

DPSCS Meeting Summary

Agency: Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS): Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) and Division of Pre-trial and Detention Services (DPDS)

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DPSCS—DPP/DPDS Stat on August 5, 2010. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor’s Delivery Unit (GDU).

Departmental Updates

- **Teleconferencing.** Previous meetings have briefly discussed the Department’s efforts to improve teleconferencing, both with the courts and with medical vendors. Deputy Secretary Phil Pie provided prepared to give a comprehensive briefing on the various teleconferencing efforts at the Department, including a pilot program with the Circuit Courts and potential telemedicine expansions.

The Department currently uses 54 teleconferencing units. 26 are primarily used for hearings and meetings, 11 are used for bail reviews in Baltimore City, and 17 new units will be used for telemedicine. Overall usage of teleconferencing has increased by 25 percent in FY 2010, not including usage in bail review hearings.

- **Sex Offender Regulations.** The Department has forwarded regulations related to the US Sex Offender Notification and Registration Act (SORNA) to its Assistant Attorney General (AAG) to review for legal sufficiency. Once approved, the Department will forward the regulations to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) committee. In addition, the relevant juvenile regulations have been forwarded to the DJS AAG and are under review.
- **ITCD Update.** The Department updated the panel on several efforts concerning Maryland’s Law Enforcement Dashboard, which provides a central repository over 85 crime databases from multiple state agencies. Recent updates have revamped the interface, making it easier to use for law enforcement agents in the field. In addition, the Department recently added the “most wanted” FBI fingerprint database, increasing the total fingerprints scanned by 2 million. The Department demonstrated several fingerprint readers.

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- **Cell Phone Investigations.** The Department's caseload of cell phone investigations continues to grow. In addition, the Department had an additional case tried, with a guilty verdict and additional jail time added to the inmate's current jail time.

The Department noted that the investigator in Baltimore City continues to have numerous court dates and that efforts to prosecute cell phone investigations are very successful.

