



# Baltimore HealthCare Access

# Newsletter

September 2011

## A Word

From our Vice President of Administration...



Since joining the Agency last year as Vice President of Administration, I have been working with BHCA staff to streamline

operations and expand our revenue streams. We have been working to improve our information systems to meet the ever-changing needs of BHCA. In addition to restructuring all of our financial and accounting systems, on July 1st we implemented the Electronic Requisitions system to better manage the procurement of supplies and services.

The next step will be the implementation of a comprehensive grant management system to maximize funding potential by tracking grants and providing transparency at the enterprise, program, and grant level. This system will enable us to strengthen collaboration, build comprehensive grant management processes, and optimize success measures. As we strive to better serve our clients and the community, the integrated grant and financial management systems will provide us with the tools necessary to pursue our mission. Installation of the software will begin this month, and we plan to have training completed by mid September and full implementation by October. This new system will enable us to better meet the needs of our clients, growing staff, and funding partners.

-Robert Pezzoli, MPH



At BHCA, a big part of what we do is recognize and remove the barriers that keep clients from accessing the care that they need. [The Second Chance Jail Project](#) works with Baltimore city inmates on an “in-reach project.” In partnership with the [Division of Pretrial Detention and Services](#), BHCA has placed two case managers at the Baltimore City Detention Center to assist inmates who are 45-90 days from release in accessing public benefits.

Case managers work one-on-one with inmates to apply for health insurance and the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#). They also link them to doctors in the community. Upon release, case managers follow up with each client for at least 30 days to confirm enrollment in insurance and SNAP, as well as successful linkage to primary care, mental health care, and addiction treatment as needed.

The Second Chance project has three phases. While incarcerated, inmates are screened for eligibility, and case managers begin the application process for Medicaid, Primary Adult Care, and SNAP benefits. Case managers coordinate efforts with Detention Center case management staff, to help inmates obtain photo ID, birth

certificates, social security cards, and medical paperwork. They coordinate appointments for primary and mental health care, as well as addiction treatment. On the day of release, caseworkers provide transition services such as bus fare, emergency funding for prescriptions, and connections to housing resources. They submit paperwork to appropriate agencies to confirm release and begin applications for eligibility. Following release, BHCA confirms that the benefits were received and continues to provide referrals for support services.

Part of the program’s success is its partnership with community organizations that provides clients with the best possible resources available close to home. Work is underway to expand relations with Federally Qualified Health Centers and outpatient mental health clinics in Baltimore City to better assist patients in accessing needed care.

BHCA currently provides outreach in more than 20 drug treatment programs across the city, as well as managing the [Treatment Information and Referral Line](#). To date, we’ve seen over 130 clients, 80% of whom have been successfully connected with insurance and 79% have received food stamps. We’ve made over 80 referrals to job training, educational programs, and housing so that clients can have a supported transition into the community.

We are excited to see what we can accomplish with the Second Chance project. Helping clients access things like food stamps and insurance, referrals to housing, employment, medical treatment, and addiction recovery services, we can reduce recidivism, and help people live healthier, more successful lives.

## Keeping Every Child Healthy With Free Back to School Immunizations



to attend. [The Center for Disease Control](#) makes a valid case for administering vaccines—citing examples of diseases like Smallpox, which are no longer necessary to vaccinate for due to the extremely rare occurrence of the disease. Polio and Diphtheria are almost non-existent today thanks to consistent vaccination.

Stepping outside into the blistering heat and sunshine, it's hard to believe that we'll soon be packing up the short sleeves and summer sandals and getting kids ready to return to school. When the school year finally rolls around, it's important to remember that it's not all about the backpacks, notebooks, and uniforms; we also need to consider ways to keep our kids healthy.

One of the very first steps a parent takes to keep their child healthy is making sure that they receive recommended vaccinations, beginning in infancy. Many schools and daycares require children to be vaccinated for certain diseases before they will allow them

Vaccines are widely available, but not always easy to access for those without healthcare. Baltimore City is especially lucky to have the [TIKE van](#), an immunization clinic for kids that travels to health events around the city and operates on a monthly schedule. No appointments are necessary at the TIKE van, and all immunizations are administered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Be sure to keep a copy of your child's immunization record for school and doctor's visits. For an immunization schedule for children aged 0-18 months, visit our [website](#).

## September Events

### 9/3

#### Healthy First Saturdays at Port Discovery

10:00 am

More information [here](#).

### 9/10

#### Reservoir Hill Resource Fair and Festival

11:00 am

More information [here](#).

### 9/20

#### Access to Wellness at John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

10:00 am

More information [here](#).

Visit our table at these events for information about our programs! [More events are listed on our website.](#)

## New Staff Spotlight



Sheila Mackertich, our new Director of Public Policy and Development, obtained her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Baltimore with a focus on health policy. Sheila Recently worked with the developmental disability community, focusing on health care reform, Medicaid funding, and policies promoting independence for people living in

the community. She looks forward to continuing to build on her relationships in the MD General Assembly, the health and human services community, and leaders in state government agencies on behalf of BHCA. Sheila brings a wide range of experience to our team, and we are very excited to be working with her! Welcome aboard Sheila!



Rachel Indek, our new Director of External Affairs, joins us from the Baltimore City Health Department, where she was the legislative director. Rachel staffed the Transition Team for Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake and helped author the transition report. With more than 10 years of professional experience in political and not-for-profit fundraising, communications, and event planning, she has worked professionally on over 50 federal, state and local political campaigns. Rachel is a graduate of Salisbury State University and is currently working on her Masters degree. Rachel looks forward to guiding the agency's rebranding efforts and expanding the profile of BHCA as we prepare for Health Care reform.

For printed copies, more information, or to be added to our distribution list please contact Rachel Indek at [Rindek@bhca.org](mailto:Rindek@bhca.org)

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