

UNITING FOR YOUTH

An Interagency Plan for Helping At-Risk Youth in Harford County

April 12, 2011
Liriodendron Mansion
Bel Air, Maryland



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Members of the Community,

On April 12, 2011, top leaders within Harford County came together to discuss the needs of at-risk youth. This conference was the vision of Honorable William O. Carr, Administrative Judge of the Harford County Circuit Court. The Department of Community Services Local Management Board is pleased to have been the organizer of this important event.

A key strength of Harford County is our ability to partner and work collaboratively across systems and agencies. The conference provided an opportunity to engage in a discussion around how we can work as a team to best bring about positive change for youth.

We are pleased to share the following report with you that outlines the work accomplished at the conference and future goals to be addressed through interagency collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Craig".

David R. Craig
Harford County Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth S. Hendrix".

Elizabeth S. Hendrix
Director, Department of Community Services

Executive Summary

An interagency planning group was brought together in the spring of 2011 to discuss the needs of “at-risk youth” in Harford County. These are youth that for some reason are not performing at their highest potential or are at risk of not meeting their full potential without proper intervention and support. At-risk youth are often involved in one or more service system and show warning signs of juvenile delinquency. The planning group included local leaders representing health, mental health, schools, courts, law enforcement, social services, juvenile services and county government. For a full listing of participants, please see Attachment 1. Agency representatives were engaged in a discussion around how Harford County youth are faring by reviewing local data and discussing the experiences of each agency.

Participants agreed that through ongoing collaborative planning and cross-agency sharing of knowledge and resources, a positive difference can be made in the lives of youth and in turn the Harford County community as a whole.

Below is a list of **collective goals** that came out of this interagency planning effort:

- The need for expanded interventions for youth with high intensity needs
- The integration of mental health and substance abuse services
- Creating more opportunities for teens to have a safe, structured after school environment
- Developing community-based alternatives to juvenile detention
- Addressing truancy, bullying and gang involvement
- Education of new and young parents on how to care for a child

Next steps to accomplish these goals are as follows:

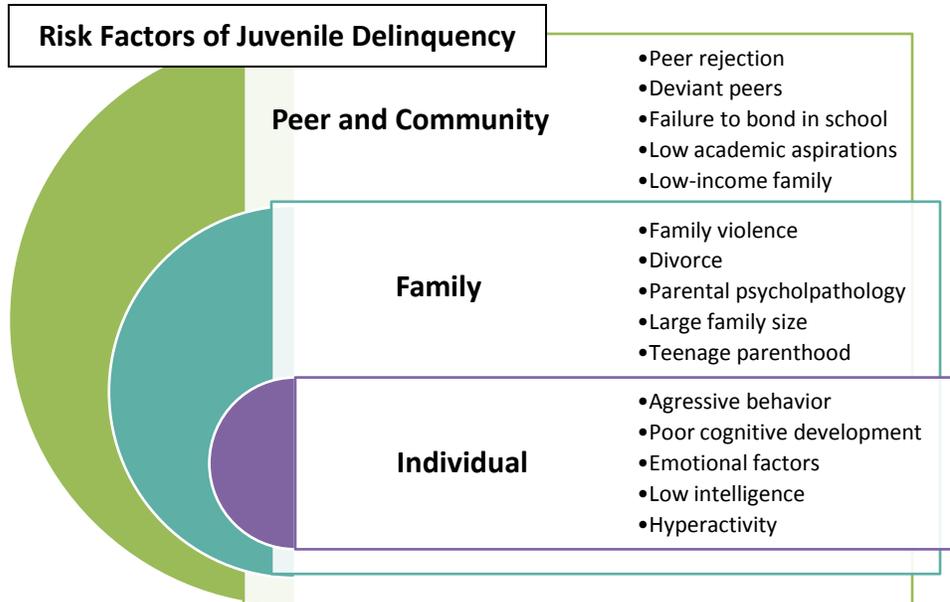
- Execute an MOU between the planning group members
- Carry this work forward through the Circuit Court’s Juvenile Justice Council
- Look for grant funding that will incorporate interagency collaborations
- Meet annually to discuss progress toward short and long-term strategies identified

Supporting Research

For the purposes of this planning effort, “at-risk” youth are defined as those that show warning signs of juvenile delinquency and/or are involved in one or more service system. When discussing risk behaviors, it is important to look at the contributing factors and identify particular points where intervention could make a significant difference. Below is a review of research that can offer guidance in developing appropriate and effective youth intervention strategies.

Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is antisocial or criminal behavior committed by youth under the age of 18. There are a number of factors that contribute to incidences of juvenile delinquency. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) categorizes these risk factors at an individual, family and community level. Warning signs at the individual level include aggressive or disruptive behaviors, poor cognitive development, emotional factors, low intelligence and hyperactivity. At the family level, children who experience family violence, divorce, parental psychopathology, large family size and teenage parenthood are all at higher risk of delinquency. At the peer and community level, young people are at greater risk if they experience peer rejection, associate with deviant peers, fail to bond in school, have low academic performance or live in a low-income family (OJJDP, Child Delinquency Bulletin, April 2003).



While there are a myriad of reasons why a child becomes involved in delinquent activity, research also points to resiliency factors that can offer protection against negative outcomes. First, youth need to experience success in their lives and establish coping skills that help them seek solutions to their problems. In addition, they need to have a sense of awareness, identity

Youth need the presence of at least one stable, positive adult relationship

and purpose. Environmental characteristics that encourage resiliency include opportunities to be involved, responsible and make decisions. Youth also need the presence of at least one stable, positive adult relationship. These adults need to recognize and build on the child's strengths, instill high expectations and believe in the child's ability to achieve (Bernard, *Fostering Resilience in Children*, 1995). A summary of longitudinal research on resiliency points to the fact that protective factors actually have a more profound impact on an individual's life than risk factors (ACT For Youth Upstate Center for Excellence, *Positive Youth Development Manual*, 2006).

Truancy

Missing school, or being truant, is a major warning sign that a child has the potential to become delinquent. Youth who are truant often have a low sense of self-esteem, feel incompetent academically and have a hard time socializing with their peers. They also experience health or mental health problems at higher rates. Within their family, youth who experience homelessness, lack of transportation, poverty, neglect and ineffectual parenting are at higher risk of being truant. While at school, children need to bond with teachers, have a sense of belonging and be placed at an appropriate classroom level (National Center for School Engagement, *Pieces of the Truancy Jigsaw: A Literature Review*, January 2007).

Truancy is often a symptom of a larger underlying problem. It is an important red flag because excessive absence has been linked with social isolation, educational failure, dropout, substance abuse and teen pregnancy. Many truant youth have missed so much academic material that they feel it is hopeless to go back, or are too embarrassed to admit that they are lacking basic skills. In a study conducted by Bridgeland (2006), 43% of dropouts interviewed stated that the reason they left high school was because they "missed too many days of school and could not catch up." The number one reason youth stated that they dropped out, reported by 47% of youth interviewed, was that classes were not interesting. (Civic Enterprises, *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts*, March 2006).

By pinpointing contributing factors of truancy, we are able to identify those key elements that are needed to effectively reengage youth in school. Programs aimed at curbing truancy should incorporate protective factors that help youth to feel engaged, cared for, safe and capable in their school setting. Key elements identified by the National Dropout Prevention Center (2005) are school-community collaborations, family engagement, mentoring, tutoring, alternative schooling, active learning and individualized instruction (PromotePrevent.org, *Truancy Prevention Guide*, 2010).

Protective Factors:

- *Feel engaged*
- *Cared for*
- *Safe*
- *Capable*

Poor Academic Performance

Young people who struggle to perform well academically may do so because of a number of challenges, such as learning disabilities, behavioral or emotional issues and/or health and mental health concerns. Research also points to additional hardship experienced by youth who come from a single parent or divorced family. These youth were found to have less academic encouragement and help with schoolwork which can lead to poor performance in school (Astone & McLanahan, Family Structure, Parental Practices and High School Completion, American Sociological Review, June 1991). In addition, there is a direct correlation between proper nutrition and academic achievement. Research has found that children with poor nutrition “score much lower on tests of vocabulary, reading comprehension, arithmetic, and general knowledge” (Action for Healthy Kids, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Achievement Fact Sheet, 2005).

Lessard (2009) studied “resilient students” who despite facing many of the hardships previously listed, were able to stay in school and achieve academic success. These students shared three protective factors in common: positive relationships, healthy self-esteem and constructive decision making, all of which helped them to stay on track toward graduation (Lessard, et. al., Why Did They Not Drop Out? Narratives from Resilient Students, Prevention Researcher, 2009).

Resilient students share 3 characteristics:

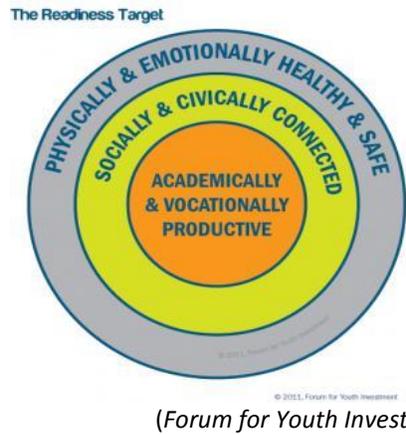
- *Positive relationships*
- *Healthy self-esteem*
- *Constructive decision making*

In Harford County, there are a number of programs whose goal is to encourage school engagement and discourage delinquency. Prevention focused programs include after school programs, mentoring programs, youth leadership and college bound activities. Interventions for youth displaying warning signs of risk factors include substance abuse interventions, mental health support and case management services. On the most intense end of the spectrum are crisis intervention services and out-of-home placements. For a full listing of programs, see the Attachment 3, Support Services for Harford County Youth.

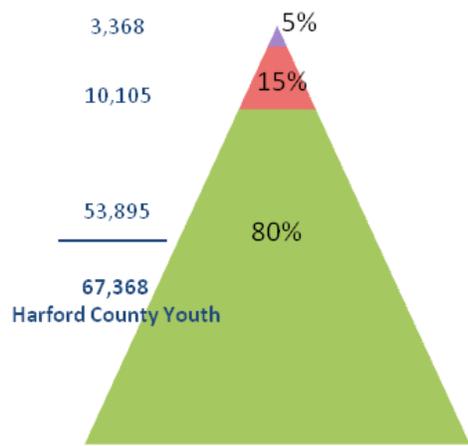


Building a Comprehensive System of Care

All children require support from early childhood through young adulthood in order to have optimal development and the best chance for social and academic success. First, all youth need their basic needs met, including proper shelter, clothing, health and nutrition. Beyond their basic needs, all youth require the involvement of caring and competent adults. They also need opportunities to engage in pro-social activities such as sports, clubs, music and art. The Forum for Youth Investment illustrates this relationship through the “Readiness Target,” shown below.



Harford County is home to over 67,000 youth birth to age 19 (Census Bureau, 2009 Estimates). According to Sheila Pires System of Care literature (2002), the general youth population will have a relatively low need for support services. This group of “low-risk” youth make up approximately 80% of the population, or in Harford County, about 54,000 youth. To help young people stay in this category of low needs, it is important to invest in early intervention and prevention supports to help avoid hardships later in life. These interventions may include home visiting programs for pregnant and new moms, pre-kindergarten, out of school time activities or mentoring programs.



(Building A System of Care, Pires, 2002)

If 80% of youth are considered “low-risk,” the remaining 20% are more likely to require some form of intervention and support services during childhood. This equates to over 13,000 children

in Harford County. Support services may include counseling, case management, behavioral supports or other forms of treatment that would help the child be better able to function in their home, school and community (*Building Systems of Care*, Pires, 2002).

As represented in the triangle above, prevalence estimates tell us that the top 5% of youth will present the highest level of need. Services required will be the most intensive and expensive. Therefore, it is of benefit to our youth and community to intervene in a child’s life before their needs escalate to this level. Youth that are most likely to end up in the top tier of the triangle are those that present multiple risk factors or are involved in multiple service systems. The purpose of this interagency planning was to engage key agencies in a discussion around the needs of youth most at risk of ending up in the top tier of the pyramid.

Another way to visualize the relationship between low, moderate and high level needs is on a continuum. On the far left side are the programs that serve the general population and include early intervention and prevention programs that have the highest service capacity, and lowest cost and intensity. Programs in the middle of the continuum, secondary interventions, are those which youth are referred to because they are starting to show signs of needing support services. Programs on the right side of the continuum are tertiary interventions, utilized when a risk behavior is well established or a high intensity service is required.

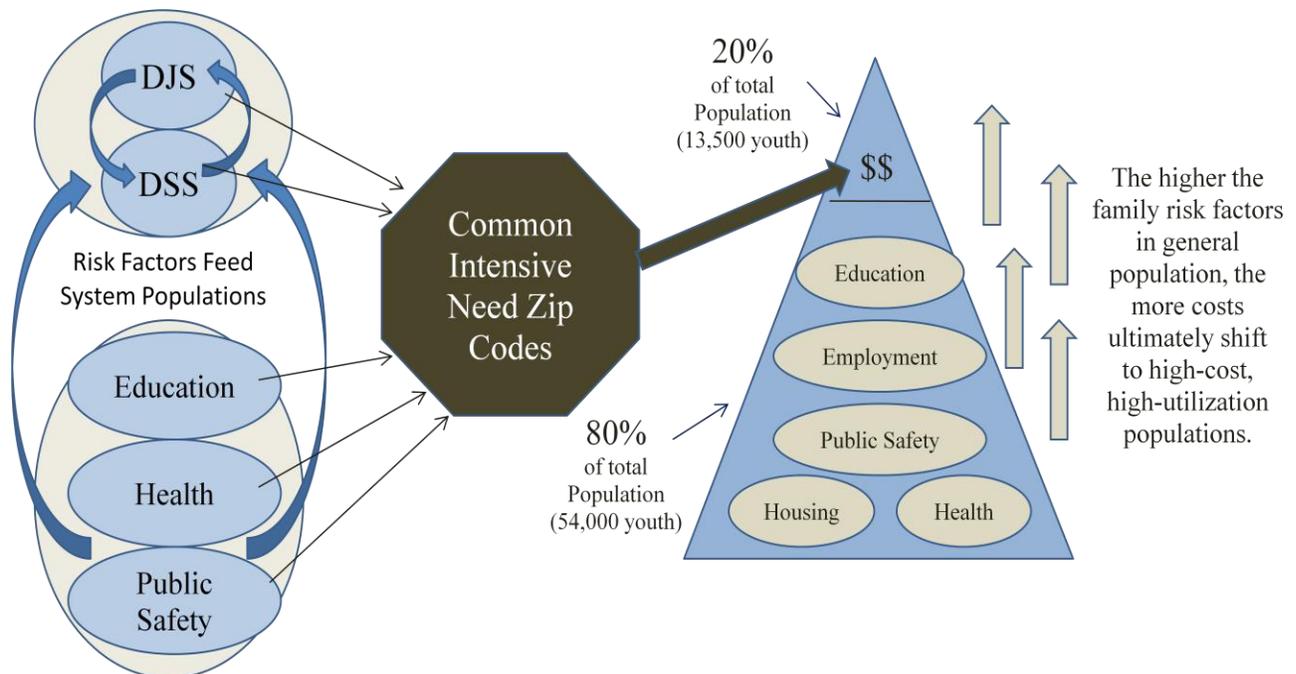
	Early Intervention and Prevention	Secondary Intervention	Tertiary Intervention
<i>Intensity & Cost</i>	Low	Moderate	High
<i>Approximate percent of youth involved</i>	100% would benefit 80% will not require a higher level of intervention	15% of youth	5% of youth
<i>Youth Served</i>	General youth population	Youth showing warning signs of at-risk behavior or youth in need of support services	Youth with established at-risk behavior or involvement in multiple services
<i>Youth may be involved in this level of service if they...</i>		Skip school, act out at home, use drugs or alcohol, have a mental health illness, have difficulty in a traditional classroom environment	Have a mental health crisis, are involved in foster care, have committed a juvenile offense, cannot be served by existing school services
<i>Programs/placements these youth may be referred to...</i>	After school programs, service clubs, college preparation programs, mentoring programs, leadership opportunities	Case management, counseling, anger management classes, drug intervention program, Alternative Education	Crisis intervention services, residential treatment center, foster care group home, juvenile detention, non-public education placement



Youth most likely to exhibit the need for services are those who have one or more of the following risk factors: foster care involvement, mental illness, substance abuse, truancy and juvenile arrest. The following zip codes were found to have the highest prevalence of these risk factors in 2010: Aberdeen, Bel Air, Edgewood, Havre de Grace, Joppatowne and Forest Hill.



The diagram below, created by Denise Sulzbach of University of Maryland’s Innovations Institute, reminds us that in order to make an impact on these high needs youth it will take a collaborative, concerted effort by all systems involved.



Communities that truly embrace a system of care model move from a fragmented service delivery system to one that is coordinated and utilizes blended resources. They focus on early intervention and prevention to eliminate the need for deep end, costly services. These communities strive for the least restrictive placement possible, one that can care for children within their family and community. In addition, they work to create community-based ownership of programming rather than having one centralized authority (*Building Systems of Care: A Primer*, Pires, S., 2002).

“No one system controls everything. Every system controls something.”

-Pires, S. 2004. Human Service Collaborative. Washington, D.C.

Current youth outcomes in Harford County point to the importance of intentional and sustained interagency collaboration. A shared priority of local leaders is to put the necessary supports in place early on in a child’s life to steer as many youth as possible away from the top tier of the pyramid and the need for high intensity, high cost programs. This can only be accomplished if agencies are aware of the work one another is doing and where primary needs exist.

Harford County Public Agency Profiles

I. Harford County Circuit Court

The role of the Harford County Circuit Court is to intervene when a criminal offense occurs and offer sentencing coupled with supportive programming to curb repeat offenses. Among the cases coming under the authority by the Circuit Court are those involving youth engaged in delinquent behavior, families involved in divorce hearings and situations where there are issues of abuse and neglect. The Circuit Court also holds monthly Juvenile Justice Council meetings. Membership of this group is currently being expanded as it assumes the role of the former Delinquency Prevention Policy Board.

The Circuit Court offers two court-based interventions that both have the goal of decreasing the likelihood youth will have formal involvement in the juvenile justice system. These include Truancy Court and Juvenile Drug Court. Truancy Court has been in operation for three years and is a collaboration of Juvenile Services, Adolescent Addictions, Mental Health, Public Schools and the Circuit Court. As previously mentioned, truancy is a major predictor of juvenile delinquency. This intervention is utilized by public school Pupil Personnel Workers when a child is chronically absent from school. Youth are cited for “truancy,” a status offense, and are brought before the Juvenile Court Master to have their case heard. Truancy Court is an intermediate step to avoid filing charges against the parent. It is especially effective with youth in middle school. In addition to monthly court hearings, the program coordinator closely monitors youth and offers a variety of support services to help families eliminate barriers contributing to school absence.

Juvenile Drug Court has been in existence over ten years and handles cases where a child has committed a delinquent act and there is clear evidence that substance abuse has played a role in their lives. Once referrals are made, the child is engaged in an intense program that involves counseling, random urinalysis, intense supervision and assistance in areas such as family counseling and tutoring. A key element of the drug court is close supervision by the court. In the first phase of the program, participants are required to attend court twice a month where reports are made in open court on their progress. Participants who actually graduate from the program have not only achieved a significant period of sobriety but frequently have also obtained their high school diploma or GED and have some form of employment.

Future Goals

- ***Address youth runaways (short-term)***

To gain an understanding of the extent to which youth running away from home is an issue in Harford County, the Local Management Board funded a study conducted in partnership with the Office of Family Courts, Sheriff’s Office and Johns Hopkins University, reviewing 3 years worth of

local data. This report was completed in June, 2011 and a Runaway Program Committee has been formed by the Circuit Court to evaluate this data and make changes to the way these cases are handled. A particular goal of this group is to link families that have youth runaways with additional resources, as this acting out behavior is most likely a warning sign of underlying problems.

- ***Community based alternatives to detention (long-term)***

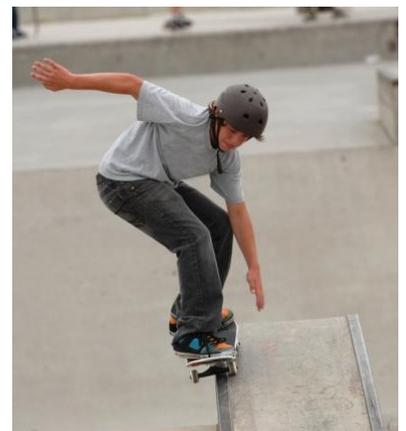
A challenge identified by the Juvenile Court Master is a lack of community-based alternatives to juvenile detention. In many cases youth involved in the juvenile justice system are in need of an intervention but have not committed an offense that would warrant being placed out of their home and into a secure facility. Harford County previously had a Day Program which served youth from 9:00am-9:00pm. This program was a partnership of the Boys & Girls Clubs, Juvenile Services and Public Schools. It provided a full-day commitment for less violent youth which still allowed them to go home each night. This type of program requires a great deal of resources including space, counselors, teachers and transportation.

An option that would not be as costly as a Day Program would be to utilize pre-existing after school programs as a mandatory condition of probation. Ordering youth to attend a particular program also eases the work of the juvenile service workers who need to regularly meet with clients. Agencies in general agree that additional after school opportunities for high school age youth would be helpful. Currently there is only one after school program that specifically targets teens, the Aberdeen Youth Program, which is hosted by the Harford County Public Library. Such programs offer age appropriate activities and engage youth in pro-social behaviors during the critical after school hours. A key component to the success of these programs is to be walking distance from middle and high schools.

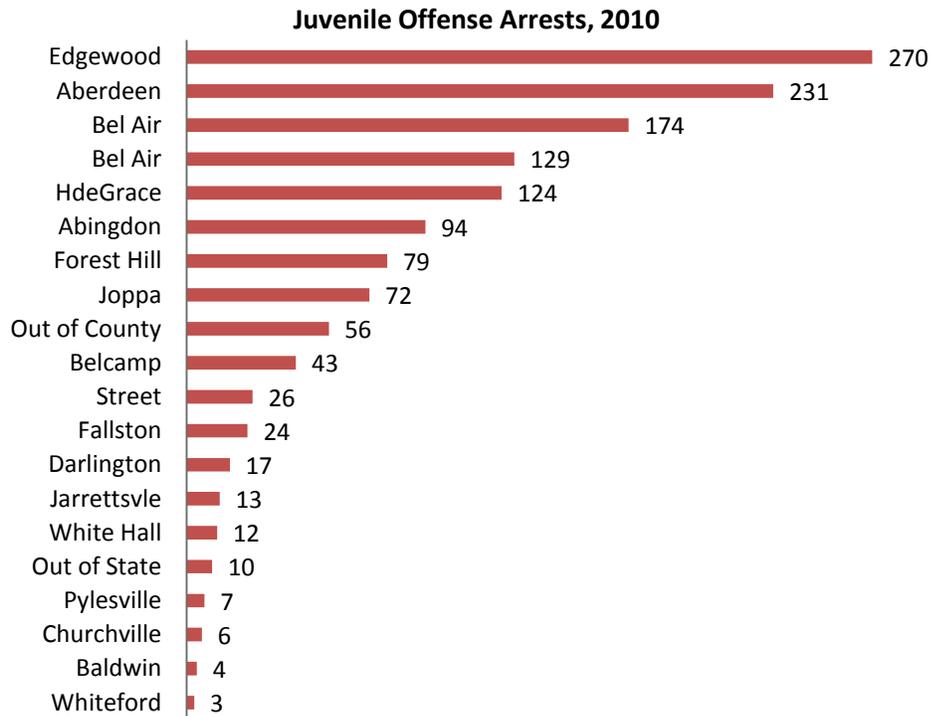
II. Harford County Department of Juvenile Services

The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) works to ensure the safety of the community and the well-being and safety of the youth under DJS care, while holding juvenile offenders accountable to victims and communities, and assisting youth in developing competency and character to aid them in becoming successful members of society. DJS utilizes a continuum of services and treatment for juveniles who have broken the law. Treatment and programs include: assigning youth to probation, home detention and monitoring, court-ordered community services, victim restitution, and counseling. If they pose a risk to themselves or to public safety, youth may not be able to be effectively treated in a community-based program and instead will be sent to a secure residential program.

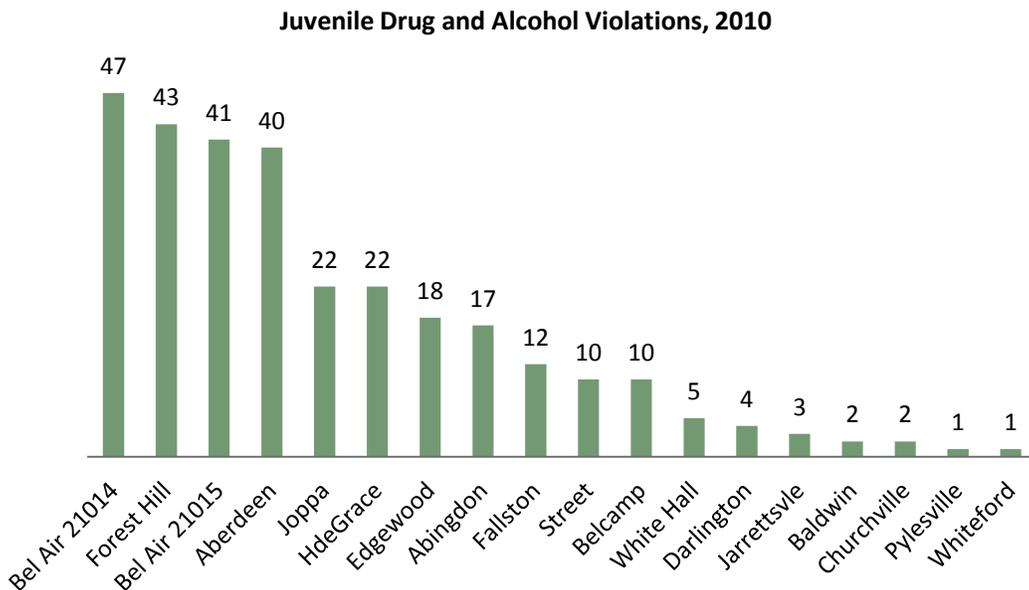
The number of juvenile offense arrests has been on a downward trend since 2007. In 2010, there were a total of 1,394 juvenile arrests,



compared to 1,775 three years before. The most common offenses were assaults (336), thefts (223) and possession of a controlled dangerous substance (167). In 2010, the zip code areas that experienced the highest number of juvenile arrests were Edgewood (270) followed by Aberdeen (231) and Bel Air (174) (Harford County Department of Juvenile Services, 2010).

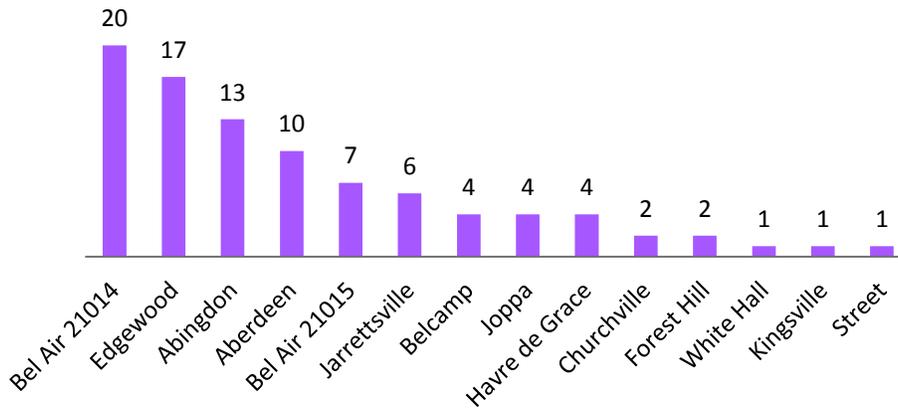


In 2010, the Department of Juvenile Services reported 300 drug and alcohol violations among youth in Harford County. The majority of arrests occurred in Bel Air 21014 (47) followed by Forest Hill (43) and Bel Air 21015 (41) (Department of Juvenile Services, 2010).



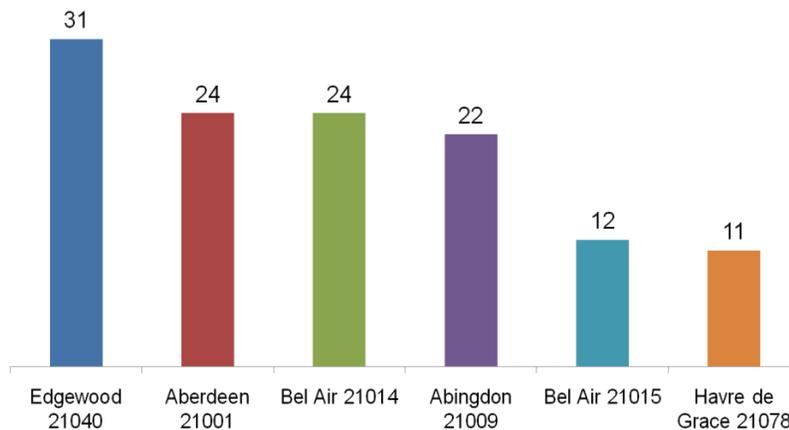
Similarly, the greatest number of youth involved in juvenile drug court between 2007 and 2009 came from the 21014 zip code of Bel Air (20), followed by Edgewood (17) and Abingdon (13) (Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy, 2009).

**Juvenile Drug Court Participants
2007-2009**



Youth involved in the juvenile justice system may also experience an out-of-home placement if they are sent to a correctional facility or treatment center. Between April 2008 and December 2009, 31 Edgewood youth involved in the juvenile justice system experienced an out-of-home placement. Aberdeen and Bel Air zip code 21014 each had 24 DJS-involved youth placed out of their home in the same year (Department of Juvenile Services, 2010).

Juvenile Service Out-of-Home Placements, April 2008-December 2009



Future Goals

- **Establish a shoplifting program (short-term)**

In response to a particular local need, DJS began offering a shoplifting program in June, 2011. A two-hour course is given to both the parent and child by a trained facilitator. This program will be evaluated at the end of the year as to its effectiveness in decreasing shoplifting activity among youth involved in juvenile services.

- ***Expand community based partnerships for services (short-term)***

The Harford County Department of Juvenile Services offers a variety of support services to youth involved in the system. These include mental health services, restorative justice classes, healthy decision making classes, gender specific groups and linkage to community work service sites. With limited staffing, however, it does not have the capability to provide all of the supports it envisions for youth. For this reason, the department is continuously looking to partner with other providers and community based organizations in a way that can provide these additional support services. Some services that DJS youth are in need of include mentoring, case management, service linkage and additional community-based programs.

- ***Develop community-based alternatives to detention (long-term)***

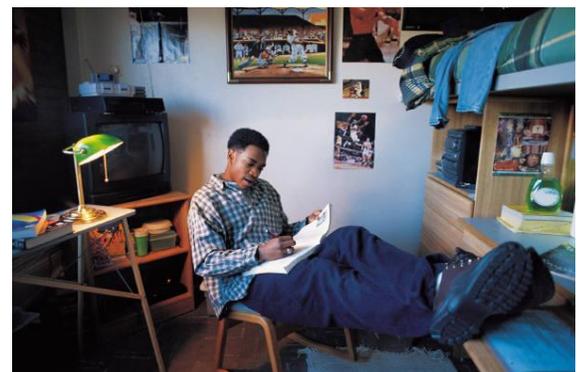
Similar to the courts, DJS is interested in structured after school programs that could aid in case managers being able to meet with youth in the community and which could serve as an alternative to detention for non-violent youth.

III. Harford County Department of Social Services

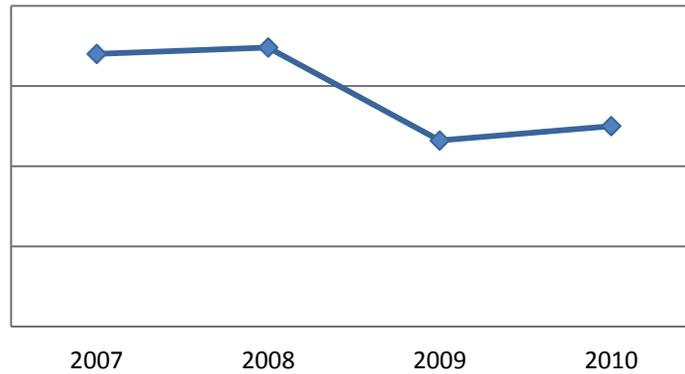
The Harford County Department of Social Services (DSS) assists families in need by administering a wide range of public assistance programs. Low-income families are served by DSS through food stamps, medical assistance and temporary cash assistance. The department also collects and distributes child support payments.

DSS is also responsible for investigating allegations of child and adult abuse and neglect. When a child is not able to be properly cared for in their home, either short-term or permanently, DSS provides the linkage to a more safe and stable living arrangement.

In July, 2007, the Maryland Department of Human Resources implemented “Place Matters.” The goal of this child welfare reform initiative was to find permanent families for foster children. This was a fundamental shift in focus towards permanency among foster children and has had a significant impact on the number of youth involved in foster care. Research continues to demonstrate that children who grow up with permanent families are more likely to succeed later in their lives (A Report on Child Welfare, September 2009). As part of the Place Matters movement, more youth are being brought home from placement and served in the community. A best practice implemented by the local DSS is Family Involvement Meetings, where discussions about permanency occur regularly and involve all members of the child’s support system.



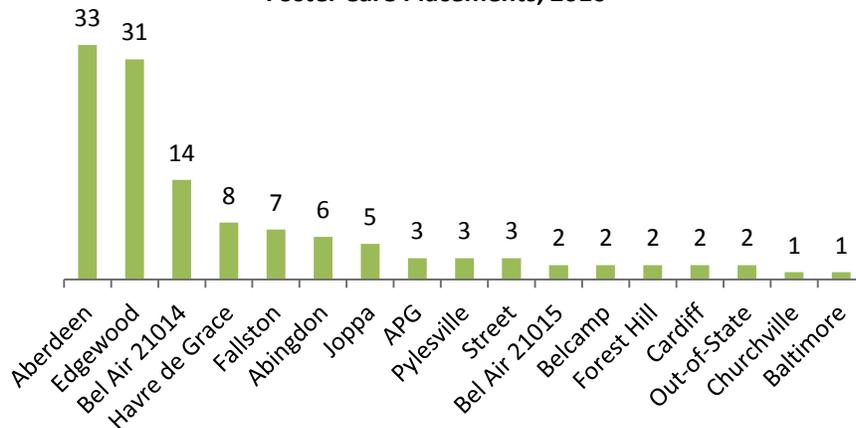
Foster Care Placements



Youth who experience an out-of-home placement are at a higher risk than their peers for needing additional support services. An out-of-home placement may be an adoption, foster care, group home or independent living program. The percent of Harford County youth (birth to 21) placed out of their home by the Department of Social Services in 2009 was 0.43%, in comparison to the state average of 0.55% (DHR Child Welfare Results Report, 2009 & American Community Survey, 2006-2008).

The majority of out-of-home placements are foster care placements. In 2010, the greatest number of youth in foster care came from Aberdeen (33), followed by Edgewood (31) and Bel Air 21014 (14) (Harford Department of Social Services, 2010).

Foster Care Placements, 2010



Future Goals

- ***Sustain the Summer Youth Employment Program (short-term)***

The Summer Youth Employment Program is currently carried out by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the Sheriff's Office and Susquehanna Workforce

Network. In the summer of 2010, this program focused on linking foster care youth with paying jobs through this program. At the time of the interagency meeting, funding was not yet available for 2011. Subsequently, the Department of Social Services was able to secure funding for 22 youth participants in the summer of 2011. An additional idea from the conference is to begin a Harford County Summer Youth Employment Program utilizing local parks.

- ***Sustain the Family Visitation Center (short-term)***

The Family Visitation Center was established in September, 2010 in order to provide a safe and neutral location for supervised visitation and monitored exchanges of children. This project is a collaboration between Family and Children’s Services, Office of Family Court Services, CASA of Harford County, SARC, Harford County Government and Aberdeen Police Department. Funding for this program is provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Department of Social Services and Generous Jurors Fund. Due to a projected funding cut and by the AOC in FY2013, Social Services has asked for additional support for this important program. The County has agreed to provide gap funding for this program through the Local Management Board (LMB) grant in FY2013. Another suggestion is to partner with the Albert Close Foundation, which has a 501(c)3 designation, to apply for supplemental grant funding.

- ***Address the rising number of homeless families (short-term)***

Due to a rising number of homeless families in Harford County, Jerry Reyerson, Director of Harford County Department of Social Services recommended that Harford County host a Homeless Resource Fair similar to what was done at Anne Arundel County. Over 600 homeless individuals attended this event and 400 volunteers provided basic needs and service linkage. Mr. Reyerson presented this idea to Harford County’s Homeless Services Roundtable in July. A subcommittee has been formed to work on hosting a similar event locally in the future.

- ***Address transportation needs (short-term)***

Across systems, representatives expressed that transportation is a barrier to clients accessing services. As such, most agencies rely heavily on cabs, a significant program cost. Agencies can save cab fare by taking advantage of public transportation. Harford Transit offers *You Can Ride: Train the Trainer* sessions to help case managers know how to use transportation and teach their clients. These trainings will soon be available as a webinar accessible online at anytime. The county is also adding QR (quick response) codes to each bus stop to provide people with smart phones easy access to schedule information.

- ***Develop inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment for families (long-term)***

DSS representatives explained that there is need for substance abuse treatment at an inpatient and outpatient level for both youth and adults.

- ***Re-establish the Healthy Start Home Visiting Program (long-term)***

Home visiting among new parents has been identified as a cross-agency need. The Harford County Health Department previously had this program, but funding has since been cut. This is an evidence-based intervention that can effectively prevent child abuse and neglect by

proactively providing parenting education, skill development and access to supports that lay a foundation for healthy development. One suggestion was to implement parenting groups that can be utilized by the courts as a sanction, or ideally as an incentive. An example of similar programs are the Family Recovery Court and Celebrating Families. Both programs focus on the Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) population and families with a substance abuse problem.

- ***Develop a Nurturing Center (long-term)***

Mr. Reyerson shared his vision for a Nurturing Center, a one-stop shop for families which would have a variety of agency representatives in one location that can offer resources and parenting support to help families learn how to care for their child. This center would operate under the “no wrong door” model, offering a coordinated system of information, referral and access to public and private agencies and providers. One centrally located service center can improve efficiency and off-set the cost of transportation for families.

- ***Create a Child Protection Team at Upper Chesapeake (long-term)***

A final suggestion was to look at work being done at Franklin Square Hospital, which has a child protection team. This team studies incidences of youth coming into the Emergency Room and subsequently links families with services as needed. A suggestion was to model this program after the local Trauma Recognition and Collaboration (TRAC) team through the Child Advocacy Center. TRAC consists of a multi-disciplinary team which reviews cases where law enforcement identify youth have been exposed to family or community risk factors. A coordinator then offers follow up support to these families and linkage to additional resources as appropriate.



IV. Health Department

The State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene works to “protect, promote and improve the well-being of all Marylanders and their families through community-based public health efforts” (<http://fha.maryland.gov>). Locally, this work is carried out by the Harford County Health Department. The Health Department pays particular attention to vulnerable populations. Examples of this include services focused on low-income households such as the WIC program, a supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children under five. The Health Department also offers school-based health centers and a dental clinic for children up to age 20 who are enrolled in Maryland Children’s Health Program. Services for youth with mental health and behavioral health needs include school-based mental health and Teen Diversion services.

Future Goals

- ***Serve the entire family (short-term, ongoing)***

Even in a difficult financial environment, the Health Department is committed to offering services which engage the entire family. The department works to be creative, such as offering a free parenting group while youth are attending substance abuse counseling.

- ***Focus on Health Care Reform (short-term)***

Health Officer Susan Kelly explained that a current focus of the Health Department is on forthcoming legislation changes associated with Health Care Reform.

- ***Expansion of the Teen Diversion program (long-term)***

TD is psychiatric rehabilitation day program operating under the auspices of the Harford County Health Department and housed within the Harford County Public Schools system. TD serves youth that are at-risk of a residential placement, non-public education placement or who have previously had a psychiatric hospitalization or out-of-home placement. TD clients are between the ages of 13 and 17, and are provided services such as therapy, psychiatric evaluation, case management, peer groups and medication management while also receiving education through Home and Hospital Instruction teachers.

TD is effective at stabilizing the intensive needs of youth and transitioning them back to their home school environment, while keeping the child in their home during service provision. The Health Department noted that this service is needed among more youth than the program currently has capacity for, and in particular youth under the age of 13. Currently, TD is partially funded through a Federal Block Grant from the State of Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration and the Harford County Office on Mental Health. Participants of Teen Diversion pay a sliding fee scale, with a maximum daily rate of \$120. Although this program is expensive, it is a considerable cost-savings compared to a child who must go to a residential placement.

A long-term goal of the Health Department would be to make Teen Diversion an outpatient medical facility, which would allow it to bill Medicaid. In order to do so, it would need a psychiatrist on-site 50% of the time. Currently the program can bill for services that fit within the criteria of a psychiatric rehabilitation program (PRP).

- ***Expansion of School-Based Health services (long-term)***

A second collaboration between the Health Department and Public Schools are School-Based Health Centers. These programs offer nurse practitioners and social workers in Title I elementary schools. Nurses can see and write prescriptions for youth at school, offering early intervention when a child is sick. This intervention can in turn decrease the number of days a child is absent from school. Health services are provided at no cost to all children in the school. The Health Department would like to see these centers expanded in order to serve youth at the middle and high school levels as well. The current barrier to expansion is limited funding.

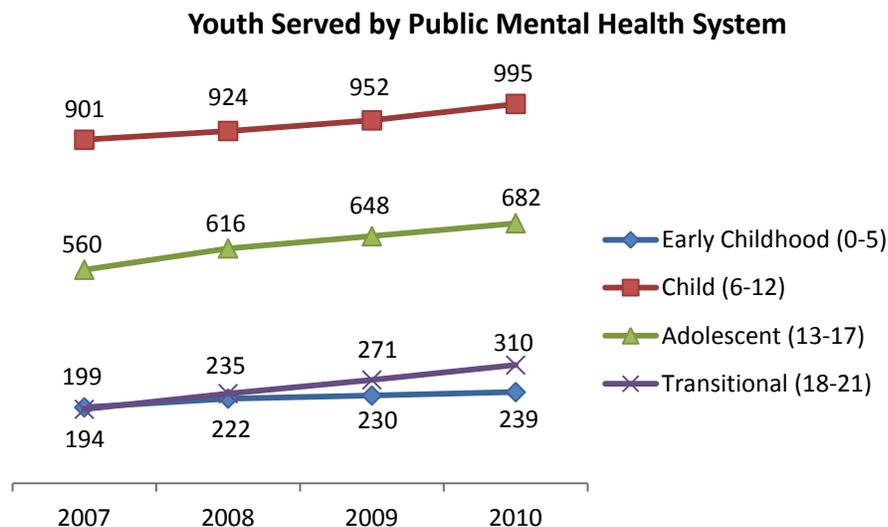
- **Develop inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment for families (long-term)**

Along with the Department of Social Services, the Health Department has expressed a desire for a substance abuse inpatient facility for juveniles, noting that specific challenges to attempting to develop this service include the business structure, state regulations and insurance. One suggestion is for the Health Department to partner with Upper Chesapeake on creating this type of facility.

V. Office on Mental Health, Core Service Agency

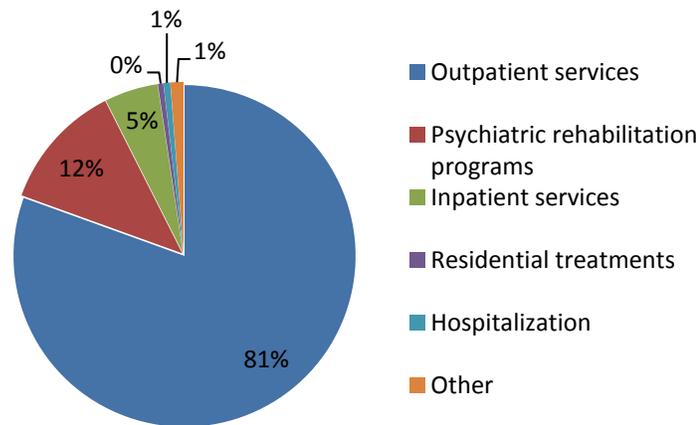
The Office on Mental Health, Core Service Agency develops and monitors mental health services for individuals who live in Harford County. It works to improve the lives of people with mental illness and help them obtain high-quality mental health services.

Harford County is experiencing a rising need for public mental health services among juveniles. In 2010, 2,226 children and adolescents were served by Harford County’s public mental health system, compared to 1,854 in 2007. Almost half of all public mental health consumers are youth. (Harford County Office on Mental Health, Core Service Agency, 2011).



The majority of youth served access outpatient mental health services such as counseling and case management (Harford County Office on Mental Health, Core Service Agency, 2011).

Type of Service Utilized, 2010



Future Goals

- **Further integration of mental health and substance abuse services (short-term)**

There has been a rise in demand for services that address the behavioral needs of youth. In addition, the Office on Mental Health has found a need for further integration of mental health and substance abuse services, as many individuals present symptoms of both. A local committee, the Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council, is currently following changes happening at the state level that would merge Mental Health and Addictions Services.

- **Expansion of the Teen Diversion program (long-term)**

Along with the Health Department, the Office on Mental Health expressed interest in the need for expansion of Teen Diversion in order to serve youth with intensive needs in the community.

- **Begin a local Youth MOVE chapter**

Youth MOVE (Motivating Others through Voices of Experience) is an initiative currently at the state level that works to offer peer support beyond the traditional mental health system that offers opportunities for youth leadership and empowerment. Innovations Institute through the University of Maryland has a statewide Youth MOVE coordinator that could be a resource in establishing this type of program locally.

- **Expansion of School-Based Mental Health services (long-term)**

The planning team agreed that it is important to expand current School-Based Mental Health services so that all schools can take advantage of these services. Currently, school based mental health is held within schools that have a high Medicaid population, as these services are billable. However, these services are also needed at schools where majority of youth have private insurance. The current barrier to expansion is a lack of a funding stream to bring providers into these schools.

- **Further research into a Federally Qualified Health Center (long-term)**

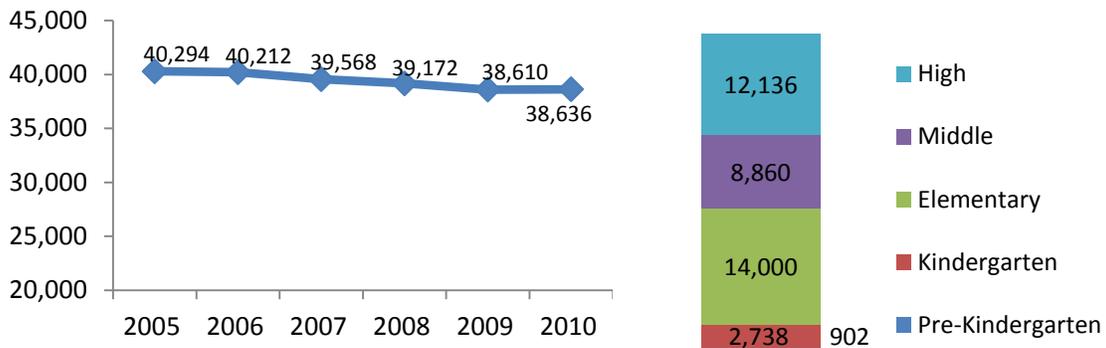
A family with private insurance has access to a more limited availability of low-cost services, compared to youth that qualify for medical assistance. One solution to this problem could be the designation of Harford County as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). An FQHC makes it possible for people to access services regardless of their insurance. A suggestion is to utilize the impending changes of Health Care Reform to research opportunities for a FQHC designation.

- **Expansion of SPIN (long-term)**

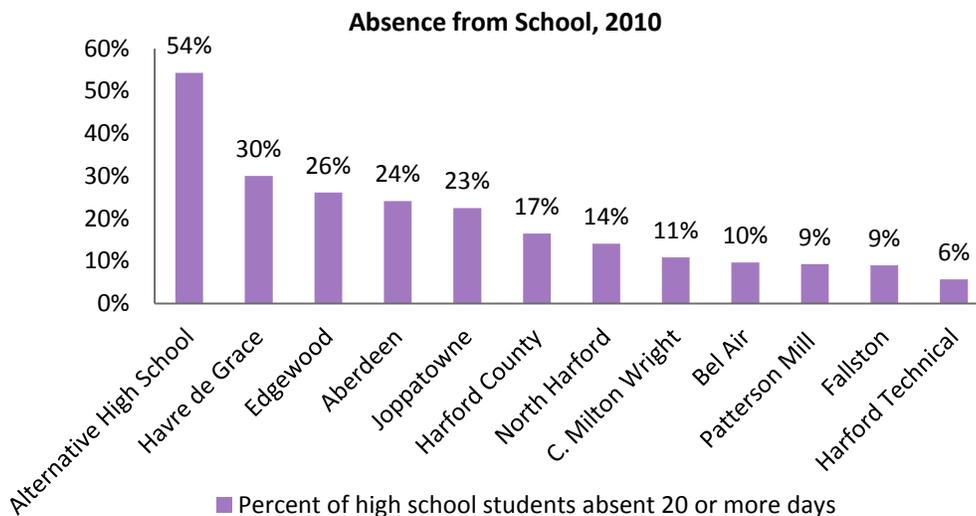
A final goal is to expand the Adult Drop-in center SPIN (Support Peer Independence Now) for use by youth. One suggestion is to utilize space at senior centers within the zip codes most needing youth mental health service support.

VI. Harford County Public Schools

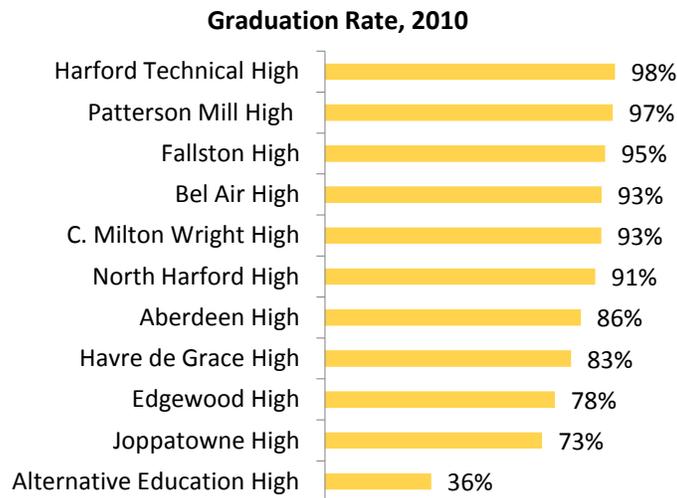
The Harford County Public School (HCPS) System is dedicated to providing quality education to all students. HCPS served over 38,000 youth in 2010. The number of youth attending HCPS has declined slightly over the past five years.



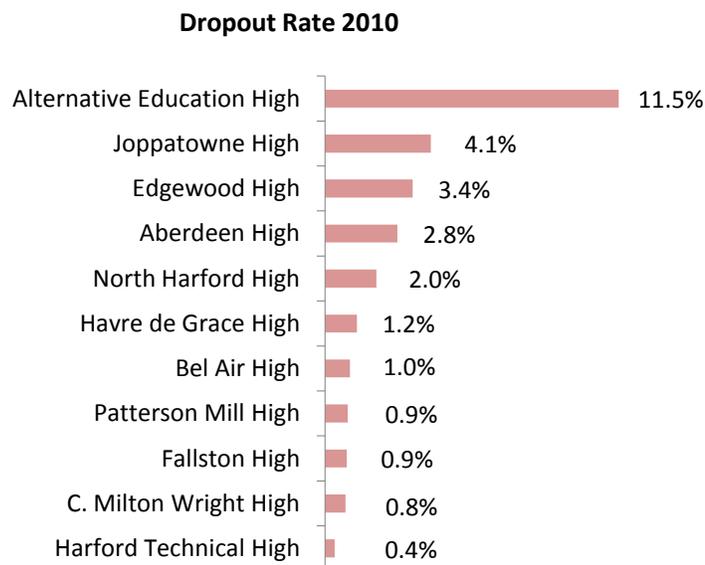
In recent years, there has been a concerted effort in Harford County to curb the prevalence of school absence. It is notable that between 2009 and 2010, the overall percent of Harford County high school students absent 20 or more days of school decreased from 18.9%, slightly above the state average, to 16.5%, below the state average. In Harford County, the following high schools had over one quarter of their student body absent from school 20 or more days: Alternative High School, Edgewood and Havre de Grace (Maryland Report Card, 2010).



Harford County’s rate of graduation in 2010 was 88%, just above the state average. It is noteworthy that the school with the highest rate of graduation is Harford Technical High School where 98% of seniors received a diploma in 2010.

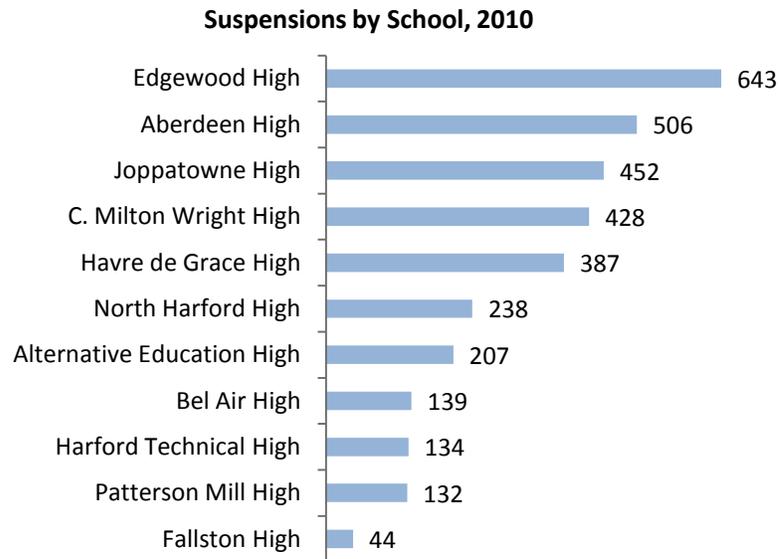


The percent of youth dropping out of school has been on a downward trend in both the county and state since 2006. Dropout is defined as the number of students who leave school for any reason before graduation, or completion of a Maryland approved educational program, and who are not known to enroll in another school or state-approved program. Students are legally able to make the choice to drop out of school at the age of 16. Currently, Harford County’s rate of dropout is 2.1%, compared to the state’s rate of 2.5%. The school with the highest rate of dropout was the Alternative High School, which experienced 11.5% of student’s grades 9-12 dropping out in 2010 (Maryland Report Card, 2010).



Overall, the number of suspensions in school has been on a decline from 4,252 in 2009 to 3,310 in 2010. Below is a breakdown of where suspensions occur by high school. The greatest number

of suspensions in 2010 took place at Edgewood, followed by Aberdeen and Joppatowne high schools (Harford County Public Schools, 2011).



In addition to a traditional learning environment, HCPS also offers an Alternative Education Program in Aberdeen which serves middle and high school students. The Alternative Education Program is an intensive, short-term program that provides tailored supports and services that fit the needs of each student. The goal of the program is to utilize and unify parents, community, and home schools as a team to help each student increase academic achievement, improve behavior, as well as provide life, social, and vocational skills. Many students attending Alternative Education, 40%-60%, have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). A number of students are also involved in one or more service system upon arrival in the program. As noted in the school data above, Alternative Education struggles with high absences and low graduation rates.

Future Goals

- ***Utilize CEO as a multi-venue site for at-risk youth (short-term)***

Alternative Education is housed within the Center for Educational Opportunity (CEO) along with the Teen Diversion program and Harford County Public Schools Professional Development. There has been a focused effort by the principal of Alternative Education to bring additional resources into the building in order to best address the behavioral and emotional needs of youth served by the school. Services that were available at the time of this planning included case management, school based mental health, a drug intervention group, anger management class, Harford Community College liaison and the Reconnecting Youth program (serving youth who have dropped out of school).

In the 2011-2012 school year, Alternative Education has secured School Resource Officer support as well as an on-site Department of Juvenile Services worker. Through planning work

between Harford County Public Schools and the Local Management Board, two additional resources have been placed within Alternative Education in the current school year. These include a full time on-site therapist through the School Outreach and Advocacy Program (SOAP Level II) and an enhanced presence of two Family Navigators available to help parents navigate complex service systems.

The planning group was very interested in any additional resources that could be housed within the CEO, seeing this as a potential multi-venue site for services focused on at-risk youth. By making services such as therapy, counseling and substance abuse interventions more easily accessible, agencies would save money on cab fare and youth would avoid the loss of valuable instruction time.

- ***Create an Alternative Education Community Advisory Board***

A final suggestion is to create a Community Advisory Board for the Alternative Education Program. The advisory board could offer support similar to a Parent Teacher Association, something that is very difficult to create in a school with a transient student population.

VII. Sheriff's Office

The Harford County Sheriff's Office works to protect the rights of citizens, preserve the peace and provide a safe environment. It offers court and correctional services as well as law enforcement services to the community. The Sheriff's Office currently has 0.8 law enforcement per 1,000 citizens. This is below the average of 2.8/1,000 in the state and 2.7/1,000 in the nation. This ratio is also lower than Bel Air, Havre de Grace and Aberdeen police departments.

Major concerns of the Sheriff's Office pertaining to youth are gang involvement, truancy, bullying and runaways. In addition, they noted an issue of youth being held in detention centers and then being waived to adult services. Lastly, it was noted that Megan's Law has increased requirements to check on registered sex offenders and verify their address, a struggle when personnel are already overextended.

- ***Expansion of the Youth Services Division (short-term)***

Despite resource barriers, Sheriff Bane remains committed to the needs of youth and added a new deputy to the Youth Services Division. The Sheriff's Office focuses on partnerships with other community organizations to be able to offer valuable programming to youth such as the Youth Academy, Bigs in Blue (mentoring), Badges for Baseball, Explorers, Alcohol Enforcement and Boys 2 Men All-Star Basketball.

Teen Court is a new collaboration between the Sheriff’s Office, State’s Attorney Office, Juvenile Services, Office of Drug Control Policy and the District Court. This program engages youth ages 13-17 that have committed a minor offense. A jury of teen volunteers hears the case and makes disposition suggestions to the presiding judge. Dispositions often involve community service hours and future involvement as a volunteer juror. If youth successfully complete Teen Court they can avoid formal involvement in the juvenile justice system and will hopefully be less likely to engage in delinquent behavior again in the future.

- **Implement Truancy Incident Reports (short-term)**

In response to issues of truancy, the Sheriff’s Office has partnered with the Truancy Court Program on an incident report. This is used by parole officers when they encounter youth in the community during school hours. A copy is sent to the Truancy Court Coordinator, DJS and the child’s home school.

- **Support Bullying Prevention (short-term)**

HCPS, along with the County and Sheriff’s Office have formed a new partnership to address issues of bullying. Currently bullying is not a legally defined crime and charges are limited to harassment. Bullying has become more complex in recent years, occurring often over the internet and through social networking sites.

- **Address youth runaways (short-term)**

When a child runs away from home and law enforcement is notified, a missing persons investigation is opened. Law enforcement must follow up with the family upon return of the child to their home. Handling missing person’s cases for short-term or repeated runaways can be time consuming for law enforcement. The Sheriff’s Office is involved in the new Runaway



Program Committee being spearheaded by the Circuit Court.

- **Creation of a Family Services Bureau (long-term)**

In an effort to best utilize resources, the Sheriff noted that his office is interested in looking into a Family Services Bureau to avoid duplication between Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Payment of Child Support units.

VIII. Department of Community Services Local Management Board

The Local Management Board (LMB) is a program within Harford County’s Department of Community Services that exists to bring together child serving agencies to ensure services and supports are available so that families can raise healthy, successful children from birth to young adulthood. The LMB engages in planning efforts around issues that pertain to youth. One such process was the Ready by 21 Task Force which engaged over 100 community members and local agencies in a discussion on transition age youth. Formal recommendations that came as the

result of this community collaboration were the need for additional services focused on helping youth navigate college and career planning, finding housing and accessing health insurance.

The LMB participates in a number of collaborations in the community focused on youth. These include the Juvenile Justice Council, Children’s Mental Health Roundtable, Harford County Youth Commission, Alternative Education Provider Roundtable and the Runaway Program Committee.

Future Goals

- ***Organize planning efforts around Disproportionate Minority Contact (short-term)***

Over the past year, the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention has been emphasizing the need for local communities to identify issues of disproportionality of youth served based on gender and/or race within local service systems. This is referred to as the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). The LMB sent a team of 11 Harford County representatives to a DMC training in the summer of 2011. It will also hold a local planning conference around the issue of DMC in the spring of 2012.

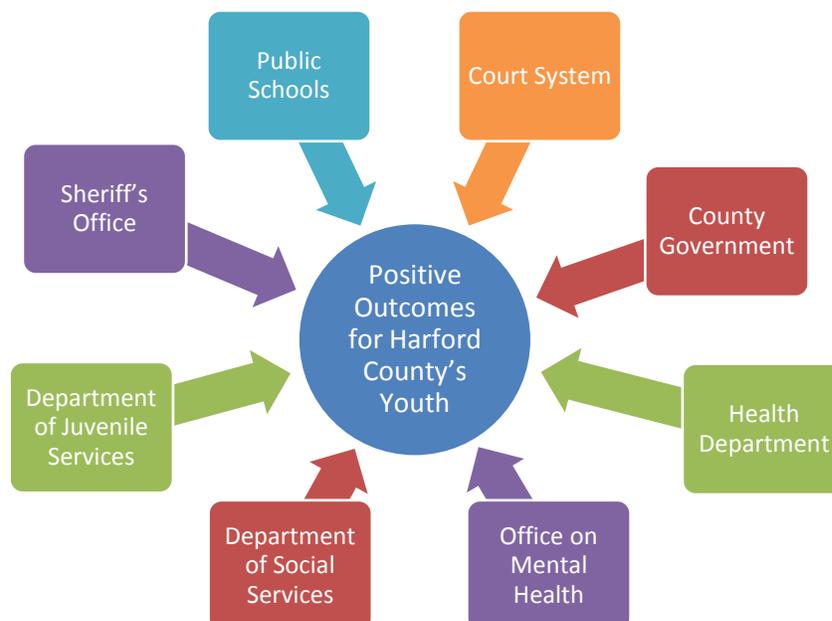
- ***Support creation of a Youth Services Bureau in Harford County (short-term)***

The LMB has supported Family & Children’s Services in obtaining the designation of a Youth Service Bureau, accomplished in May, 2011. With this designation, Harford County will be eligible for youth focused funding it had not previously had access to.

Attachment 1:

Interagency Planning Group, April 12, 2011

- **Facilitator:** Denise Sulzbach, JD, State System of Care Grant Project Director, University of Maryland, Innovations Institute
- **Circuit Court:** Administrative Judge William O. Carr; Juvenile Court Master Theodore M. Hart; Janice Waltemeyer, Truancy Court Coordinator
- **County Government:** County Executive David R. Craig; Harford County Councilman Joseph M. Woods; Mary F. Chance, Director of Administration; Elizabeth S. Hendrix, Director of Community Services; Joseph V. Ryan, Manager, Office of Drug Control Policy; Laura McIntosh, Local Management Board
- **Department of Juvenile Services:** Megan Deacon, Case Management Specialist Supervisor; Bob Testudine, Case Management Specialist III
- **Department of Social Services:** Jerome M. Reyerson, Director; Jill Svrjcek, Assistant Director
- **Health Department:** Susan C. Kelly, Health Officer; Beth Jones, Acting Director of Addiction
- **Office on Mental Health, Core Service Agency:** Sharon M. Lipford, Executive Director; Jamie Miller, Child and Adolescent Coordinator
- **Public Schools:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert M. Tomback, Stephen Lentowski, Director of Student Services
- **Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff L. Jesse Bane; Captain Stephen Thomas, Youth Division



Attachment 2:

Additional Resources

- Education Steering Committee Report – www.marylandpublicschools.org
- Maryland Virtual Training Center (*free CEU's*) – <http://mdvtc.umaryland.edu/>
- Maryland Child & Family Services Interagency Strategic Plan – <http://goc.maryland.gov/>
- Institute of Medicine (IOM) book Preventing Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities – available online www.nap.edu
- “Description of a Good and Modern Addictions and Mental Health Service System” – www.samhsa.gov/healthreform
- Maryland Health Reform – www.healthreform.maryland.gov
- Forum for Youth Investment – <http://www.forumfyi.org/>
- Johns Hopkins Guide to Adolescent Development, “The Teen Years Explained” – <http://www.jhsph.edu/bin/s/e/Interactive%20Guide.pdf>
- Harford County Ready by 21 Report – <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/LMB/>

Attachment 3:
Support Services for Harford County Youth

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Primary Intervention <i>Early intervention and prevention</i>	Secondary Intervention <i>Risk behaviors have been identified</i>	Tertiary Intervention <i>Intensive intervention required</i>
<p>Aberdeen Youth Program</p> <p>After Prom and After Graduation Events</p> <p>After School Programs</p> <p>AYUDA Mentoring Program</p> <p>Big Brothers Big Sisters - mentoring</p> <p>Boys & Girls Clubs</p> <p>Boys 2 Men Program - mentoring in schools</p> <p>Building Futures - YMCA mentoring program</p> <p>Copley Kids Programs (Scholastic, Odd Jobs, Camp)</p> <p>College Pathways</p> <p>Explorer's Program - Sheriff's Office Program</p> <p>Family Navigation</p> <p>GREAT Program - gang prevention education</p> <p>Kids CAN mentoring</p> <p>Music on the Road</p> <p>Students, Teachers and Resource Officers Together</p> <p>School Resource Officers</p> <p>The Shamrocks - Youth Group</p> <p>Tobacco Program</p> <p>Young Leaders Academy</p> <p>Youth Commission</p> <p>Youth Leadership Academy</p>	<p>Behavior Focused</p> <p>Adolescent Addictions</p> <p>Anger Management</p> <p>Celebrating Families</p> <p>Drug Intervention Program</p> <p>Family Intervention Specialist (FIS)</p> <p>Female Offenders Program</p> <p>Juvenile Drug Court</p> <p>Project Tomorrow (young parents)</p> <p>Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP)</p> <p>Respite</p> <p>Restorative Justice Program</p> <p>STD Screening and Treatment</p> <p>Teen Court</p> <p>Truancy Court</p> <p>Women Infants and Children (WIC) Services</p> <p>Mental Health Focused</p> <p>Case Management</p> <p>Parent and Child Therapeutic Mentoring</p> <p>School Based Mental Health</p> <p>School Outreach and Advocacy Program (SOAP) II</p> <p>Transition Age Youth Program</p> <p>Education Focused</p> <p>Center for Educational Opportunity - Alt. Ed.</p> <p>Pride Academy</p> <p>Reconnecting Youth</p> <p>Success Academy</p>	<p>Behavior Focused</p> <p>Sex Offender's Program</p> <p>Family Preservation Program</p> <p>Free-State Challenge Academy</p> <p>Mental Health Focused</p> <p>Arrow Crossroads Community</p> <p>Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)</p> <p>Functional Family Therapy</p> <p>Intensive Outpatient Program</p> <p>Mobile Crisis</p> <p>Mobile Crisis Child Stabilization Program</p> <p>Multi-Systemic Therapy</p> <p>Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Waiver</p> <p>Residential Treatment Center Placement</p> <p>Teen Diversion</p> <p>Therapeutic Alternative Shelter Care (TASC)</p> <p>Therapeutic Group Home</p> <p>Education Focused</p> <p>Arrow Center for Education</p> <p>Non-public education placements</p> <p>Type II Program at Edgewood Middle School</p> <p>Villa Maria School</p>

General population

15% of youth

5% of youth

Estimated proportion of the population that would require each level of intervention (Pires, 2002)

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Updated July, 2011

Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
Aberdeen Youth Program	Harford County Public Library Aberdeen Branch	Aberdeen Library, 21 Franklin Street Aberdeen, MD 21001	410-273-5608	http://hcplo online.org/	Out of school time program that engages middle and high school teens in social activities, leadership opportunities and increases their sense of civic responsibility.	150 youth in FY10	Middle and high school age youth	X		
Adolescent Addictions	Health Department	120 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD 21014	410-877-2340	http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/health/ViewPage.cfm?SubID=118	Drug screening, counseling, in-school interventions. Now have a parent group free of charge.	75	Under 18, in high school		X	
After Prom and After Graduation Events	Harford County Public School PTA's	Varies	410-638-3333 (Office of Drug Control Policy)		Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) educates families on risky teen behaviors. Community members host all-night supervised parties for teens on prom night and graduation.	2400 youth	High schools	X		
After School Programs	Extreme Family Outreach	Variety of locations in the community	410-676-1212	http://www.extremefamilyoutreach.com/	Side-walk after school programs in Edgewood and Havre de Grace offer character building, anti-drug lessons, arts, music and citizenship teachings. Weekly community door-to-door visits.	350 children	Elementary and middle school youth	X		

*Level of Intervention: (1) Primary - early intervention and prevention (2) Secondary - targeted to those displaying risk factors (3) Tertiary - intensive interventions

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Updated July, 2011

Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
After School Programs and Transportation	Magnolia Middle School	Magnolia Middle School, 299 Fort Hoyle Road, Joppa	410-612-1525		Afterschool homework and organization club, and "Ladies in the Making" girls mentoring group. ODCP funds transportation home from after school programs and transportation to Copley Kids programs.		Magnolia Middle School youth	X		
Anger Management	Office of Drug Control Policy	Alternative Education School, 253 Paradise Road, Aberdeen	410-273-5594		ODCP staff presents classes for youth at the Alternative Education School - 6 week course. Will also be starting at Aberdeen High.	Approx. 10 youth per class			X	
Arrow Center for Education	Arrow Child & Family Ministries	2416 Creswell Rd. Bel Air, MD 21015	410-734-0560	http://www.arrow.org/family/Special-Education.html	Special education services for youth who have demonstrated difficulty with school adjustment and performance in mainstream settings.	45 students	Grades 6-12			X
Arrow Crossroads Community	Arrow Child & Family Ministries	2408 Creswell Rd. Bel Air, MD 21015	410-734-9319	http://www.arrow.org/family/transitional-Living.html	Transitional living program provides individualized life skills assessment and training, therapeutic services, and multidisciplinary treatment planning.	18 housing units	Girls 13-21 leaving foster care			X

*Level of Intervention: (1) Primary - early intervention and prevention (2) Secondary - targeted to those displaying risk factors (3) Tertiary - intensive interventions

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Updated July, 2011

Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
AYUDA Mentoring Program	LASOS, Inc.	31 West Courtland Street, Bel Air	410-836-0333	http://www.lasos.org/	Youth receive help with homework from a certified teacher, high school tutors as well as from each other.	40 youth	English and non-English speaking students	X		
Big Brothers Big Sisters, school and community based in Harford	Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Maryland Mentoring Partnership	Varies	410-243-4000	http://www.biglittle.org/	One-to-one mentoring, in the schools and community	115 youth matched in 2010	Ages 8-18	X		
Boys & Girls Clubs	Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County	Aberdeen, Bel Air, Edgewood, Havre de Grace	410-272-0010	http://www.bgcharfordc.org	Dedicated, supervised facilities for out-of-school time activities for youth.	Over 4,500 youth annually	Ages 6-18	X		
Boys 2 Men Program	Pastor Reeves	Aberdeen, Edgewood and Havre de Grace Middle Schools			Multicultural mentoring program for male students.		8th grade males at Aberdeen, Edgewood or Havre de Grace	X		
Building Futures	YMCA	101 Walter Ward Blvd. Abingdon, MD 21009	410-679-9622	http://ymaryland.org/walter-betty-ward-family-center-y	Mentoring program at the Abingdon YMCA and in schools with YMCA after care programs.		Ages 6-14	X		

*Level of Intervention: (1) Primary - early intervention and prevention (2) Secondary - targeted to those displaying risk factors (3) Tertiary - intensive interventions

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Updated July, 2011

Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
Camp Copley	Church of the Resurrection	The Church of the Resurrection in Joppatowne	410-679-8700	http://www.copleykids.org/	Summer camp two weeks in July. Opportunities for creative play in a safe, nurturing environment free from negative outside influences.	40 youth	Students k-12, all schools	X		
Case Management	Alliance	Provided in the community	410-994-0600	http://www.allianceinc.org	Links children and families to resources in the community.		Must have mental health diagnosis and Medical Assistance.		X	
Celebrating Families	Circuit Court Family Court Services		410-592-5973		Drug education/life skills program for parents engaged in substance abuse. Parenting skills are modeled while families share a meal together.	Currently 7 families, 19 participants	Individual is in recovery. Referrals from Family Recovery Court, local half way houses and FACE-IT.		X	
Center for Educational Opportunity - Alternative Education	Harford County Public Schools	253 Paradise Road, Aberdeen	410-273-5594	https://www.edline.net/pages/Center_for_educational_opportunity	Provides a continuation of educational services to students who may have experienced crisis, have dropped out of school or have not been successful in a traditional school environment.	Approx. 100 at a time	Referral or voluntary		X	

*Level of Intervention: (1) Primary - early intervention and prevention (2) Secondary - targeted to those displaying risk factors (3) Tertiary - intensive interventions

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Updated July, 2011

Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
College Pathways	Greater Excellence in Education Foundation	Varies	410-569-9789	http://www.geefinc.com/	Program prepares students for high school and provides high school students with motivation, academic and social support to graduate from high school and complete a program of post-secondary education.		K-12	X		
Copley Kids Odd Jobs Program	Church of the Resurrection	The Church of the Resurrection in Joppatowne	410-679-8700	http://www.copleykids.org/	Youth receive minimum wage to perform odd jobs for members of the community. Provides real world experience and positive social interactions.		Students age 14-17	X		
Copley Kids Scholastic Program	Church of the Resurrection	The Church of the Resurrection in Joppatowne	410-679-8700	http://www.copleykids.org/	After school program that provides tutoring and homework help, encourages positive social skills and fosters resiliency in youth.	63 youth - average attendance	Students k-12, all schools	X		

*Level of Intervention: (1) Primary - early intervention and prevention (2) Secondary - targeted to those displaying risk factors (3) Tertiary - intensive interventions

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Updated July, 2011

Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)	Collaboration of National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mobile Crisis, Sheriff's Office, Aberdeen, Bel Air and Havre de Grace Police Departments and Office on Mental Health	In the community	CIT trained officer dispatched by law enforcement agency when appropriate		65 Officers are specially trained in responding to people with a mental illness	184 people in crisis received response in FY10				X
Drug Intervention Program	Office of Drug Control Policy	253 Paradise Road, Aberdeen	410-638-3333 (Office of Drug Control Policy)	http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/drugcontrol/	ODCP staff presents classes for youth at the Alternative Education School (CEO)	Approx. 10 youth per class	Referred by staff at CEO		X	
Explorer's Program	Sheriff's Office	45 South Main Street, Bel Air	410-638-3494	http://www.harfordsheriff.org/youth/explorers_program/	Partnership with the Boy Scouts of America through its Learning for Life Exploring program. Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.	30 youth in 2010	Age 14-20	X		

*Level of Intervention: (1) Primary - early intervention and prevention (2) Secondary - targeted to those displaying risk factors (3) Tertiary - intensive interventions

Support Services for Harford County Youth

Updated July, 2011

Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
Family Intervention Specialist (FIS)	Upper Bay	In the home	410-836-4680 (Dept. of Juvenile Services)		Social Worker provides family counseling in the home.	20 slots	Involvement in Dept. Juvenile Services		X	
Family Navigation	Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health	19 Newport Drive Suite 203 Forest Hill, MD 21050	410-420-9880	http://www.mdcoalition.org/	Information, referral and linkage to services. Also help parents and guardians advocate more effectively for their children's needs.	Approx. 70 families		X		
Family Preservation Program	Department of Social Services	2 South Bond Street Bel Air, Maryland 21014	410-836-4700	http://dhr.maryland.gov/county/harford/	Intensive time limited home and community-based services to referred families including coaching to improve parenting skills, individualized life skills training for family members and linkages to formal services and informal support.	35 families per year	Child or children are at imminent risk of out of home placement, the family has to agree to service and to be available a minimum of 5 hours per week for service in the initial phase (6-8 weeks)			X
Female Offenders Program	Dept. Juvenile Services	2 South Bond Street Bel Air, Maryland 21014	410-836-4680		Program to begin this March, 4-5 weeks of classes include speakers from Health Dept., Sheriff's Office, SARC, topics such as Healthy Decision Making and Anger Management. *Resource for youth at-risk of DJS involvement.	5-10 per class	Court ordered or voluntary		X	

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Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
Free-State Challenge Academy	National Guard	Aberdeen Proving Ground	1-800-820-6692	http://ngycp.org/site/site/md/	5 month military oriented residential program at APG + 12 mentoring phase to aid adjustment to work force and higher education.		16-18; dropped of school or disenrolled; MD resident			X
Functional Family Therapy	VisionQuest	Services provided in the home	410-901-2800	http://www.vq.com/questionst/services/homeAndCommunityFunctionallyTherapy.php	Evidence-based program where a therapist works with the whole family in their home.	3 slots ongoing (FFT & MST serve combined total of 30 youth per year)	Referred by DJS			X
GREAT Program	Sheriff's Office	In the school	410-638-3494		Gang prevention education conducted in elementary and middle schools.	86 students served in 2010		X		
Intensive Outpatient Program	Upper Bay Counseling	626 Revolution Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078	410-996-3450	http://www.upperbay.org/	Therapeutic 60-day intensive program for elementary, middle, and high school students experiencing difficulties in school, emphasis is placed on academics, social skills, and Positive behavior supports.		Mental health diagnosis			X

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Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
Juvenile Drug Court	Community Services Office of Drug Control Policy	Harford County Circuit Court	410-638-3231	http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/statesattorney/JuvenileDrugCourt.html	Drug Court involves frequent court appearances, random drug testing, group and family counseling, case management and crisis intervention. Participants are required to attend one gender-specific group once a month. Funding supports transportation and GED.	60 per year	Juvenile offenders who commit a crime and have a substance abuse problem		X	
Kids CAN	Community Services Office of Drug Control Policy	In the community	410-638-3381	http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/mentor/	Matches mentors to mentoring programs in the county.	Approx 200 children	Target age 9-13	X		
Mobile Crisis	Sheppard Pratt	In the community	410-638-5248	http://www.sheppardpratt.org/sp_htmlcode/sp_locations/sp_local/mobile.aspx	Responds to mental health emergencies in Harford County at locations of occurrence.	Responded to 3,923 crisis calls in FY10				X
Mobile Crisis Child Stabilization Program	Sheppard Pratt	In the community	410-638-0744 (office) 443-465-9180 (On-call)	www.sheppardpratt.org	Crisis response for families who have foster care children.		Foster care youth			X

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								1	2	3
Multi-Systemic Therapy	North American Family Institute (NAFI)	In the community		http://www.nafi.com/	Intensive, time-limited (90-days), in-home therapy for high-risk delinquent youth who would otherwise be placed in a residential facility.	5 slots ongoing (FFT & MST serve combined total of 30 youth per year)	Referred by DJS			X
Music on the Road	Maryland Conservatory of Music	Boys and Girls Clubs	410-272-0010		MD Conservatory of Music teachers provide 10 week percussion lessons at Boys and Girls Clubs during after school hours.		Boys and Girls Clubs members	X		
Non-public education placements	Varies	Varies	410-588-5246 (HCPS Office of Special Education)	http://www.hcps.org/departments/InstructionalSupport/specialEducation.aspx	A decision to place a student into such a placement is made when the local school system determines it is unable to appropriately meet the student's educational needs.	Currently 215 students in a non-public placement	Approval by school system			X
Parent and Child Therapeutic Mentoring	Inner County Outreach	Home and community	410-272-3278	http://innercountyoutreach.org/ICO%20Programs.dwt	Wraparound mentoring program that provides mentors and support for youth and their parents.	40 at-risk youth	Elementary and middle school youth		X	
Pride Academy	Harford County Public Schools	Edgewood Middle School	410-612-1518		Teachers and staff who give additional assistance to students with behavior, attendance and academic problems.		Edgewood middle school students	X		

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								1	2	3
Project Tomorrow	Open Doors Career Center	5 N. Main St., Suite 210, Bel Air, Maryland 21014	410-638-0187	http://opendoorscc.org/	Helps young parents cope with the difficulties and responsibilities of premature parenthood and to develop as healthy, responsible and self-sufficient role models for their children and contributing members of the community.	60 per year	Pregnant or parenting teens between the ages 14-21		X	
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP)	Upper Bay Counseling, Alliance and Villa Maria	Outpatient mental health clinics	Contact Office on Mental Health for more information 410-803-8726		Allows participants to integrate into the community by developing skills which foster independence and utilization of community supports.		Currently enrolled in mental health outpatient services and Medical Assistance.		X	
Reconnecting Youth	Harford County Public Schools	Home, school and community	410-252-3180		Tutor-mentoring program for youth who have dropped out of school, provide assistance with GED, job readiness, driving.	Approx. 35	Dropped out, low income		X	

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								1	2	3
Residential Treatment Center	Examples: RICA Baltimore, Good Shepherd, Woodbourne, The Jefferson School, Catholic Charities, Adventist Behavioral Health	On-site at the RTC	Contact Office on Mental Health for more information 410-803-8726		Out of home placement for youth who have serious behavioral, emotional and/or mental health problems and are in need of stabilization, diagnostic assessments and treatment.	Varies by placement	Agency referral			X
Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Waiver	Maryland Choices, Care Management Entity (CME)	In the community	240-683-7315; 1-877-565-5392	http://www.choicesteam.org/marylandrtcwaiver	Provides services and supports to children and youth in their homes and communities instead of in residential treatment centers.	70 slots shared within North Western Region	Ages 6-20, serious mental health needs, must also meet financial and medical criteria			X
Respite	Villa Maria, Catholic Charities Family to Family Program, The Children's Home	In the home	Contact Office on Mental Health for more information 410-803-8726		Provides respite for families in the family's home or community, permitting the caretaker to attend to other demands.	Minimum goals: Villa Maria - 10 clients; Family to Family - 15 clients; Children's Home - 50 clients.			X	

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								1	2	3
Respite	Health Department	In the home	410-638-4899	http://www.harfordcountyhealth.com/ViewPage.cfm?SubID=205	Provides \$100 to eligible children for activities in order to give families respite.	66 Children	Must have an IEP, medical diagnosis or note from medical doctor. Eligible every other year.		X	
Restorative Justice Program	Dept. Juvenile Services	2 South Bond Street Bel Air, Maryland 21014	410-836-4680		8-week program for youth on probation includes Healthy Decision Making, Victim Awareness and Anger Management classes *Resource for youth at-risk of DJJ involvement.	10 to 20 youth per class	Court ordered or voluntary		X	
S.T.A.R.T. (Students, Teachers and Resource Officers Together)	Sheriff's Office and Harford County Public Schools	C. Milton Wright High School	410-838-6600 (Sheriff's Office)		Club educates youth in law enforcement, public safety and legal fields through field trips. Learn about teen drug/alcohol abuse, peer pressure, bullying, gang education.	25 students	C. Milton Wright High school students	X		
School Based Mental Health	Alliance, Villa Maria, Upper Bay and Key Point	In the school	Contact Office on Mental Health for more information 410-803-8726		Counselors regularly meet with youth at school during the day		Youth at participating schools, most providers only accept medical insurance		X	

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Program	Service Provider	Location of service	Phone Number	Website	Brief Description	Capacity Limit?	Eligibility Criteria	Level*		
								1	2	3
School Outreach and Advocacy Program Level II (SOAP II)	Family and Children's Services	Bakerfield, George D. Lisby, Church Creek, Roye-Williams, Meadowvale elementary & Alternative Education Middle & High	410-838-9000	http://www.fcsmd.org/	Early intervention and prevention services to elementary-age children. Children served are provided with individual and family counseling by a licensed therapist.	Approx. 100 families	Referred by school staff or agency worker		X	
School Resource Officers	Sheriff's Office	Corresponding middle and high schools	410-838-6600 (Sheriff's Office)		Law enforcement who serve in Harford County Public Schools. Full-time SRO's: Edgewood High, Joppatowne High, Fallston High, North Harford High, Harford Tech, C. Milton Wright High, Patterson Mill High; Part-time SRO's: Edgewood Middle, Southampton Middle, Patterson Mill Middle.	7 school resource officers		X		
Sex Offender's Program	What Lies Beneath, Inc.	In the home and community	410-836-4680 (Dept. of Juvenile Services)		Intensive therapy, 9 months to one year, works with youth in groups and individually.		DJS involved youth, court-ordered			X

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								1	2	3
STD Screening and Treatment	Health Department	1321 Woodbridge Station Way Edgewood, Maryland 21040	410-612-1774	http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/health/ViewPage.cfm?SubID=191	Free and confidential testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) is offered every Wednesday morning from 8:00 am to 11:00am. During the interview process, the nurse educates the patient in regard to STD's and prevention.		All ages		X	
Success Academy	Upper Bay Counseling	Edgewood High School	410-612-1500		Targets youth at risk of dropout (poor MSA, held back a grade, discipline problems). Team based approach of social worker and staff to provide additional academic and social support to identified youth.	30 students	Ninth grader at EHS, not open to referrals		X	
Teen Court	Sheriff's Office	District Court	410-838-6600 (Sheriff's Office)		Restorative justice peer court provides youth with an understanding of criminal justice system. Serve as jury for peers who have committed minor infractions.	25 youth	Youth referred by Sheriff's Office		X	

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								1	2	3
Teen Diversion	Health Department	Center for Educational Opportunity, 253 Paradise Road, Aberdeen	410-638-3866	http://www.harfordcountyhealth.com/ViewPage.cfm?MenuID=8	Psychiatric rehabilitation day program housed at HCPS Alternative Education. Treatment is focused on diverting adolescents from a more restrictive therapeutic or educational placement and reintegrating them back into the community. Approx. 12 weeks	Avg 10 youth in program; 37 total served in FY10	Age 13-17			X
The Shamrocks	St. Patrick's Youth Group	The Church of St. Patrick, 615 Congress Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD 21078	410-939-2525	www.stpatrickmd.4lpi.com	Youth group for church members and non-church peers. Office of Drug Control Policy supports a Teen Safety Night and service projects.	50 youth	Middle and high school age youth	X		
Therapeutic Alternative Shelter Care (TASC)	Catholic Charities	Foster homes	410-538-3388	http://www.catholiccharities-md.org/children-and-families/treatment-foster-care/therapeutic-alternative-shelter.html	An alternative to Juvenile Services placement, children are placed in foster homes in an effort to avoid removing the child from his or her community. Two families, serve youth for 30-90 days.	Up to four youth (2 per home)	Age 12-21, non-violent juvenile service involvement			X

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								1	2	3
Therapeutic Group Home	Inner County Outreach	One residence in Harford County, one in Baltimore County	410-272-3278	http://innercountyoutreach.org/ICO%20Programs.dwt	24 hour supervision for youth transitioning out of an institutionalized environment or may have experienced hospitalizations. Residents provided with life skills, individualized service plans, counseling, education and employment assistance.		Males, 13-18, Referred through DSS			X
Tobacco Program	Harford County Health Department	Presentations given in the community	410-612-1781	http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/health/ViewPage.cfm?SubID=101	Afterschool tobacco awareness presentations to students; Afterschool tobacco cessation counseling sessions for students; Tobacco awareness presentations for clients of HCHD's Adolescent Addictions Program; School-based educational outreach (i.e., tobacco awareness presentations) to public, private and alternative school classrooms and large groups, upon request		Students referred to presentations for 1st time violations of the HCPS Tobacco Use Enforcement Policy or by DJS; referred to cessation counseling for 2nd time violations	X		

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								1	2	3
Transition Age Youth Program	Upper Bay Counseling	In the community	410-939-8744	http://www.upperbay.org	Help young adults in planning for the future, focus on employment, education, life skills and supportive social networks.		16-24 with Medical Assistance		X	
Truancy Court	Harford County Circuit Court	Harford County Circuit Court	410-809-6243		Court-based intervention in partnership with the public schools for youth who are chronically absent from school.	Average 20 per year	Referrals provided by school Pupil Personnel Workers		X	
Type II Program at Edgewood Middle School	Villa Maria	Edgewood Middle School	410-612-1518		Program provides a curriculum of special education and clinical support that enables the student to successfully return to the least restrictive educational setting as soon as possible. The average length of stay is 10 months.	9 students	Ages 11-14, students with emotional or multiple disabilities			X
Villa Maria School	Catholic Charities/Villa Maria	1370 Brass Mill Rd Belcamp, MD 21017	410-297-4100	http://www.catholiccharities-md.org/villa-maria-schools/harford-county/	Serves students who face social and behavioral challenges and mild to moderate learning disabilities.	45-50 students with potential for expansion	Grades K-8			X

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								1	2	3
WIC (Women, Infants and Children)	Health Department	34 North Philadelphia Blvd. Aberdeen, MD 21078	410-273-5656	http://www.harfordcountyhealth.com/viewpage.cfm?menuid=9	Supplemental food and nutrition education program for Women (including teen moms), Infants, and Children under age 5. Breastfeeding support and referrals to other community programs.	6,650	Income at or below 185% of poverty level, resident of Harford County, and meet a nutritional risk.		X	
Young Leaders Academy	Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County	Boys and Girls Clubs	410-272-0010	http://www.bgcharfordco.org	Club offers activities and field trips in the areas of leadership and character development, education, recreation and service-learning.	50 at-risk youth	Ages 11-17, all club sites	X		
Youth Commission	Harford County Department of Community Services	319 South Main Street, Bel Air MD	410-638-3389	http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/youth/	The Youth Commission advises the County Executive and other county officials on the overall status of Harford County's youth population, and make recommendations on how the county can better provide for youth needs.	Youth representatives from each of the 6 districts		X		
Youth Leadership Academy	Greater Excellence in Education Foundation	Harford Glen	410-569-9789	http://www.geefinc.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=129	Overnight leadership retreat and subsequent alumni leadership events (college tours, State house visit)	40 students	Grade 7, 8, 9	X		

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