



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

201 W. Preston Street, Room 424 • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Alice Burton, Acting Chair

Access Carroll, Inc.

Access to Care Services Integration Project

\$100,000, 2/1/2007-1/31/2008

Tammy Black, R.N., B.S.N.

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded Access Carroll, Inc. a one-year, \$100,000 grant on January 16, 2007. Access Carroll is a non-profit organization that was created in 2005 to provide free primary health care to uninsured, low-income residents of Carroll County, Maryland. The project, entitled *Access to Care Services Integration Project*, will be directed by Access Carroll's Executive Director, Tammy Black, R.N., B.S.N.

The goal of the *Access to Care Services Integration Project* is to implement a coordinated health care delivery system that will emphasize prevention, primary care, diagnostic services, and early intervention for the low-income, uninsured population of Carroll County. With the Commission's grant, Access Carroll will create a new staff position, an Access Coordinator, who will schedule and coordinate patient referrals to specialty, outpatient, and surgical services. Additionally, Access Carroll will work to expand its network of providers that offer free or reduced-rate services and to strengthen partnerships with non-medical organizations through collaborative service and targeted marketing efforts.

During the first quarter of the grant period, the project will focus on recruiting the new Access Coordinator and scheduling informational meetings with community groups and providers. Throughout the grant period, Access Carroll will work to fortify relationships with providers and community groups and the Access Coordinator will provide patient services.



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Anne Arundel County Department of Health

The REACH Dental Program

\$450,000, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded the Anne Arundel County Department of Health a three-year, \$450,000 grant on January 16, 2007. Since 1999, Anne Arundel County's Residents Access to a Coalition of Health (REACH) Program, a partnership between the Anne Arundel County Department of Health and the Anne Arundel County Medical Society, has linked low-income, uninsured Anne Arundel County residents to a network of primary and specialty health care providers who have agreed to provide discounted services. The project, entitled *The REACH Dental Program*, will be directed by Deborah Rodriguez, D.D.S., the Dental Health Program Manager for the Anne Arundel County Department of Health.

The project will establish a dental program to provide preventive and restorative oral health services to individuals enrolled in the REACH Program. The Anne Arundel County Department of Health will open a dental clinic in its dental facilities in Glen Burnie during evenings and on Saturdays. The clinic will provide cleanings, oral cancer screenings, and the treatment of dental caries. Referrals to discounted specialty dental services will be provided to individuals needing more extensive care.

During the first several months of the grant period, dental clinic staff will be hired, a dental specialty network will be recruited, and outreach to potential enrollees will be conducted. The dental clinic is expected to open its doors on August 1, 2007.



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Baltimore Medical System

Serving the Greater Baltimore Area's Growing Hispanic Community

\$500,000, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010

Janet Schultz, R.N., M.A., C.P.N.P.

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded Baltimore Medical System (BMS) a three-year, \$500,000 grant on January 16, 2007. BMS, the largest Federally Qualified Health Center in Maryland, operates 7 health clinics and serves over 40,000 Baltimore City and County residents. The project, entitled *Serving the Greater Baltimore Area's Growing Hispanic Community*, will be directed by Janet Schultz, R.N., M.A., C.P.N.P., Director of Programs for BMS.

The goal of this project is to create a medical home for 1,200 Hispanic patients in the greater Baltimore area, providing prompt, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive health services to improve health status and insure that patients and their families do not use hospital emergency rooms for non-urgent care. BMS plans to increase its existing capacity to serve the Hispanic population by an additional 3,000 medical visits, provide additional bilingual call center staff during peak business times, and provide medical interpreters at its Baltimore County sites. Interpreter sessions will be available during evening and weekend hours. These additions will increase BMS' capacity to serve low-English proficiency Hispanic patients by 35 percent.

During the first several months of the project, BMS will acquire new bilingual customer service representatives and interpreters and recruit a Hispanic access manager to provide system-wide Hispanic service management. BMS will maintain an increased level of access to Spanish language medical care and case management throughout the remainder of the grant period.



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Calvert Memorial Hospital

Aligning Community Health Resources: Improving Access to Care for Marylanders in Calvert County

\$500,000, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010

Barbara Polak

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded Calvert Memorial Hospital (CMH) a three-year, \$500,000 grant on January 16, 2007. Calvert Memorial Hospital, a 107-acute bed non-profit hospital, is the only hospital in Calvert County. The project, entitled *Aligning Community Health Resources: Improving Access to Care for Marylanders in Calvert County*, will be directed by Barbara Polak, CMH's Director of Ambulatory Care Services.

This project will improve access to care through a refined service continuum for low-income, un- and underinsured individuals. CMH will build on an existing delivery system that includes the hospital's emergency room; the Twin Beaches Community Health Center, opened by CMH in 2004 to provide primary care services to under- and uninsured individuals; the Calvert County Health Department; and Calvert HealthCare Solutions, a program that provides a variety of health care services to low-income, uninsured residents of Calvert County.

CMH will first hire a nurse case manager who will work with the target population to reduce emergency room use, increase primary care usage at Twin Beaches Community Health Center and Calvert HealthCare Solutions, and coordinate and track specialty referrals. Then, the Twin Beaches Community Health Center will hire additional staff to expand its hours to include some evening and weekend services. CMH will develop and implement a reverse referral program, and the Twin Beaches Community Health Center will offer mental health counseling through a part-time staff member of the Health Department. A specialty care referral program will be developed and implemented in conjunction with Calvert HealthCare Solutions. Finally, the project will fund some acute care medications to supplement the hospital's Medbank program.



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Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc.

Emergency Department Linkage to Primary Medical and Dental Care

\$200,000, 2/1/2007-1/31/2009

David H. Shippee, M.B.A.

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc. a two-year, \$200,000 grant on January 16, 2007. Chase Brexton, founded in 1978, is a Federally Qualified Health Center with practice sites in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. The project, entitled *Emergency Department Linkage to Primary Medical and Dental Care*, will be directed by David H. Shippee, M.B.A., Chase Brexton's Executive Director.

The goal of the project is to improve access to primary care services by partnering with the emergency departments of Northwest Hospital Center and Howard County General Hospital to develop an emergency department referral service. This referral service will link patients who present to these emergency departments with non-urgent medical and dental conditions and who have no provider-of-record to services at one of the Chase Brexton sites.

Chase Brexton will launch its referral service by implementing a digital interface which will be utilized by emergency department staff to record demographic and contact information for patients who consent to referral. These data will be used to contact patients and schedule appointments with Chase Brexton at its Randallstown and Columbia facilities. The referral service will be implemented at Northwest Hospital Center during the first year of the project and at Howard County General during the second.



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City of Frederick/Frederick Community Action Agency
Expanding Access to Primary Care in Frederick County
\$353,585, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010
Michael R. Spurrier
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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded the City of Frederick/Frederick Community Action Agency a three-year, \$353,585 grant on January 16, 2007. The Frederick Community Action Agency (FCAA), founded in 1968, provides food, shelter, medical care, housing, transportation, and other forms of assistance to low-income or homeless families and individuals through a wide array of programs and services. The project, entitled *Expanding Access to Primary Care in Frederick County*, will be directed by Michael R. Spurrier, Executive Director of FCAA.

The goal of the project is to improve access to care for medically underserved residents in Frederick County and deter inappropriate emergency room use. FCAA will offer additional primary care clinic hours, including evening and weekend hours, and expand the clinic's target population to include all uninsured individuals with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Additionally, FCAA will develop a website and resource guide for use by staff of the hospital emergency room and other human services organizations on local and statewide medical, dental, and prescription assistance programs and resources.

During the first several months of the grant period, FCAA will acquire additional primary care providers; implement new policies, procedures, and protocols to support the clinic's expansion; and conduct outreach. The resource guide and website will be developed by the end of the first year, and FCAA will conduct workshops with emergency room staff and others upon their completion. The project will be evaluated by a team from Hood College.



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Health Partners, Inc.

Expanded Primary Care Services in Southern Maryland

\$499,606, 3/1/2007-2/28/2010

Timothy J. Brown

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded Health Partners, Inc. a three-year, \$499,606 grant on January 16, 2007. Health Partners, Inc., a non-profit clinic, provides community-based primary health care and some specialty care services to under- and uninsured residents of Charles County. Health Partners is the county's only free clinic. The project, entitled *Expanded Primary Care Services in Southern Maryland*, will be directed by Timothy J. Brown, Health Partners' Executive Director.

Health Partners will expand access to primary care services for uninsured residents of Charles County by expanding the clinic's capacity. Health Partners will hire a new, full-time nurse practitioner and increase support staff hours in order to increase the number of patients served and the availability of same-day or walk-in appointments as well as evening and weekend hours. By the third year of the grant period, Health Partners expects to triple its service capacity by increasing annual patient visits from 1,200 to 3,600 and weekly clinic hours from 20 to 60. Additionally, Health Partners will work to increase the number of volunteer hours contributed to the clinic.



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Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Access to Wellness

\$485,478, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010

Anita Everett, M.D.

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded The Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Community Psychiatry Program (CPP) a three-year, \$485,478 grant on January 16, 2007. The CPP, a licensed outpatient mental health center, serves as the primary provider of mental health services to residents of Southeast Baltimore City and a major provider in Southeast Baltimore County. The project, entitled *Access to Wellness*, will be directed by Anita Everett M.D., Section Director for Bayview's Community and General Psychiatry.

CPP will increase access to health care for persons with mental illness by providing three new services for patients seen by the program: health risk screening, primary care and preventive health services, and case management. These new services will be provided to those most in need, including the uninsured; individuals without a designated primary care provider or who have difficulty establishing an effective relationship with a primary care provider; and individuals with chronic health problems who have difficulty following the illness management recommendations of their primary care provider.

During the first several months of the project, CPP will recruit a nurse practitioner, a case manager, and a peer community support assistant. A health screening tool and checklist for preventive health maintenance will also be developed. The remainder of the project will entail patient service, evaluation activities, and productivity assessments.



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Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Under One Roof: Integrating Community-Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services with Somatic Services
\$491,854, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010
Pilar Molish, R.N.
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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services a three-year, \$491,854 grant on January 16, 2007. Outpatient Addiction Services in the County's Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Department provides outpatient addiction and mental health treatment services for adults, including those with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders. The project, entitled *Under One Roof: Integrating Community-Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services with Somatic Services*, will be directed by Pilar Molish, R.N., Nurse Administrator for Montgomery County's Public Health Services Department.

The project will enable Outpatient Addiction Services to co-locate primary care services in the same facility where outpatient mental health and substance abuse services are offered. Through collaboration between Montgomery County's Public Health Services and Behavioral Health and Crisis Services departments, an on-site primary medical care clinic will be established providing afternoon and evening hours. This will enable patients to receive care after they complete their morning addiction treatment services. Patients will also have access to case management, prescriptions, diabetes education and glucose monitoring, referrals to low-cost specialty services, and oral health services through the Montgomery Cares Program.

During the first several months of the project, Montgomery County will recruit several staff positions, including a nurse practitioner, nurse case manager, medical assistant, and a physician. Two exam rooms will be established within the Office of Addiction Services. The primary care clinic is scheduled to open in April 2007.



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Tri-Sate Community Health Center

Integration Allegany

\$395,328, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010

Nancy Forlifer

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded Tri-State Community Health Center a three-year, \$395,328 grant on January 16, 2007. Tri-State, founded in 1987, is a Federally Qualified Health Center that delivers primary and preventive health care services to individuals in Cumberland County. The project, entitled *Integration Allegany*, will be directed by Nancy Forlifer, Community Health Improvement Manager for Western Maryland Health System.

The project aims to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services for uninsured Allegany County residents; integrate the management of substance abuse and mental health services; and improve communication between the mental health and substance abuse service system and safety net providers. Tri-State will collaborate with its partners from the Work Group on Access to Care, including the Western Maryland Health System, the Core Service Agency, Allegany Health Right, the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center, the Allegany Health Department, the Mental Health Advisory Committee, the Department of Social Services, and Associated Charities.

A core service agency case manager will be co-located at Tri-State to connect mental health and substance abuse to primary care. A consulting psychiatrist from Western Maryland Health System will be available on-site at Tri-State two days per month. Four residential crisis/respite beds will be opened and made available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The Western Maryland Area Health Education center will conduct a variety of community education and outreach activities for the project. Additionally, low income, un- and underinsured patients who are ineligible for public assistance will be enrolled in the Community Health Access Program, and all patients will be screened for eligibility for a variety of community services and programs.



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Union Memorial Hospital
Buprenorphine Initiative
\$333,720, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010
Robert Ferguson, M.D.
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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded Union Memorial Hospital a three-year, \$333,720 grant on January 16, 2007. Union Memorial is a non-profit, community-owned teaching hospital with a long history of providing comprehensive health care services, including mental health and substance abuse services. The project, entitled *Buprenorphine Initiative*, will be directed by Robert Ferguson, M.D., the hospital's Chief of Medicine.

The goal of this project is to increase and improve the capacity of Union Memorial's buprenorphine treatment program to treat individuals with opiate dependence. Union Memorial's inpatient-to-outpatient buprenorphine treatment program for opiate dependence was first established with a grant from the Open Society Institute. The Commission's grant will enable Union Memorial to hire a full-time case manager to administer the buprenorphine program, which will allow for improved program management and increased patient enrollment. The project will also establish a hospital-run voucher program that will ensure that patients will be able to receive Suboxone during the transition period between inpatient care and when alternative insurance coverage is achieved. Finally, the project will provide additional training to case managers and social workers to increase their effectiveness in working with patients in the buprenorphine program.



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Walnut Street Community Health Center

Integrated Primary Care at the Walnut Street Community Health Center

\$339,125, 2/1/2007-1/31/2010

Dr. G. Johnson Koilpillai

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The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission awarded the Walnut Street Community Health Center a three-year, \$339,125 grant on January 16, 2007. WSCHC is a Federally Quality Health Center (FQHC) that provides primary health care, dental care, and enabling services to patients in Washington County. While designated a FQHC in 2003, Walnut Street has operated as a family practice for over nine years. The project, entitled *Integrated Primary Care at the Walnut Street Community Health Center*, will be directed by Dr. G. Johnson Koilpillai, Walnut Street's Medical Director.

The project will integrate primary care and mental health services by expanding Walnut Street's capacity to provide mental health services. Patients will receive primary health care through their regular provider and will be able to receive counseling and treatment through a mental health professional who is part of the family practice. Walnut Street will directly employ and contract with mental health professionals. A more comprehensive approach to the provision of care is expected to result, with primary care and mental health providers sharing information and following up with one another as appropriate.

During the first year of the program, Walnut Street will hire a social worker and contract with the Washington County Hospital for a mental health nurse practitioner and a psychiatrist for four hours per week. During the second year, Walnut Street will hire an additional social worker and increase psychiatrist and mental health nurse practitioner hours to 16 per week. Walnut Street expects to increase the number of patients served from 322 in the first year to 1,142 in the third year.