

Testimony
Of
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Recovery in Community, Inc. (RIC)
Domestic Policy Subcommittee
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007
FIELD HEARING – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
“Combating Drug Abuse and Drug-related Crime:
What is Working in Baltimore?”

RIC Mission Statement: RIC’s mission is to contribute to the quality of life by reducing substance abuse primarily in the Franklin Square, Boyd-Booth and Fayette Street Outreach communities. RIC is a community-focused program where comprehensive long-term commitment to substance abuse intervention services and treatment are provided to individuals, families and their communities.

RIC Values Statement: At Recovery in Community, Inc. (RIC) our clients and the community are our priority and each individual is treated with respect and dignity. RIC’s services are offered in a welcoming and caring way in the community to help individuals in recovery succeed. These services are evidence based and we always seek to continue learning and improving their quality.

Recovery in Community, Inc. (RIC) is a certified outpatient drug free treatment program that offers center based and street outreach services. On site services include case management, individual and group counseling and acupuncture. Off site services are street and community outreach, transitional housing placement, and treatment placement. RIC also provides treatment readiness services for clients to help ensure their success in treatment. In addition, RIC provides a support base to which the client returns upon success or failure in treatment.

RIC was conceived by and developed with community leaders from Southwest Baltimore in response to a 1996 mayoral request to expand the city’s ability to provide substance abuse treatment. The initial project was funded by the Abell Foundation with the dual goals of reducing substance abuse and reducing the associated crime. RIC strived to accomplish these goals through assisting the addicted individuals it serves to end their drug dependence, achieve stability in housing and family relationships, and to progress toward economic self-sufficiency.

RIC differs significantly from the majority of existing drug treatment outpatient programs in that it provides a street outreach component, comprehensive on-site case management, stipends for transitional housing, on-site auricular acupuncture and follow-up services designed to rehabilitate, find employment, and bring stability to RIC participants lives. RIC is dually certified as a drug free standard outpatient and intensive outpatient program, which does not begin to adequately describe the levels of services provided to

RIC clients. The majority of outpatient programs focus on clients remaining in treatment with them from three to six months, whereas RIC participants only graduate once they have been enrolled in RIC for at least twelve months and achieved nine consecutive drug free months in the program. Since its inception in 1999, data has consistently shown that RIC's emphasis on long-term participation is proving very effective.