

Central Area Education Advisory Council (CAEAC)
Presentation on "Gang Awareness"
February 17, 2011

The presentation was held at Pleasant Plains Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

Sergeant James Conaboy, a member of the Gang Enforcement Team in Baltimore County, presented.

There were more than 30 people present including parents, citizen group leaders, school staff and BCPS staff.

Sergeant Conaboy gave a history of gangs as they started in Baltimore County as well as the mindset of the members.

There are a confirmed 350 members in grades 7-12 in the county. This is the group that does the "dirty work" of the gang leaders. Gangs are hierarchal and as one ages up, they move up the ladder.

Many gang problems are NOT turf related but are about disrespect. There is no "be quiet and walk away". It's a mindset of earning back respect with violence.

It is not illegal to be a gang member.

Maryland gang laws are virtually ineffective so the Gang Task Force must do a lot of intelligence gathering in order to present a Federal case. This can take a bit of time but must be done until the state legislation changes the laws.

Many gang connections are made via the Internet.

Major indicators of gang activity include:

- Tattoos
- Graffiti
- Colors and Dress
- Hand signs
- Slang and other Communications

Patsy Holmes indicated that BCPS works on prevention before an intervention. She handed out "Parents Handbook on Gangs" to all present. There are numbers for Youth Services as well as information on the BCPS.org website.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.