attendees were able to understand the effects of newer and more dangerous illegal street drugs, identify these drugs by sight, and gain clarification of what can be done to combat them.

Veterans Suicide Risk throughout the Lifespan

Nikole Jones, LCSW-C, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Veterans Administration (VA) Maryland Health Care System, presented on the increased awareness of the prevalence of suicide and suicidal behavior in the veteran population and on suicide prevention initiatives at the VA.

Community Outreach Programs Panel

Three of Maryland's community-based programs that are committed to educating and providing resources for those impacted by substance use, mental health disorders, and trauma were showcased. The panelists discussed the importance of participating in community-based programs while on the road to recovery.

Addressing the Impact of Problem Gambling in the Legal System

Lori Rugle, Ph.D., ICGC-II, Program Director for the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, discussed the criminal justice system's lack of awareness of problem gambling and the treatment modalities available for problem gamblers in Maryland. Further discussion included negative consequences of these behaviors, familial and social implications, and motivations for change.

Understanding Psychiatric Disorders

Denise Beagley, M.Sc., Manager, Clinical Initiatives and Training at Arizona State University, provided a basic understanding of the most common disorders that court, public safety, and other related personnel are likely to encounter, as well as the common work situations in which they may encounter individuals struggling with their illnesses. Participants learned practical and immediately implementable techniques, such as motivational interviewing and verbal de-escalation, to help manage and defuse potentially dangerous situations.

Child Abuse and Human Trafficking

Lieutenant Prendi Garcia, Maryland State Police, spoke about how the U.S. Department of Justice estimates that approximately 100,000 children are at risk

for entry into domestic minor sex trafficking every year. The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Victim Services Subcommittee provides services to more than 100 child victims of sex trafficking in Maryland annually. Many of the children are recruited for trafficking while attending school and remain in school while they are being exploited. This course discussed methods of prevention, as well as identification of youth possibly being exploited.

Trauma Informed Care 101

Denise Beagley, M.Sc., Manager, Clinical Initiatives and Training at Arizona State University, educated attendees on methods to provide trauma-informed treatment, which requires strict adherence to a set of key principles rather than a prescribed set of practices or procedures.

Giving African Americans a Voice in Drug Court

John R. Gallagher, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Licensed Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor at the Indiana University School of Social Work, South Bend Campus, discussed the current drug court literature which suggests that drug courts are efficient and effective at reducing criminal recidivism; however, some drug courts do not appear to be equally as effective for historically disadvantaged groups. Specifically, in some drug courts, evidence has suggested that African-American participants are less likely to graduate than their white counterparts. The presentation highlighted findings from program evaluations that are cited throughout the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' (NADCP) Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards. Qualitative research methods were used in Southern and Midwestern drug courts to explore the factors that may contribute to racial disparities in graduation rates.

Problem-Solving Court 101

This three-hour class introduces new and existing staff to the problem-solving court model, the components of drug courts, mental health courts, veterans courts, and truancy courts, and it provides an overview of the Judiciary's Office of Problem-Solving Courts. In March, this course was presented in Annapolis to 30 people, including four Judges, two Court Administrators, and two Administrative Clerks. In April, OPSC provided the same training to 30 individuals at the Cecil County Circuit Court.

Problem-Solving Court Case Management Training

This two-day training took place in June with more than 50 case managers (also one judge, one court administrator, and one administrative clerk) in attendance. Though supported by OPSC, the bulk of the curriculum was developed by problem-solving court coordinators throughout Maryland.

Direct Assistance

OPSC provides direct assistance, expertise, and guidance to court programs, helping them to improve operations, client services, and team communication. Teams may address protocol development, ancillary services, treatment service/types, funding opportunities, court proceedings, and role clarification with support from OPSC. Teams may also

discuss and devise plans to institute new research and evidence-based practices into their current operations.

In fiscal year 2018, OPSC provided direct assistance to Maryland's problem-solving courts by guiding them to improve their drug testing policies, enhancing sanction and incentive responses, reworking and expanding program entrance criteria, developing therapeutic responses to relapse, and understanding the roles and responsibilities of each team member. In a few jurisdictions, teams reviewed staffing processes and court proceedings to help the court operate more efficiently, effectively, and consistently.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

SMART provides problem-solving court team members with direct access to information needed for making informed decisions about participants and the court. SMART is a multi-purpose tool used for identifying and prioritizing participant needs, developing knowledge about services available across agencies, and obtaining immediate access to information about participant status. In addition, individual problem-solving courts use SMART data to generate presentations for local community and oversight boards, to report mandated data to state or federal stakeholders, to provide information on outcome and continuous quality improvement activities to accrediting bodies, and to evaluate program and service effectiveness.

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

Drug Courts

Drug courts constitute a Judiciary-led, coordinated system that demands accountability of staff and court participants and ensures immediate, intensive, and comprehensive drug treatment, supervision, and support services using a cadre of incentives and sanctions to encourage participant compliance. Drug

5,698 drug court participants
have successfully graduated
since 2008.

courts represent the coordinated efforts of the criminal justice, behavioral health resources, and social service agencies, along with treatment communities that actively intervene in, and break the cycle of, substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions, such as incarceration or conditions of general probation, drug courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment, and ancillary services.

Drug Court Statistical Summary

July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2018
Allegany	Circuit	Adult	June-18	8	0	0	0	8
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Adult	Dec-05	73	21	0	22	152
Anne Arundel	District	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	95	38	1	23	300
Baltimore City	Circuit	Adult	Oct-94	67	36	7	21	247
Baltimore City	Circuit	Family	Aug-05	93	27	19	52	153
Baltimore City	District	Adult	Mar-94	52	38	0	22	167
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Juvenile	Mar-03	21	3	4	5	34
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Family	Aug-10	19	5	4	2	28
Calvert	Circuit	Adult	Feb-15	27	30	0	16	114
Caroline	Circuit	Adult	Nov-11	9	10	1	1	23
Carroll	Circuit	Adult	Apr-07	28	24	4	10	83
Cecil	Circuit	Adult	Jun-06	39	22	5	20	145
Charles	Circuit	Family	Jan-11	22	11	2	20	49
Dorchester	District	Adult	Jul-04	28	9	3	7	51
Frederick	Circuit	Adult	May-05	25	19	0	7	70
Harford	Circuit	Family	May-04	21	7	0	4	46
Harford	District	Adult	Nov-97	29	5	5	11	54
Howard	District	Adult	Jul-04	2	5	0	0	14
Howard	District	DUI	Jul-04	15	11	0	1	34
Montgomery	Circuit	Adult	Nov-05	30	18	3	15	102
Prince George's	Circuit	Adult	Aug-02	14	4	0	3	100
Prince George's	Circuit	Juvenile	Aug-02	12	2	0	6	33
Prince George's	Circuit	Re-Entry	Oct-13	3	5	0	1	16
Prince George's	District	Adult	Apr-06	26	5	1	3	65
St. Mary's	Circuit	Juvenile	Feb-04	1	5	1	7	20
St. Mary's	Circuit	Adult DUI	July-09	20	12	1	10	53
St. Mary's	Circuit	Family	Aug-16	9	17	4	5	38
Talbot	Circuit	Problem-Solving	Aug-07	13	1	0	7	28
Washington	Circuit	Juvenile	Jun-07	5	4	1	5	10
Wicomico	Circuit	Adult	Sep-05	26	9	2	6	68
Worcester	Circuit District	Adult	Dec-05	14	19	4	9	60
Worcester	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-05	0	1	2	5	8
Total				848	423	74	326	2,373

The HOPE Act, Multi-Agency Response to the Opioid Crisis in Maryland

On May 25, 2017, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan signed into law, the HOPE Act, a multi-agency emergency bill that consolidates several provisions intended to respond to the opioid crisis in Maryland, including the expansion and enhancement of Maryland drug treatment courts. Specifically, the HOPE Act instructs the State Court Administrator to “assess drug court programs in circuit courts, including juvenile courts and the District Court, to determine how to increase these programs in a manner sufficient to meet each county’s needs,” and to “disburse grants authorized in the fiscal year 2019 budget based on the population of each county.”

This resulted in problem-solving courts being awarded additional funding; \$276,772 was allotted for new drug courts and \$473,228 was allotted for the expansion of existing drug courts, for a total increase of \$750,000 in fiscal year 2019 from the HOPE Act alone.

In the past 10 years, on average, 97% of the over 6 million drug and alcohol tests conducted in Maryland’s problem-solving courts returned a negative result.

In addition to the expansion and enhancement of drug courts, the HOPE Act establishes additional directives intended to increase access to opioid addiction treatment within Maryland communities and institutions, including the BHA, DPSCS, and hospitals. Provisions of the HOPE Act include but are not limited to the establishment of crisis treatment centers and a crisis hotline; the requirement of each health care facility and system to make the services of opioid addiction treatment providers available to patients; specified rate increases for community behavioral health providers; the requirement of hospitals to develop discharge protocols for patients treated for an opioid related overdose, and the requirement for local jails and detention centers to develop plans for substance use disorder treatment.

Adult Drug Court Performance Measures

OPSC partnered with the NCSC to develop and implement performance measures for Maryland’s adult drug courts. With performance measures and their associated targets, Maryland adult drug courts have a framework to begin implementing performance management. In many respects, Maryland is in a much better place to implement performance management than many other states because adult drug courts have access to the SMART database. The performance measures report contains several suggestions for using the current capabilities of SMART, as well as making modifications to the database, which will assist in the development of the informational superstructure needed to support a performance management system. The NCSC report presented the performance measures and associated benchmarks as endorsed by the Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee. The final and essential component to the performance management system is training on how to use this framework to assess performance and make any necessary modifications.

To accomplish this training objective, NCSC, with input from OPSC, is designing a course based on realistic scenarios that represent performance issues and challenges frequently encountered by adult drug courts. These scenarios also demonstrate how performance measures can be used to address an issue. This two-day training for all adult drug court teams will be completed in fiscal year 2019.

Finally, by demonstrating that adult drug courts are actively assessing and seeking to improve their performance, the performance management system will assist in the sustainability of adult drug courts and encourage policymakers to invest in them. The promise to each drug court is for the performance management system to function as an essential tool for continuous improvement.

Mental Health Courts

In Maryland, as in other states, deinstitutionalization of those with mental health conditions has led to increased instances of people of that population becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Mental health courts were established in response to the increased numbers of mentally ill persons found caught in the revolving door of the criminal justice system.

Mental health court judges met with program participants nearly 3,800 times in court hearings in FY 2018.

A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with a primary mental health diagnosis. A problem-solving approach substitutes for the traditional adversarial criminal court process. Participants are identified through mental health screenings and assessments, and they voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. The overarching goal of the mental health court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contact with the criminal justice system by providing judicial oversight to improve their social functioning with respect to employment, housing, treatment, and support services in the community.

Mental health courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address mental health needs and public safety concerns. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and to lower the overall recidivism rate of this population.

Mental Health Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018

County	Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Discharged Program	Total Served in FY 2018
Baltimore City	Circuit	May-17	22	14	140
Baltimore City	District	Oct-02	133	148	410
Harford	District	Jan-03	6	6	17
Montgomery	Circuit	Jan-17	2	3	11
Montgomery	District	Jan-17	16	25	55
Prince George's	District	Jul-07	147	129	295
Total			326	325	928

Mental Health Court Performance Measures

The Administrative Office of the Courts' Court Operations Department and OPSC contracted with NCSC to create Mental Health Court Performance Measures. Throughout the past year, NCSC has visited mental health courts in Maryland to gather data and engage mental health court programs in the creation of performance measures, which should be completed in fiscal year 2019.

Veterans Courts

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

81% of justice-involved veterans had a substance abuse problem prior to incarceration and 25% were identified as mentally ill.

23% of justice-involved veterans were homeless at some point in the year prior to their arrest.

U.S. Department of Justice



First Circuit Administrative Judge Brett W. Wilson, Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, District Court of Maryland Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, Dorchester County District Judge Melvin J. Jews, who is presiding judge of the regional veterans treatment court, Senior Judge Raymond E. Beck, Sr., and District 2 Administrative Judge Gerald V. Purnell help celebrate the launch of the regional veterans treatment court.

Dorchester County Regional Veterans Treatment Court

A regional veterans treatment court, serving Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, officially opened June 13, 2018. The District Court in Dorchester County Regional Veterans Treatment Court is a court-supervised, intensive treatment program for veterans who have committed crimes as a result of substance abuse or mental illness. The program's goals are to reduce recidivism and to help veterans find resources available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and local organizations.

Veterans Court Statistical Summary
July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018

County	Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2017
Baltimore City	District	Oct-15	22	19	0	3	49
Dorchester	District	June-18	0	0	0	0	0
Prince George's	Circuit	Apr-15	9	3	1	0	16
Total			31	22	1	3	65

Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

In accordance with § 2-1546 of the State Government Article, established under Chapter 718, Acts of 2009, this section of the report provides the status of the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program. The purpose of the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program is to improve school attendance and positively affect the youth's attitude about education through a nurturing approach that ultimately will build a relationship between the family, the school, and the court. The program is an alternative to punitive measures such as having parents prosecuted in criminal court, or stigmatizing the child and further souring their outlook on education and the criminal justice system. A social worker, counselor, or case manager works with families to determine reasons for poor attendance and makes referrals to community-based services when appropriate. There are currently eight courts participating in the program.

By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.

Baltimore Education Research Consortium

**Truancy Reduction Pilot Program Statistical Summary
July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018**

County	Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Discharged	Total Served in FY 2018
Dorchester	Circuit	Mar-07	32	36	61
Harford	Circuit	Jan-08	7	11	18
Kent	Circuit	Sept-14	51	23	51
Prince George's	Circuit	May-09	41	39	96
Somerset	Circuit	Nov-05	25	27	57
Talbot	Circuit	Jan-11	0	0	0
Wicomico	Circuit	Dec-04	23	62	87
Worcester	Circuit	Jan-07	29	23	60
Total			208	221	430

Conclusion

Problem-solving courts have been continually created and expanded over the past twenty-four years in Maryland. These courts are different from the traditional criminal court in that they have specialized dockets, create a collaborative relationship between traditional court actors and outside organizations, and attempt to solve social problems rather than focus only on adjudicating cases. Individual problem-solving courts are complex, involving new partnerships, new roles, and new partners both in and outside the courthouse. Given that each problem-solving court is typically shaped by local circumstance, the challenge of supporting and overseeing problem-solving courts on a statewide level is considerable.

Problem-solving court programs are expanding in Maryland, and they are critically important to the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. The Judiciary continues to be the primary funding source for problem-solving courts in Maryland. Though many agencies and stakeholders provide funding and resources to the 52 problem-solving courts, without the Judiciary's continued financial support for these programs, they would cease to exist.

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

Appendix A

Maryland Judicial Council - An Overview

The Judicial Council serves as the principal policy advisory body to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. In 2013, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, the administrative head of the Maryland Judiciary, commissioned a comprehensive review of the governance and operational structure of the Maryland Judiciary, which led to the reconstitution of the Judicial Council, as well as the restructuring of the Judiciary's myriad committees, subcommittees, and workgroups. The reconstituted Judicial Council and the new committee structure became effective January 1, 2015. Since that time, the Council and its committees have worked to advance the Judiciary's mission *to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all*, with the strategic plan and eight key goals as their guide.

The Judicial Council consists of twenty-two members, including the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, the State Court Administrator, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators, the Chair of the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Chief Clerk of the District Court, the Chair of the Retired and Recalled Judges Committee, three Circuit Court judges, four District Court judges, and two District Administrative Clerks. The Deputy State Court Administrator serves as Secretary to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council's Executive Committee, which meets at the request and direction of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to provide input to the Chief Judge on matters that arise between sessions of the Judicial Council, consists of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals, the Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, and the State Court Administrator.

As indicated above, a number of the members serve by virtue of their position, while the remaining members are appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Each appointed member of the Judicial Council is appointed to a two-year term, but can be reappointed to one additional consecutive two-year term as the Chief Judge deems necessary and appropriate. Unless otherwise directed by the Chief Judge, the Judicial Council meets bi-monthly.

As the highest governance body, the Judicial Council is the central hub for all Judiciary-wide policy changes, judicial reforms, legislative issues, and other internal and external developments that impact the administration of justice. To that end, the committees develop recommendations for the Judicial Council's consideration and the Chief Judge's approval that address policies, programs, and initiatives that help to ensure the effective and efficient administration of justice in Maryland. In addition, the Judicial Council takes up external matters that impact the Maryland Judiciary.

The diverse and focused members of the Judicial Council and its committees, including judges, magistrates, trial court clerks and administrators, and commissioners, represent all areas of the State. It is through their collective work that the Maryland Judiciary is fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals, all for the betterment of those who enter the courts and utilize the services the Judiciary offers.

Maryland Judicial Council 2018

Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chair *

Chief Judge, Court of Appeals

Honorable Patrick L. Woodward *

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

Honorable John P. Morrissey *

Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland
Maryland Judicial Center

Honorable James A. Kenney III

Chair, Senior Judges Committee

Honorable Alan M. Wilner

Chair, Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox *

Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Circuit Court for Baltimore County

Honorable Pamila J. Brown

District Court, Howard County
Term: July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

Honorable Laura S. Ripken

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County

Honorable Patricia L. Mitchell

District Court, Montgomery County
Term: July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

Honorable Karen H. Mason

Circuit Court for Prince George's County
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

Honorable Gerald V. Purnell

District Court, Worcester County
Term: March 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019

Honorable W. Michel Pierson

Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Term: March 10, 2018 – December 31, 2019

Honorable Dorothy J. Wilson

District Court, Baltimore County
Term: March 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019

Honorable Brett Wilson

Circuit Court for Dorchester County
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

Roberta Warnken

Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland
Maryland Judicial Center

Pamela Q. Harris *

State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts

Tamera Chester

Administrative Clerk
District Court, Anne Arundel County
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

Honorable Amy J. Craig

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Circuit Court for Dorchester County
Term: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Cheryl Miller

Administrative Clerk
District Court, Cecil County
Term: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019

Honorable Timothy W. Miller

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Circuit Court for Garrett County
Term: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Matthew T. Barrett, Esq.

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Circuit Court for Cecil County
Term: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Douglas Hofstedt

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County
Term: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Faye D. Gaskin, Secretary

Deputy State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts

*Executive Committee

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL’S SPECIALTY COURTS AND DOCKETS COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The Specialty Courts and Dockets will promote and oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets in the courts.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

The Committee will ensure the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets, in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism, business and technology, and science and technology. It will monitor and direct the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, technical assistance, research, funding and support for specialty courts and special dockets. The Committee will report on its initiatives and other activities, at least annually, to the Judicial Council.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
Hon. Nicholas E. Rattal, Chair

NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Hon George Lipman, Vice Chair, Senior Judge District Court, Baltimore City	December 31, 2018
Hon. Keith A. Baynes, Circuit Court Cecil County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Kathleen L. Beckstead, Circuit Court, Wicomico County	December 31, 2018
Hon. James Bonifant, Circuit Court, Montgomery County	December 31, 2019
Hon. Philip Caroom, Senior Judge Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County	December 31, 2019
Hon. Mark S. Chandlee, Circuit Court, Calvert County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Helen I. Harrington, Circuit Court, Charles County	December 31, 2018
Magistrate Troy Hill, Circuit Court, Baltimore City	December 31, 2018
Hon. Patrice E. Lewis, District Court, Prince George’s County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Thomas J. Pryal, District Court, Anne Arundel County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Nancy Purpura, Circuit Court, Baltimore County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Ronald B. Rubin, Circuit Court, Montgomery County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Ronald A. Silkworth, Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County	December 31, 2019
Hon. Ann Wagner-Stewart, District Court, Prince George’s County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Sean D. Wallace, Circuit Court Prince George’s County	December 31, 2018
Hon. Beverly Woodard, Circuit Court, Prince George’s County	December 31, 2019
Hon. Ricardo D. Zwaig, District Court, Howard County	December 31, 2019

Gray Barton, *Staff*