

Are You or a Loved One Hospitalized for Mental Health Treatment?

Maryland's Outpatient Civil Commitment pilot program can help people with mental illness get and stay connected to services

The Outpatient Civil Commitment (OCC) program is a pilot program in Baltimore City that assists people who are not well-connected to mental health services get connected and stay connected to care. There is no cost for this program, and it does not matter what type of insurance you have. Many people choose to participate in the program voluntarily, but there is a path for involuntary admission into the program for those who qualify.

People who participate in OCC receive peer support services for six months, starting while they are in the hospital. A peer is an individual who has personal, lived experience with mental illness and/or substance use. They provide consistent, persistent, intensive wrap-around support to help people stay connected to services in the community.

Do you or a loved one qualify?

You or a loved one must meet all the following criteria:

- Currently hospitalized for treatment of mental illness, AND HAVE HAD
- A prior hospitalization for treatment of mental illness within the last 12 months.
- Live in Baltimore City or are homeless in the City.
- Have not been served well by mental health services.

What do I do next?

- Talk to the hospital social worker and request a referral.** OCC is a pilot program, and some hospitals may need a reminder. Share this document with them.
- Contact Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB)** at (410)735 8574 or ClinicalServices2@BHSBaltimore.org. BHSB will contact the hospital to also request a referral.
- Keep advocating for your loved one!** Call NAMI Maryland at 410-884-8691 or info@namimd.org or the Mental Health Association of Maryland at 443-901-1550 or info@mhamd.org for family member help and advice.

The hospital is responsible for making the final decision on whether to make a referral to OCC.
