



The MACHC Review

A Quarterly Update by the Mid-Atlantic Association of
Community Health Centers (MACHC)

FALL 2002 / Winter 2003

Industry Issues

Presidential REACH Initiative

(Resolution to Expand Access to Community Health)

The numbers are in! Over the past year since President Bush's endorsement of the Presidential REACH Initiative (Resolution to Expand Access to Community Health) many community health centers across the country have benefited from the funds allocated to achieving this mission. Dedicated to the goal of expanding the number of health center

sites by 1,200 and providing primary health care access to an additional six million people over the next five years, all indicators are that the program is well on its way to achieving its goal. The members of MACHC are doing their part to contribute. To date, seven members of MACHC, which includes Maryland and Delaware, have obtained a total of \$3.8 million dollars in funding for new access points, expanded medical capacity and service expansions. The following FQHC's have received awards to help further the mission: Baltimore Medical System, Inc., Chase Brexton Health Services, Choptank Community Health System, Inc., Delmarva Rural Ministries, Inc., Family Health Centers of Baltimore (formerly South Baltimore Family Health Centers), Health Care for the Homeless, Park West Health System, Inc. (formerly Park West Medical Center), and Tri-State Community Health Center.

MACHC Holds Kick-Off for Statewide Strategic Planning Process (SSP)

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers has kicked off the Statewide Strategic Planning Process (SSP). The process is designed to develop a Three to Five Year Growth and Resource Plan (2003 through 2007) for community health centers in both Maryland and Delaware. One of the overriding goals of this planning effort is increasing access to healthcare and to support the Bureau of Primary Health Care's vision of 100% Access and 0% Disparities. The specific objective of this growth and resource plan is to identify the growth and expansion needs in the areas of medical, dental and behavioral health, as well as the resources that will be needed to provide access to the underserved. By participating in this dynamic and interactive process, Maryland and Delaware community health centers will be apart of a much larger picture. The final report to be submitted to NACHC, and the Bureau of Primary Health Care, will be used to quantify the resources required to address capital and human resource needs and opportunities in Maryland and Delaware. The report will also be used as a tool to educate elected officials, policy makers and potential funding sources on the capital and human resource needs of community health centers on both the state and federal level.

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers Awarded Kaiser Permanente Grant

The Mid-Atlantic Association Community Health Centers was recently awarded \$10,000 to support a pilot project in Baltimore City that would integrate primary care, mental health, and substance abuse services for addicted clients. This project will allow 10-12 medical providers at Baltimore City FQHCs to be trained in administration of Buprenorphine as a maintenance drug for opiate addicted clients. This drug has just been approved by the FDA for use by primary care physicians.

The clients receiving services under this project will be followed by their primary care provider for chemical dependency, and medical conditions, as well as receiving addictions counseling. Baltimore City FQHCs currently serve over 75,000 users, 77% of whom are under 200% of the federal poverty limit.

Alert

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MACHC Retools

The new federal commitment to expanding access to health care was on display when 2002 saw \$175 million allocated for support of community health centers, and an additional \$114 million authorized in 2003. Since the President's endorsement of the REACH Initiative,

there has been a heightened awareness of the incessant need for the services provided by community health centers and the roles they play in our underserved communities. Understanding the changing dynamic in the marketplace as a result of this new commitment, MACHC has begun to focus its attention on support of access to services and providing technical assistance and support to its members. An example of the new service deliveries would be MACHC's new Substance Abuse Capacity Building Project funded by the Open Society Institute, an Emergency Preparedness Project, as well as a new smoking cessation program funded by the Baltimore City Health Department.

Substance Abuse Capacity Building Project

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers has been awarded a six month grant from the Open Society Institute (OSI), with the goal of creating improved access to and integration of Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Primary Care services for the uninsured and underserved of Baltimore City. The program will focus on strengthening the role of the Federally Qualified Health Centers in meeting the full range of health needs of Baltimore's chemically dependent population. Participants in the proposed project include: Baltimore City FQHCs, Baltimore Substance Abuse Services (BSAS), and Baltimore Mental Health Systems (BMHS)

Emergency Preparedness Project

In the wake of the events of September 11th, there is an increasing need for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) to be fully integrated into their community's emergency management and disaster response networks. The strong response by health centers in the areas affected by the tragic events underscores that health centers have both the experience and capacity to be effective participants in a disaster response campaign and can play a role in assisting local providers in delivering critical emergency services. The goal of this project is to ensure that community health centers have the resources, training and connectedness to local emergency resources ensuring their ability to respond during a time of crisis, and to remain operationally viable during those times as well.

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Baltimore City Smoking Cessation Project

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers was awarded a grant from the Baltimore City Health Department to implement the Baltimore City Tobacco Use, Prevention, and Cessation Program at Federally Qualified Health Center's in the Baltimore City area. The goal of this program is to reduce the prevalence of smoking among patients of community health centers, in particular pregnant women, by giving tobacco education classes and treatment options. Participating Community Health Centers include: Baltimore Medical System, Inc.; Chase Brexton Health Services; Health Care for the Homeless; Park West Medical Center; People's Community Health Center; South Baltimore Family Health Center; and Total Health Care, Inc.

Community Development

The Community Development Department within MACHC has undergone a strategic shift and has begun to focus its attention on providing more technical support to its members, as well as potential new starts. The department will facilitate training sessions on various topics from Board Governance to Fiscal Management. MACHC's website will become an increasingly valuable tool to disseminate pertinent information. With the overall goal of ensuring access to quality health care and eliminating disparities, the department plans to accomplish this goal by providing authoritative, new start technical assistance and access to essential decision making data for new and existing members. For additional information visit us at our site: www.MACHC.com

Member Services

The Member Services department has undergone a revitalization process under MACHC's new re-tooling process. In accordance with MACHC's mission, the goal of Member Services is to create a department that exceeds the expectations of the membership by providing programs and services that support FQHC capacity and competitiveness. With a top priority of being responsive to the needs of its membership, the department intends to continue providing education, technical assistance, and training programs. Some of the past training activities have included: HIPAA Training, Capital Planning, and Corporate Compliance, just to name a few. It will be the continued goal of Member Services to provide timely educational training and technical assistance sessions in the future, which will include seminars in Behavioral and Primary Care Integration, Geriatrics for Health Centers, and Building a Sound Financial Infrastructure in the Managed Care Environment. Please be on the look out for upcoming dates that may benefit your organization and staff!

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Westside Health Wins Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Award

Westside Health, Inc. was recently honored with the Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Award sponsored by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Small Business Alliance. The Superstars in Business awards are presented in honor of the late Marvin S. Gilman, an exemplary leader and paragon of small business management in the State of Delaware. As president of Gilman Development Company, Gilman's honors included the prestigious Josiah Marvel Cup Award from the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, the State of Delaware's Distinguished Citizen Award, and induction into the National Housing Hall of Fame.

Congratulations Lolita Lopez & the staff at Westside Health!

Since 1988, Westside Health has grown to become the medical home to more than 9,000 active patients. Westside Health provides a comprehensive array of fully bilingual, primary health care services ranging from prenatal to elder care. Consistent with all Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHC's), services are offered on a sliding fee basis to the uninsured. Through its successful capital campaigns, expansion in funding resources, as well as proactive initiatives to achieve new and

expanded access points in underserved communities, Westside Health has steadily grown – more than doubling its service capacity within a four-year period. According to Lolita Lopez, Executive Director, the recent award of a fully funded grant from the Bureau of Primary Health Care will allow Westside Health to continue its expansion efforts by the opening of a second site at Christiana Care's Wilmington Hospital in early 2003.

Baltimore Medical System Renames Central Office The Ian J. Gray Building In Dedication Ceremony

On September 6, Baltimore Medical System hosted nearly 300 guests as their Central Office building was renamed in honor of long-time board member, Ian J. Gray, who was killed on September 11, 2001 as a passenger on Flight 77 when it crashed into the Pentagon. The event was held on the central office's parking lot under a large tent. Speakers for the dedication included Nancy Baruch (President, BMS Board of Trustees), The Honorable Nathaniel McFadden (Maryland State Senator), Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Jay Wolvovsky, Executive Director of Baltimore Medical, and Ana Raley, wife of Ian J. Gray. The building is now referred to as "The Gray Building."

Ian J. Gray served on the BMS Board of Trustees from 1991 until his death in 2001. He held multiple board officer positions and was the current Board Treasurer when he died. In honor

of Ian, BMS has established The Ian J. Gray Fund. Proceeds from the fund will be used to strengthen BMS through capital improvements, with the initial goal of raising \$550,000 so that BMS can pay off the mortgage on The Gray Building. An initial contribution of \$20,000 has already been made and a comprehensive fundraising program has been developed to raise the additional money. For additional information, please call the Baltimore Medical System Development Office at 410-558-4885 or 410-558-4981.



Members & Partners

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Rebecca L. Ruggles
Director of Special Projects

Rebecca has spent the past 13 years in the field of Community Health, working in a variety of capacities. Before joining Mid-Atlantic, she served as Director of Program Development for Baltimore Medical System.

Previously she had also held senior management positions with Elder Health and Total Health Care. Rebecca holds a Masters of Business Administration from Stanford Business School, where she majored in public administration. She is currently serving as Director of Special Projects for MACHC, coordinating a six-month planning project designed to address service integration between Baltimore City CHCS and Substance Abuse Treatment providers. Rebecca is a committed Community Health advocate and enjoys working with Community Health Centers to develop new partnerships and resources for new programs. She can be reached at 410-903-9498 or by email at Rebecca.Ruggles@MACHC.com

MACHC New Hires

Matthew Van Tine ~ Special Projects Coordinator

Matthew Van Tine has joined the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers at the beginning of October as a Special Projects Coordinator. Projects that he is managing are the Baltimore City Smoking Cessation Program and Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Program. Prior to working at MACHC, he worked for the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers as their NHSC Workforce Project Director, where he worked with health centers to address their needs for primary care providers. As an intern at the Arizona Department of Health Services, he worked on a project to extend the hours of operation for primary care clinics in Arizona. He has also worked in an Urgent Care Clinic as a technician. Mr. Van Tine graduated from the University of Arizona with a Masters of Public Health, Health Administration and Policy, in addition to receiving his Bachelors of Science in Nutrition from Arizona State University. Matt can be reached at 301-577-0097 Ext. 24 or by email at Matt.Vantine@MACHC.com

Contact MACHC

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About MACHC

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is comprised of federally qualified community health centers in Maryland and Delaware.

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Westside Health, Inc.

Lolita Lopez
Executive Director
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MACHC is the voice of communities in need and is dedicated to building and strengthening programs in the delivery of quality community-based healthcare to the medically underserved and underinsured. We seek partners who share our vision and look for opportunities that enable us to achieve our mission.

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