



Expanding Services and Treatment for Individuals with Serious Mental Illnesses

Outpatient Civil Commitments (OCC) - HB 427/SB 403

Stakeholders from across the behavioral health community have been working for several years to develop a program that delivers quality services and peer support to the hardest-to-engage individuals among us. In 2017, Maryland passed legislation to establish an outpatient civil commitment (OCC) pilot program in Baltimore City to deliver a comprehensive range of community-based services to eligible individuals committed involuntarily to an inpatient psychiatric hospital.

THE PILOT PROGRAM

- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Person-centered care
- Peer support
- Motivational interviewing
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Integrated dual disorder treatment
- Wellness recovery action plans
- Evidence-based supported employment programs

EXPANDING THIS SERVICE MODEL

We must build on what we have developed to bring life-changing treatment for those with serious mental illnesses. Next, we must:

- ✓ Expand the program statewide to allow other jurisdictions to take advantage of this approach
- ✓ Permit families and the individual seeking care to petition directly to the state for admission into the program
- ✓ Ensure consistency in program development and service delivery through ongoing stakeholder oversight
- ✓ Ensure clear and effective program evaluation

PILOT RESULTS

75%

of the individuals who were not connected to a mental health service at the time of their discharge from the hospital were connected to mental health services by the program.

83%

agreed to meet with Peer Recovery Specialists

83%

received mental health services during their six-month commitment

PARTICIPANTS HAD GREAT THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

They [peer recovery specialists] are supportive in anything I do - like getting the right medication. I think they're doing what they need to do.

I'm getting a lot of support in different ways, including medically. If I'm in the hospital, they [peer support specialists] come and see me. I'm getting all the support I need.

[The Peer Recovery Specialists] came almost every day to check on me.

I didn't know there were so many resources out there...they get me to appointments. They helped so much.