

TechBeat

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by JTIC

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About TechBeat



TechBeat is the monthly newsmagazine of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System. Our goal is to keep you up to date on technologies for the public safety community and research efforts in government and private industry.

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The Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC), a component of the National Institute of Justice's National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, serves as an information resource for technology and equipment related to law enforcement, corrections and courts and as a primary point of contact for administration of a voluntary equipment standards and testing program for public safety equipment.



JTIC is part of the NLECTC System, which includes the Justice Innovation Center for Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Criminal Justice Agencies, which focuses on the unique law enforcement challenges faced by those types of agencies; the National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test and Evaluation Center, which provides technology-related research and testing and operational evaluations of technologies; and the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, which supports technology research, development, testing and evaluation efforts in forensic science. In addition, a Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative exists to assess and prioritize technology needs across the criminal justice community.



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Maryland County Offers Safe Place for Opioid Addicts

Maryland County Offers Safe Place for Opioid Addicts

Not so long ago, the Brooklyn Park Fire Station in Maryland treated so many opioid overdose cases, staff sometimes ran out of naloxone. Now, thanks at least in part to Anne Arundel County’s Safe Stations program, Brooklyn Park may go an entire 24-hour shift without needing the life-saving overdose reversal drug.

Just like much of the rest of the U.S., Anne Arundel County has an opioid problem. And also like much of the rest of the country, Anne Arundel, the home of the Maryland state capital of Annapolis, has put time, effort and personnel into finding solutions. The county’s present efforts include the “Not My Child” community awareness program (<http://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-executive/county-initiatives/heroin/>), a school education effort through a revived D.A.R.E. program (see related article, “[Anne Arundel “D.A.R.E.\(S\)” to Expand Opioid Prevention Education](#)”), and Safe Stations.

The latter program is exactly what its name says: Individuals seeking help in dealing with their



addiction can walk into any one of 41 fire and police stations in the county, including the state police barracks and Annapolis city police stations, to say “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired, and I need help.” In the program’s first 10 months of operation, some 512 individuals did just that, with a successful treatment rate of 58 percent.



Individuals who walk into a fire station (most participants choose a fire station) receive a preliminary medical evaluation from emergency medical staff, who then call in one of the county’s Crisis Intervention Teams. The CIT team, which includes a clinician and a police officer, comes out to the station to “meet them where they are and give them a hand to hold at every step of the process,” according to Jen Corbin, director of the Anne Arundel County Crisis Response System.

“We work with them on taking the next step. If they need immediate medical attention, if they need to detox, we get them to the hospital,” Corbin says. “If there isn’t a medical emergency, we work on finding them a spot in treatment and on finding them a crisis bed or another safe place to stay for the interval until we can get them into treatment. We drive them to treatment, and once they’re in, we keep in touch with the treatment provider and we arrange whatever they need after treatment: a care coordinator, a place to stay, a job.”

On the law enforcement side, Lt. Steve Thomas coordinates rearranging court dates if needed and has an officer walk the individuals through the judicial process when the time comes. Participants must turn in any weapons (there have been none in the first 10 months), drugs and drug paraphernalia when they come to the station, which are collected by law enforcement for destruction purposes only.

“If they’ve previously been charged with a misdemeanor or a nonviolent crime, we’ll work with the state’s attorney to get it placed in a hold. Outstanding charges for certain felonies or violent domestic assaults are treated differently,” says Anne Arundel County Police Public Information Officer Marc Limansky. “Critics said that individuals would turn themselves in just to get out of going to court, but that’s not the case. Lt. Thomas or another officer takes them to their court dates and speaks on their behalf, and our working with the judges to get postponements allows them to go through treatment and stand in front of the judge sober.”

Similar critics told Corbin that her team was enabling program participants, which she counters by saying the program needs to be judged by the end results: “One of our care coordinators was going through the judicial system four years ago and now he’s three years in recovery and on his way to becoming a certified peer specialist. When he tells someone in withdrawal he knows what they’re going through, he means it. We’ve had many people come in who were stealing from their families to get their next fix, and now they have jobs and pay their own rent as productive members of society. We don’t have any statistics yet on the program’s impact on petty crime, but we’re sure there’s been a reduction.”

And while there continue to be overdoses and overdose deaths in the county, Corbin is certain the program has had an impact there as well, noting that many individuals who come to a Safe Station had themselves overdosed not long before coming in looking for help.

“Numbers tend to pick up on Mondays after there have been reports of overdoses on the weekend,” she says, adding that generally Fridays and oddly enough, Wednesdays, are the program’s busiest days. When Safe Stations began, Corbin thought the existing CITs could handle incorporating the expected five calls a week along with their regular caseload of assisting with police crisis calls. However, during the first six weeks of 2018, the program averaged nearly 2.5 calls a day (127 through February 22).

“We thought it would be just like dispatching a team on a police call, but we learned that it’s much more time-consuming. Then with success came backfire: people who had completed the program started telling their friends to come in,” she says, adding that with fire department assistance, the program was able to add an additional team dedicated solely to Safe Stations. The county health department also has funded part-time on-call staff to help cover peak hours so there won’t be a repeat of the Saturday night when Corbin found herself needing to deal with three calls, none of them near each other, simultaneously.

“We were desperate so we said we were going to go big or go home,” Corbin says of the decision to launch Safe Stations everywhere in the county at the same time, with services starting on April 20, 2017. “We’re now working with some nearby counties who want to create something similar, and we’re telling them to start small, learn from your mistakes and gradually grow the program. We did the opposite, and fortunately for us, it worked out.

“And you can’t say you don’t have the money to do something like this, either. You need to look at the relationships you have between all the agencies in your county and figure out

what everyone can bring to the table,” Corbin adds. Anne Arundel grew its Safe Stations project from just such a working group, and found a number of agencies that wanted to help, including one that took on some clients at a loss, knowing their insurance wouldn’t pay for the care they needed.

Capt. Russ Davies of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department says joining the working group and the program has definitely had a positive impact on how the fire department provides services. In addition to the reduction in overdose calls in some areas, “when somebody comes into the station, the unit is down for about an hour waiting for the Crisis Team, instead of the three hours it would have been down handling an overdose call by the time you consider response, scene time, transport time, hospital wait time and returning to the station.”

In spite of the increased workload, Corbin says at the end of the day when she’s asked why she supports the program, she says it just feels good to know she’s helping people: “I go visit them 30 or 40 days later and they tell me I saved their lives. That makes it worth it.”

For more information on Anne Arundel County’s Safe Stations program, contact Anne Arundel County Police Department Public Information Officer Marc Limansky at p93489@aacounty.org.

Article photo: Anne Arundel County Fire Department

Main photo: zhudifeng/iStock



Anne Arundel “D.A.R.E.(S)” to Expand Opioid Prevention Education

Anne Arundel “D.A.R.E.(S)” to Expand Opioid Prevention Education

As the nation’s opioid epidemic continues to grow, police departments and schools are looking for more ways to fight back. In Maryland’s Anne Arundel County, they’ve found a new path to follow by returning to an older one: D.A.R.E.

Anne Arundel, a suburban county located between Baltimore and Annapolis, discontinued the D.A.R.E. program after the 2002-2003 school year due to loss of funding and some concerns about whether it was the best method of delivering drug education. As the county’s overdose numbers continued to climb (51 deaths in 2015, 119 in 2016, 155 in 2017), the department’s Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) adopted several new community-based prevention programs to supplement the drug education curriculum offered by the county’s schools. And in February 2018, the county reinstated D.A.R.E. with programs at Annapolis, Corkran and Lindale middle schools.

“Too often, we have to make death notifications to parents who have lost their children. If we can



prevent one student from using opioids or other drugs, if we can prevent one death, it's a success," says police Lt. Steve Thomas of the CIT. "We want to have a significant impact on a



lot of children and this is one more tool to use in our prevention efforts." The department presently has nine officers trained to deliver the D.A.R.E. curriculum, and plans to send others for training to expand the program to additional schools in fall 2018.

During the training, officers who may have been familiar with D.A.R.E. in the past quickly learn the program has come a long way from the "Just Say No" days of the 1980s when D.A.R.E. got its start in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Maryland State D.A.R.E. Coordinator Claude Nelson explains that the original curriculum was based on the needs of that school district and didn't always adapt readily as a "one size fits all" approach. D.A.R.E. has since adapted a research-based, peer-centered approach called "Keepin' it REAL," which stands for Refuse, Explain, Avoid and Leave. The organization launched this interactive curriculum in middle schools in 2008 and in elementary schools in 2013.

"The original curriculum was just a lecture and minimal discussion, and that doesn't work. This is student-centered with the officer as a facilitator," Nelson says. "It's a great way for students to see police officers in a different light. It's all part of the community policing model in that it brings students and officers together in a nonadversarial situation where they can learn from each other. The biggest key is the relationship building."

In recognition of the importance of relationships, all of Anne Arundel's current D.A.R.E. officers volunteered for the job, as will all of the others who join them, Thomas says: "No one will be 'voluntold' to do this. It needs to be their passion, it needs to be in their heart. It's 10 days of intense training with a couple of hours of homework each night, and you have to want to be a D.A.R.E. instructor to successfully complete the training."

"Getting the right instructors can be a big hurdle. If you're only there because it's a job, the kids will know it," Nelson adds.

And for officers who have that heart, but whose agencies lack the funding to send them for training, D.A.R.E. offers assistance through its website (www.dare.org), including a stand-alone web-based module on opioids added in early 2018.

Although Anne Arundel County brought back D.A.R.E. to help combat the opioid epidemic,

its efforts don't stop there. The department has also offered more than 100 sessions of a community-based program called "Not My Child," featuring a panel that includes recovering addicts, family members who have lost someone to the epidemic, health professionals and first responders, and its Safe Stations program, wherein addicts can come to any police or fire station in the county and ask for help with treatment and recovery.

Also, to supplement the D.A.R.E. instruction, the department recently rolled out its D.A.R.E. car, featuring the contest-winning design of a group of children from Freetown Boys & Girls Club. A local design company turned their concept into reality at no charge. Anne Arundel will use the car to promote the program at schools and at community events, and the D.A.R.E. website offers materials that can help with education at those community events as well. In addition, the state provides assistance with the cost of materials to Anne Arundel and all participating agencies through fundraised money.

In the end, Anne Arundel County ties all of these different educational strands together with one common purpose, as described by County Executive Steve Schuh: "D.A.R.E. will be instrumental in helping explain the dangers of opioid substances like heroin and OxyContin, and help educate the next generation of Anne Arundel County citizens to stop before they start."

For more information on Anne Arundel County's reinstatement of D.A.R.E., contact Public Information Officer Marc Limansky at p93489@aacounty.org. For information on D.A.R.E. in general, contact Claude Nelson at claudio.nelson@maryland.gov, or visit the D.A.R.E. website at www.dare.org.

Article photo: Anne Arundel County Police Department

Main photo: Steve Debenport/iStock



Loudoun County Using Project Lifesaver sUAS

Loudoun County Using Project Lifesaver sUAS

A Virginia sheriff's office is using a small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) with a Project Lifesaver antenna, which provides enhanced ability to track people with certain medical conditions that may wander away from home.

The Project Lifesaver program is an electronic-based locating system for people with medical conditions such as Alzheimer's or autism. Clients are fitted with a wristband transmitter that emits a unique frequency so they can be located if they wander away and become lost.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has been active in the Project Lifesaver program, using ground-based antennas, since 2009. It began using an sUAS equipped with a Project Lifesaver antenna in September 2017. The signal can be acquired by the sUAS at a distance of seven to nine miles.

The sUAS carries infrared and thermal cameras to assist with search and rescue operations, and



can be used to search for anyone, not just those registered with the lifesaver program. Loudoun has six pilots certified to fly sUAS under Part 107 of the Federal Aviation Administration regulations. The office also has approval to fly at night.



“We have a strong Project Lifesaver program in the county and obviously in the past have provided ground support with deputies using the devices,” says Master Deputy Matt Devaney, rescue team lead and UAS coordinator. “Using ground antennas is good but there are limitations of using it strictly from the ground. The sUAS carries the Project Lifesaver payload, and using it we can limit the number of people out on the ground and cover a larger area to help locate people even quicker.”

In December 2017, the sUAS was used to locate a lost 92-year-old hunter in a wooded area of Shenandoah County. Seven members of the search and rescue team responded and used the sUAS to search the area. Devaney was the pilot for that search. “We found him within 20 minutes of liftoff.”

The county’s sUAS was the first in Virginia to be equipped with a Project Lifesaver antenna. The sUAS Loudoun uses has a battery duration of 45 to 50 minutes. The technology allows a search of a larger area quickly and mapping to a grid.

“For the Project Lifesaver side of it, we have tested it on the ground, and with the handheld antenna, our average range is about three-quarters of a mile, whereas with the drone up in the air, we are averaging seven to nine miles in being able to get a signal and directionality as to where the lost or missing person is located,” Devaney says.

Project Lifesaver is a nationwide program, but each jurisdiction maintains clients within its jurisdiction. Currently, Loudoun has 118 Project Lifesaver clients signed up. The county has used the sUAS to conduct search and rescue missions since September, but as of early March had not had to use it to locate a client in the lifesaver program.

Loudoun participates in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and provides mutual aid to jurisdictions in northern Virginia and southern Maryland. Over the years the Loudoun team has traveled to Montgomery County in Maryland and Prince William and Fairfax counties in Virginia to assist with ground searchers for lost persons or evidence searches.

Loudoun County has a population of about 380,000 residents in 520 square miles. The sheriff's office provides a range of support (e.g., patrol, court security, corrections, special operations, traffic reconstruction, search and rescue, criminal investigation and school security) and has a jail with 600 beds. The department has about 600 sworn personnel.

For more information, contact Kraig Troxell, sheriff's office media relations and communications manager, and at Kraig.troxell@loudoun.gov.

Article photo: drial7m1/iStock

Main photo: Loudoun County Sheriff's Office



Using Virtual Reality to Prepare Inmates for Release

Using Virtual Reality to Prepare Inmates for Release

Colorado is using virtual reality technology as part of a new program to help some longtime inmates prepare for possible release and life outside of prison.

The Juveniles Convicted as Adults Program (JCAP) began in fall 2017 at the medium security Fremont Correctional Facility in Cañon City. The three-year program targets felony juvenile offenders, convicted and sentenced as adults for serious crimes, who have served at least 20 years of their sentences. Currently there are nine male inmates in the program.

The program includes classroom instruction on a range of topics, from job skills training to health care concepts and time management to dealing with confrontational situations. Virtual reality is being used as part of the program to immerse inmates in a lifelike environment and familiarize them with modern ways of doing activities such



as grocery shopping with automated checkout, laundry, and how to conduct themselves during a job interview. Inmates must complete the three-year program to be considered for early release by a review panel.

“This program was created to help this group of offenders build skills or use tools that they did not get to use because they have been incarcerated while they were young and in the majority of their adulthood,” says Melissa Smith, education program administrator for the Colorado Department of Corrections. “This program is to deliver training and allow them to build life skills, coping skills, daily life functioning skills, technology skills, cognitive education, business and career technology, college aptitude — everything and anything that we could possibly create in an environment for them to learn and practice. It was truly developed to help provide these offenders with the opportunity to gain real-world knowledge of what today’s environment and society is like and how to interact in that environment.”

The virtual reality portion of the program includes, for example, interactive scenarios on interviewing for a job, how to deal with a difficult individual, conflict with an angry customer, how to clean an apartment, how to order from a full-service restaurant, conflict with an angry boss, refusing drugs on a street corner, how to use a cellphone, and avoiding a fight with an angry man.

The program is continually accepting applications from inmates, which are reviewed through a committee and the director of prisons. Applicants must meet certain qualifications to be accepted into the program.

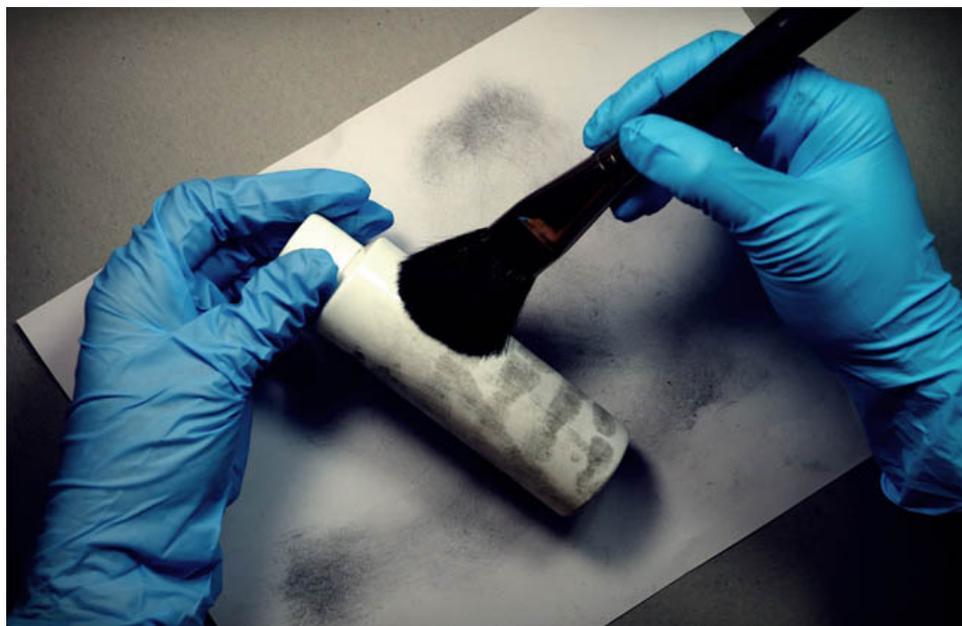
As far as reaction from initial program participants, Smith says, “They are very excited about it. I think in the beginning they were nervous about whether this was something they could grasp or could learn, and so with their comfort of knowing that they can be successful utilizing these new technologies and these new tools, we’ve seen a lot more ease and excitement for learning.”

In the spring, the department plans to establish the same program for women at the La Vista Correctional Facility, a medium security facility in Pueblo. Corrections agencies in several states have also inquired about the program.

For more information, contact Melissa Smith at Melissa.smith@state.co.us.

Article photo: The Pueblo Chieftain

Main photo: The Pueblo Chieftain



New Software Improves Rigor of Latent Fingerprint Examination

National Institute of Justice

An article and report on software developed to help improve detailed documentation of the latent print examination process are available from the National Institute of Justice.

Currently, there is no widely used standard method of detailed documentation of the latent print examination process; how latent print examiners annotate what they use as a basis for their conclusions varies among agencies. Researchers funded by the National Institute of Justice developed ACEware, a software tool for standards-based detailed annotation of the latent print examination process, for use in training new latent print examiners in standard, reproducible documentation of examination, and for use by experienced case-working latent print examiners in documenting actual casework.

ACEware builds upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation Universal Latent Workstation (ULW) system, which includes tools to mark up and compare latent print images, and

conduct print searches on the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems. ACEware extends ULW capabilities, including providing functionality that supports both instructor-led and self-led training.

ACEware is being reviewed by the FBI and has not yet been approved for release. To read the article and access the report, click [here](#).

Main photo: Prawitcha Yata/Shutterstock



Jail Inmates in 2016

Bureau of Justice Statistics

A report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics presents data on inmates confined in local jails between 2000 and 2016, including population counts and incarceration rates, inmate demographic characteristics and conviction status, average daily population, rated capacity of local jails and percent of capacity occupied, and turnover rates by jurisdiction size.

Unlike prisons, jails are locally administered correctional facilities that typically house inmates with a sentence of one year or less; inmates pending arraignment; and individuals awaiting trial, conviction or sentencing.

Findings in the report, *Jail Inmates in 2016*, are based on data from the BJS Annual Survey of Jails.

According to the report, the jail incarceration rate fell from 237 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear 2012 to 229 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents at midyear 2016, a decline of 3.4 percent. The incarceration rate fell 11.2 percent from midyear 2008, when

there were 258 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, to midyear 2016.

On Dec. 31, 2016 (year-end), most (65 percent) people held in jail were not convicted of an offense but were awaiting court action on a current charge. The remaining 35 percent were sentenced offenders or convicted offenders awaiting sentencing. Nearly seven in 10 inmates were held in jail on felony charges, while one in four were held for misdemeanor offenses.

For more information and to read the report, click [here](#).

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