

# Newsletter

July 2011



## A Word From Our CEO...

Welcome to the first newsletter of fiscal year 2012! We will be communicating with you on a regular basis about all the exciting changes and growth at BHCA as Health



Care Reform comes to fruition.

But first I'd like to take a moment to look back at the past year. Our [dedicated staff](#) helped connect more than 100,000 Baltimoreans to health insurance, primary/specialty care physicians, drug treatment services, and many other life saving services and programs. We helped spread the word about Maryland Medical Care Programs to families who lost jobs and found themselves without health insurance.

In 2010, we witnessed a historic day for the uninsured when President Obama signed the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) into law, which will extend health care benefits to millions of Americans and tens of thousands of Baltimoreans. BHCA will play an integral role in its implementation as we continue to advocate for Baltimoreans who are in need of health care.

As we close the books on very successful fiscal year, I am excited to lead BCHA into fiscal year 2012 with a [new website](#), and a lot of exciting changes. Stay tuned for more exciting growth and changes in the coming months!

*Kathleen Westcoat*

## Exciting New Special Initiatives Division



[BHCA](#) has a long-standing tradition of excellence and commitment to finding new and innovative ways to enhance and grow existing programs, while creating new programs to better serve the people of the greater Baltimore area.

We are committed to being prepared for [Health Care Reform](#) when it hits in 2014, and in preparation for the changes and growth that will result,

BHCA has created an exciting new department to help develop new projects and programs. The Special Initiatives division will focus on building new, sustainable initiatives and programs in the ever-changing world of health care. The new office will be lead by BHCA's own Sadie Smith, who previously served as Director of [Addition Outreach Services](#). This new division will help develop new funding sources to better serve our clients and funders as health care reform gets underway.

As Director, her new responsibilities will also include the [Information and Referral Line](#), [Access to Recovery Program](#), and the [Second Chance Jail project](#). It will also include a new project that is a partnership with the [Maryland Health Insurance Program](#). She will be responsible for building new programs and ensuring their sustainability before they are reintegrated into the existing departments at BHCA.

Sadie has a Master's in Social Work, with a concentration in Community Organizing and Program Evaluation. This is reflected in her outstanding ability to build partnerships and promote leadership within her own staff, while building strong sustainable programs.

Sadie was promoted from the Director of Addiction Outreach Services, where she served as a dedicated employee for five years. Under her leadership, her department grew from a staff of one (herself) to over 20 staff. She has helped develop programs from infancy and has seen them flourish and receive state and national recognition. We are excited about the new opportunities on the horizon for BHCA and are confident that they will thrive under the guidance of Sadie and her team.

"In my 5 years at BHCA, I've built 7 programs - all of which are still in existence. Having started as an advocate I have a great understanding of the work our team does and make sure that is with me in every decision," says Sadie.

We have launched our newly re-designed [website](#)! Please visit the site regularly for the most up-to-date information on our programs and services, as well as upcoming events and job listings as we continue to grow and expand. And visit our new [Health Care Reform Section](#) for updates to local, state, and national policy. We have many exciting new changes coming, so stay tuned!

[www.bhca.org](http://www.bhca.org)

# BHCA Partners With MHIP and Healthy Howard

BHCA is excited to embark on a partnership with [Healthy Howard](#) and the [Maryland Health Insurance Plan](#) on a pilot project to provide case management to the top 100 frequent utilizers of the Emergency Room and high cost medical users. MHIP is the State's health insurance plan that provides coverage to Maryland residents who have been denied health insurance. This pilot program will utilize nurse and social work case managers to evaluate and assess whether MHIP patients are navigating the health care system effectively and efficiently.

There are approximately 32,000 members enrolled in MHIP through the State and Federal subsidy program. There are several hundred patients who pay a disproportionately high percentage of health care costs due to overuse of the emergency room and due to high cost medical issues. It is suspected that many have chronic health conditions that are poorly controlled, such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma and that several clients may have difficulties navigating their health insurance plan or have poor connections to ancillary services. In order to help these clients better manage their care, while reducing costs, a variety of interventions will be utilized, for example; Ensuring the patient has a primary care doctor, ensuring the patient has specialty care services, providing linkages to a variety of social/ancillary services, linking clients to disease case management programs where relevant, and educating clients about the proper use of medical care services.

According to data retrieved from MHIP, approximately \$30 million was spent on emergency visits alone last year, and was the third largest expenditure behind surgery at approximately \$93 million and Medical Care at \$36 million. As health care reform approaches, MHIP is exploring ways to reign in health care costs before individuals in the high risk pool are enveloped within the Maryland health care exchanges in 2014. BHCA and Healthy Howard Staff will each receive a caseload of 50 patients, and provide case management services to clients that reside in their respective areas. As the project progresses, Johns Hopkins University will be calculating the pre-intervention/post-intervention data to evaluate the project's effectiveness. BHCA welcomes the opportunity to serve this population, while helping to reduce costs to the state.

## July Events

7/15 - 7/17

**Artscape**  
**Saturday, July**

15-17

[www.artscape.org](http://www.artscape.org)

7/30

**Browns Memorial**  
**Baptist Church**  
**Bible Women**  
**Health Fair**

[www.biblewomen.info/default.htm](http://www.biblewomen.info/default.htm)

Visit our table at  
these events for  
information about  
our programs!

[More events are](#)  
[listed on our](#)  
[website.](#)

## New Staff Spotlight



Al Germann, our new CFO, received a bachelor's of science in Accounting from the University of Delaware and a master's in science in Finance from the University of Baltimore. He has a CPA in the state of Maryland. In addition, Mr. Germann has experience as an external auditor with a Big 8 Firm, internal auditor, system developer and CFO for Medicaid

populations in Maryland and Washington D.C. as well as MCO commercial experience in underwriting and benefit maintenance. Welcome Al!



Kyanni Fleming, our new [Maternal Child Health Program](#) Manager is a Registered Nurse certified in Inpatient Obstetrics with a maternal high-risk background. Kyanni has worked as a Program Coordinator for a community prenatal education program, Stork's Nest, at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Before joining us at BHCA Kyanni was a Nursing

Coordinator for DHMH's Center for Maternal and Child Health, where she worked on the State's Infant Mortality Initiatives. Welcome Kyanni!

For printed copies, more information, or to be added to our distribution list  
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