



Family Focus

MCF Celebrates BIPOC Mental Health Month!

Throughout the month of July, we bring awareness to the unique struggles that underrepresented groups face regarding mental health challenges in the United States. Many BIPOC communities have faced forced relocation and removal that has distanced them from their loved ones, cultural practices, languages, and sense of identity. This generational trauma has impacted the ability of BIPOC individuals to access services, feel secure, and have positive mental health outcomes.

Together, we can prioritize access for all when advocating for mentally healthy environments. Strong community support requires an overall understanding that every person is deserving of a healthy environment and has a role in the wellness of those around them.

For a list of resources, check out [Mental Health America's BIPOC Mental Health Month toolkit](#).



Advancing MCF's Strategic Priorities with Leadership Expansion

As MCF finalizes our new Strategic Plan, we're pleased to announce the expansion of our senior leadership team to advance our new strategic priorities!

Karen Duffy has been named MCF's first **Chief Development Officer**. Karen joined MCF in August 2020 as its inaugural Chief Program Officer. She has over 25 years of experience in nonprofit behavioral health and extensive expertise in program design, development and implementation as well as fundraising, marketing and communications. Karen was previously the Chief



Development Officer of a nonprofit in Montgomery County before joining MCF. In the coming months, Karen will build MCF's development team to support MCF's strategic priority to identify and cultivate new partnerships and funding opportunities.

Angelo Knox has been promoted to **Chief Program Officer**. Angelo joined MCF in November of 2022 as its first Director of Programs, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the program division. As Chief Program Officer, Angelo will lead efforts to develop new initiatives to ensure MCF is a leader in the field of family peer support. Angelo has extensive experience in developing and implementing new programs and services for youth and families during his lengthy career in nonprofit organizations.



New Pilot Program: Baltimore Corps



MCF's Baltimore Corps Staff:

Angelie Rodriguez, Irwin Sharpe, Sharonda Barnes

MCF is thrilled to announce a new partnership with **Baltimore Corps**, an organization that connects people to opportunities that can support their livelihood and help them make a positive difference in their communities and **Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc (BCRI)** which operates Baltimore's Mobile Response Crisis teams.

Best practice in mobile crisis response includes embedding a family peer support specialist on the team to support the family during and after the crisis.

In this pilot, MCF's three Baltimore Corps staff, all with lived experience caring for someone with a behavioral health challenge, will support the family while BCRI supports the individual. Our staff will also provide post-crisis follow-up, support and resource connection for families.

This is an important next step in the evolution of bringing family peer support where and when its needed most!

MCF Celebrates Pride Month!



Photo courtesy of Bill Adams at [BaltimoreBill](#)

On June 24th, MCF staff from across the state participated in the "One Love, One Heart, One Pride" Baltimore Pride Parade. For more than 40 years, this City-wide tradition has been held to mark the first pride march in New York following the Stonewall Riots. MCF is proud to be a part of the celebration of inclusivity, acceptance and love.

MCF has consulted members of the LGBTQ+ community and their families as well as organizations like [The Trevor Project](#) to compile answers to a list of commonly asked questions that foster an affirming community for all. Please take a moment to visit our website to learn more about how you can support the LGBTQ+ community.

Visit our
Website

2023 Ginger Rosela Spirit Award

In May 2020, MCF lost one of the founding members of our substance use family peer support program and the community lost a staunch champion and advocate for people with substance use disorders. Ginger Rosela was instrumental in the passage of Maryland's Good Samaritan law, a measure that could have saved her son's life.

Each year since Ginger's death, MCF has honored one Family Peer Support Specialist who exemplifies the spirit of family peer support that Ginger embodied so well. Nominees and winners are chosen by their peers. At our June all staff gathering, the Ginger Rosela Spirit Award was bestowed upon [Anne Marie Demby](#), a Family Peer Support Specialist on the Eastern Shore working with families who have a loved one with a substance use disorder.



Ginger Rosela Spirit Award Recipients Past & Present

Nicole Ukoumunne (2021), Rodney Hill (2022) and Anne Marie Demby (2023)

Anne Marie's unwavering support of her families and commitment to the communities she serves represent the very best of what family peer support and the Ginger Rosela Spirit

Award are all about. Congratulations Anne Marie and thank you for all that you do!

And many thanks to Ginger's family for joining us to celebrate and commemorate her life!

Get Connected With Our Online and In-Person Support Groups

MCF offers many support groups to provide a safe space for you to learn, share and receive compassionate help. All are facilitated by trained Family Peer Support Specialists who have dealt with similar challenges in their own families. Current groups are available for:

- Parents and caregivers of children with behavioral health challenges
- Young adults ages 18-26 with behavioral health challenges
- Anyone who cares for a person with a substance use issue (alcohol or drugs)
- Parents who have lost a child to overdose
- Anyone who cares for a person struggling with problem gambling

Groups are free for all participants and are held on different days of the week and different times of day. Find one or more that can work for you and join us soon!

[Find a Support Group](#)

Upcoming Trainings & Events

MCF offers a wide range of events, trainings and workshops for families who have a loved one with mental health, substance use or problem gambling challenges. Events are held in communities across the state or virtually and are offered at no cost to participants. Visit our website to learn more!

[Upcoming Events](#)

MCF Employment Opportunities

MCF is growing, and we have employment opportunities that might be perfect for you or someone you know! We currently have openings in many areas of the State. Please check our website for a complete list of openings.

- **Development & Communications Associate**
 - **Team Supervisor - Baltimore City**
 - **Human Resources Coordinator**
 - **Family Peer Support Specialist - Substance Use (Baltimore City residency requirement)**
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- [View All Openings](#)

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