



A Word

From our Vice President of Programs...



When I started working at BHCA in July 2000, we had two core programs: Eligibility and Care Coordination/Ombudsman

Services, a 40 or 50 person staff, and a budget of \$3 million. One of the distinct pleasures of working here has been the opportunity to watch this agency thrive. We have expanded into six major departments, 15 unique programs, and almost 200 staff members operating on a \$12 million budget.

These numbers represent exceptional progress for the agency and for the clients we serve in Baltimore City. Once again we find ourselves at a crossroads and are doing everything possible to ensure that important health resources get to the people who need them. We are on the verge of expanding our services to the counties surrounding the city and BHCA plans to take advantage of exciting opportunities resulting from the upcoming health care reform. We continue to stand out as the *go-to agency* for linking individuals and families to health insurance and system navigation.

Going forward we will continue to expand our operation to serve special populations— particularly frequent users of emergency systems— across the metropolitan area. It is truly an exciting time to work at BHCA!

-Traci Kodeck, MPH

Homeless Services Shines

Every day the [Homeless Services](#) program works to reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City. Outreach Advocates and case managers take to the streets and shelters to engage individuals where they are, and assist with access to health care and related services.

Recently, Homeless Services received a generous, unsolicited \$10,000 contribution from the Susan O. Smeragliuolo Charitable Fund to be used for Emergency Housing. This generous contribution is a confirmation that people are beginning to notice the terrific work being done by the BHCA staff. This ever-expanding division, led by Director Kibibi Matthews, has some exciting things happening!

Making an impact on homelessness requires assistance and case management to those who are at risk for or in imminent danger of losing their homes. The Homeless Prevention Re-housing Program (HPRP) is entering into its third year of assisting people with eviction prevention and rapid re-housing.

Increased grant funding for the Homeless Outreach Project allowed the addition of a new case manager to the team. Ettah Angster Bienenstock will be working with 50 long term shelter dwellers at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Housing Resource Center. She will be linking them to housing, insurance, health care, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, entitlement services, job readiness programs, and other appropriate resources. Ettah has 14 combined years of experience

in both juvenile corrections and psychiatric rehabilitation. She is excited to apply her experience to her new position and population, enabling her clients to become self sufficient, contributing members of society.

Another new staff person, James Getz, is proud to be joining Operation Care as it moves into its second year as a fully funded program housed in the Homeless Services division. Jim has over 30 years of experience in Equal Employment Opportunity programs and Ombudsmen services. Jim’s personal goal for his new case manager position is to “have a positive impact in reducing the number of non-emergency 911 calls.” He will help to identify, engage, educate, assist and link those referred callers to healthcare and other services as necessary.

BHCA is committed to serving “the whole person.” The Homeless Services team does just that, helping to shelter and heal both mind and body. And with increased funding, they can continue to serve even more. To learn more about their work or how to make a tax deductible contribution, please visit www.bhca.org.



Our Homeless Services Team!

October is National Hispanic Heritage Month

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is observed each year from September 15th through October 15th by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. [BHCA’s Immigrant Services Team](#) is culturally competent and bilingual in order to assist with health insurance enrollment for children, families, and adults. They help the uninsured navigate the health care system and locate low-cost and no-cost health care options. Staff members provide case management and support services for vulnerable populations, and refer clients to local community resources. Please visit the website to learn more about them!

BHCA Helps Celebrate Healthy City Days



Healthy City Days is back! BHCA is happy to partner with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Baltimore LiveHealthy in bringing back this successful event for another year. The 2nd Annual Healthy City Days aims to help

City residents improve their health outcomes and make our city a healthier, happier, more productive place to live, work and play. Beginning September 30th, the event will run for eight days and offer fun, but healthy events all over town. The goal is to get people eating better, exercising more often and focused on prevention and overall wellness.

BHCA will be participating in several health fairs and the locations are posted in the calendar section of the website. Be sure to stop by and say hello! The University

Healthy City Days Events

Step Out With The Mayor and City Council

11:30AM – 12:30PM

Kick-off a healthy week of fun as the Mayor and City Council lead walkers on a festive jaunt through downtown. Grab some friends and meet at City Hall, rain or shine. Walkers will receive great giveaways and health tips.

Activities For Kids

10/4/11 4:00PM – 6:00PM

American Heart Association's Recess Baltimore program will kick off a year-long partnership to fight childhood obesity with an afternoon of fitness activities for kids. For more information: 410-637-4569

City Hall Health Fair

10/5/11 9:30AM – 3:00PM

FREE Health Fair with multiple screenings, information & giveaways. (Open to the public with photo id)

of Maryland, City Hall and several Enoch Pratt library locations will be offering free health screenings, as well as Mondawmin Mall, Department of Social Services locations and many other locations. Port Discovery and the Inner Harbor will host some great family events over the weekend. During the week there are some great events to get people up and moving. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will be walking from City Hall to the Inner Harbor on October 3rd and working out downtown with Monte Sanders on October 4th. For more information, please visit the [Healthy City Days Website](#) to see a listing of all these events and more-- and find one close to you!

Visit the [Calendar Section](#) of our website for a listing of Events.

Enoch Pratt Health Fair

10/6/11 1:00PM – 4:30PM

Fun, informative, interactive Health Fair at Enoch Pratt's Southeast Anchor Branch. FREE screenings and giveaways. 3601 Eastern Ave., 21224

Free Screenings

9:00AM – 12:00PM

FREE blood pressure and BMI screenings and counseling at Dept. of Social Services: Southwest Site

Mobiles At Mondawmin

10/7/11 11:30AM – 1:30PM

Last chance for FREE Health Screenings. Walk, run, drive or ride the metro and take advantage of all the mobile health units have to offer. Mondawmin Mall parking lot near the metro entrance.

New Staff Spotlight



Congratulations to our new Director of Addiction Outreach Services. Paula Sebastian has been promoted from her previous position with the MATCH Program. Paula, a licensed clinical social worker, has been with BHCA over two years as the Social Work Program

Manager for MATCH and really has helped grow the program from the ground up. We are excited to have her knowledge and expertise in the area of mental health.



Congratulations to Ericka Morgan, MSW, LCSW-C! She has been promoted to Social Work Program Manager, effective September 15th. Ericka has been a Medical Case Manager in the MATCH program for the past year and has extensive case management and clinical

experience. Her clinical experience with traumatized children and her case management experience with children in foster care will allow her to be an excellent resource for staff.

For printed copies, more information, or to be added to our distribution list please contact Rachel Indek at RIndek@bhca.org

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