

AUDACIOUS THINKING



THE OPEN PLACES INITIATIVE

OSI-BALTIMORE'S PROGRESS SPARKS THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLACE-BASED PROGRAMS

IN THIS ISSUE

GAS AND GLUE

1

Director's Note by Diana Morris

THE RISE OF HEROIN USE; A CONCERN NATIONWIDE

3

Insights by Scott Nolen

WILLIAM C. BAKER

6

Conversation with an OSI-Baltimore Board Member

MARY LOUISE PREIS

8

Profile of an OSI-Baltimore Investor and Leadership Council Member

ANTOINE BENNETT

10

Profile of an OSI-Baltimore Community Fellow

TALKING ABOUT RACE SERIES CONTINUES

13

Fall events include speakers Charles M. Blow and Shakti Butler

CHANGEMAKERS

14

OSI's work influences state and beyond

VOICES OF DEMOCRACY IN AN AGE OF UNLIMITED CAMPAIGN FINANCING

16

Event recap and photos

OSI-BALTIMORE SPOTLIGHT

OSI-BALTIMORE WELCOMES SCOTT NOLEN as the Director of the Drug Addiction Treatment program. An attorney with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, he worked on health disparity issues at the National Institutes of Health.

Nolen has held a variety of research, legislative and advocacy positions in the public health and juvenile and criminal justice fields. Most recently, he worked as a health scientist in the National Institutes of Health's Office of Strategic Planning, Legislation and Scientific Policy where he led a project focused on driving the national discussion on health disparities. Prior to that, Nolen was the Director of the Equal Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

GAS AND GLUE



BY DIANA MORRIS

Open Society Institute-Baltimore opened 16 years ago based on George Soros's belief that many of the most stubborn problems limiting opportunity, fair treatment and prosperity in the U.S. are best understood and addressed at the local level. Embracing that philosophy, we have partnered with government agencies, civic leaders and advocacy organizations to mount multi-year campaigns to get at the root causes of untreated addiction, poor academic performance, and high incarceration rates. Now the Open Society Foundations is building on the Baltimore example to launch a new place-based program—the Open Places Initiative—in Buffalo, San Diego and Puerto Rico. Each one of these sites, chosen through a competitive process, is utilizing an annual investment of \$1 million to advance equality, justice and democratic practice over the course of up to 10 years.

As I direct both this national initiative and OSI-Baltimore, I know that the opportunities for cross-fertilization among the places are significant. Given their different socio-economic and political landscapes, the sites provide a range

of examples of how urban centers are responding to demographic change, public budget constraints, and the new possibilities created by technology and innovation as they seek to create greater opportunity for their residents. We plan to

share our successes and our failures in Maryland to help the sites as their work evolves—and my hope is to make certain we here in Baltimore will learn from their efforts as well.



As the three sites begin to set priorities and develop strategies, I have been reflecting on the “gas” that gives sufficient momentum to a campaign to get the job done—and the “glue” that makes accomplishments stick. How do we do build this civic capacity to bring about progressive change? The answer will differ in each locale, but it certainly includes building trust-worthy relationships. At OSI-Baltimore, we have long

and graduation rates, and expand access to drug addiction treatment by developing a broad set of relationships—with advocates, researchers, practitioners, and government officials—by identifying a common purpose that is broad enough to include a range of interests. Drawing on diverse groups not only surfaces more potential solutions and spirited debate to refine them but also provides more “hands on deck” to implement reform.



THE “GAS” GIVES SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM TO A CAMPAIGN TO GET THE JOB DONE—AND THE “GLUE” MAKES ACCOMPLISHMENTS STICK.

collaborated with a broad set of local and state government officials. While that work is often harmonious, it can include some tension as we advocate for a particular point of view. The key is to build a sense of common purpose, allowing us to continue the dialogue, consider a broad range of solutions, and compromise along the way.

Increasing the number of people granted parole without jeopardizing public safety, for example, not only decreases the incarcerated population but also reduces the Department of Corrections’ budget and eases inmate management. **Similarly, we have been able to reduce school suspensions, increase school attendance**

Relationships with members of the community and with business leaders are important, too, when making change—contributing to a shared vision for the region, the resolve to work for change, and a sense of optimism. **Our Community Fellows have woven an impressive web of relationships throughout the city, connecting residents, activists and neighborhoods—and sharing information and building skills in the process.** The OSI-Baltimore Board and Leadership Council capture another set of individuals committed to using their influence to advance meaningful change. And our donors’ willingness to support multi-year campaigns to get at the root causes of problems reflects the kind of investment

in the region’s future that goes hand-in-hand when changing the city for the better. These relationships work—and will strengthen going forward—to the extent they are based on trust and clear communication.

But interest in change only goes so far. Conviction needs to be informed and shaped by strong ideas and concrete goals. This is where our grantees come in—partnering with public and private entities to develop the tools that our Baltimore region needs not only to identify and adopt sound policies but to convert them into practice. Rigorous research, budget analysis, communication, training, leadership pipelines, organizing, and the use of technology all are components of an infrastructure designed to increase civic engagement and the ability to get things done.

As OSF initiates work in Buffalo, San Diego and Puerto Rico, we are again reminded of the value of working across government, business and civic sectors to achieve lasting change. Looking forward, we will re-double our efforts here to build the relationships, tools and structures we need to increase opportunity and justice in our region. ☘

INSIGHTS:

THE RISE OF HEROIN USE

A CONCERN NATIONWIDE



BY SCOTT NOLEN

DIRECTOR, DRUG
ADDICTION TREATMENT

Scott Nolen recently joined OSI-Baltimore as the Director of the Drug Addiction Treatment program. As the nation is grappling with a troubling surge in heroin overdoses and deaths, we asked Nolen to weigh in on what is happening in Maryland and around the country, why national leaders are starting to pay attention to opioid addiction and what OSI-Baltimore has been doing to combat it, long before the topic captured recent national headlines.

In 2013, 464 people died of heroin overdoses in Maryland, an increase of 88 percent since 2011. Sadly, Maryland is not alone. Newspaper headlines show a dismal trend across the country.

In Pennsylvania: "'Killer heroin' overdose deaths on the rise in York County." In North Carolina: "Heroin use, and deaths,

on the rise." In Cincinnati: "Families suffer as heroin overdoses rise." In the Great Lakes: "Michigan heroin use, OD deaths increase."

In cities and suburbs across America, we are seeing the dire consequences of increases in opioid use, and national leaders are clamoring for answers. The

national conversation that has been created by the spikes in opioid overdose is increasing our awareness that addiction is happening in every part of our cities, suburbs and rural areas. **Addiction does not differentiate between the young or old, black or white, working class or white-collar professional.**

Recognizing the ubiquity of the problem, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said, "Opiate addiction is an urgent—and growing—public health crisis," and he vowed to fight it "aggressively."

Addiction to opiates, a class of narcotics including heroin, has long been a major concern in Baltimore.

Since its inception, OSI-Baltimore has been working to address the complex and deep-seated problems that contribute to and stem from drug addiction. We believe a multi-pronged, strategic approach is critical to address drug addiction, including the overdose crisis, in the state. This approach includes building on opportunities created by health care reform, supporting the availability of addiction services still not covered by insurance, decreasing the harms of drug use, creating access to innovative treatment that has been used effectively elsewhere, and reducing the stigma associated with addiction.

An important component of our work has focused on preventing overdose deaths. Over a decade ago, OSI-Baltimore partnered with the Baltimore City Health Department to reduce opiate overdose deaths by training people at risk of overdose to administer Narcan (also known as naloxone), which can revive a person near death from an overdose. As most overdoses are witnessed, access to Narcan and training in administering the antidote can save lives. Since 2004, over

11,600 people have been trained, and the program has since saved over 200 hundred lives and while helping many survivors begin treatment.

More recently, several of our grantees have collaborated to make this prevention approach available statewide: the Maryland Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition, and the Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies Clinic at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law advocated successfully for the passage of a "Good Samaritan" law that protects individuals who secure medical assistance for a person experiencing an overdose from certain types of criminal prosecution. Our grantees also recently won policy changes that make naloxone more readily available to lay persons trained to identify overdose symptoms and administer the medication.

There are many factors contributing to recent increases in opioid overdoses.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT
TO GET INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE
ADDICTED CONNECTED TO SERVICES
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

One factor has been the marked increase of physician prescription of opioids for pain management. A recent study found that from 2001 to 2010 the percentage of overall emergency department visits where an opioid analgesic was prescribed increased from 20.8 percent to 31 percent. For Dilaudid, which is one of the most potent yet addictive medications, the prescription rate increased 668.2 percent. Yet, the percentage of visits for painful conditions during this period only increased by four percent. Once individuals do become dependent on powerful prescription narcotics, such as oxycodone, Vicodin or morphine, they find it harder over time to obtain those prescribed painkillers from doctors. In some cases, they turn to heroin, which is cheaper and more readily available. But the strength and quality of heroin are unpredictable, and overdoses result.

A second contributing factor is that societal assumptions about who is at risk for opioid addiction decrease the likelihood that physicians will conduct proper

screens during primary care visits for all who would benefit from them. Further, stigma associated with addiction, including misconceptions that addiction results from a lack of will power, inhibits some individuals who might otherwise seek treatment.

An additional factor that contributes to the drug overdose epidemic is that the treatment system is not properly aligned to address the chronic nature of the dis-

DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND AT DIFFERENT TIMES ARE CRITICAL TO STEM THE TRAGIC IMPACT OF THIS DISEASE.

ease of addiction, which requires ongoing and varying types of interventions over time. And, until the recent enactment of health care reform, lack of insurance created financial barriers to accessing treatment, leaving many people at risk of overdosing.

Although television and movies portray overdoses as dramatic and sudden, such deaths are preventable. Opiate overdoses

often take several hours leaving significant time to provide life-saving measures.

We know that we must—and can—minimize the number of people who die from opiate overdoses.

That's one reason why OSI-Baltimore has long advocated the use of Narcan. That idea has caught on over the years, as Attorney General Eric Holder recently urged federal agencies—including the FBI, the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—to review policies and train personnel to carry Narcan kits.

We are encouraged to witness national leaders taking a strong stance about heroin overdoses. Although this problem has long been with us, some of this new interest by the media and policy makers, no doubt, has to do with the fact that many of the recent deaths have occurred in suburban

areas, affecting people who don't fit the stereotype of a "typical" heroin abuser.

Stereotypes have long suggested that low-income African Americans are the most frequent users of heroin in America—these stereotypes greatly underestimate heroin use among other racial groups. And now, the Centers for Disease Control report that the recent increase in heroin-related deaths nationwide "has

occurred almost entirely among whites." It is unfortunate that this implicit bias has painted an inaccurate picture of drug use in America, but we can, and should, use this recent increased attention and sense of urgency to put solutions in place.

Here in Maryland, with helpful policies to prevent overdose now in place, opiate overdose numbers could be decreased by incorporating a few simple interventions:

- Encourage friends or family members to get proper training and certification to administer Narcan.
- Ensure that properly trained individuals obtain a prescription for Narcan from a doctor and have it readily available.
- Train police officers and emergency workers to carry and administer Narcan.
- Educate community members about the Good Samaritan law, which protects people from certain criminal liabilities if they call 911 to report an apparent overdose.

Heroin addiction and overdose are important public health concerns for all of us—and that is why OSI-Baltimore will continue to fight to ensure that individuals and families have access to comprehensive substance use treatment and overdose prevention programs so they no longer suffer from the devastating effects of drug addiction. ☯

A portrait of William C. Baker, a middle-aged man with light brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark green patterned blazer over a white shirt with thin red vertical stripes and a blue patterned tie. The background is a solid blue color.

CONVERSATION WITH AN OSI-BALTIMORE BOARD MEMBER:

WILLIAM C. BAKER

"I've lived in and around Baltimore almost all my life and I really have a strong sense of being a citizen of Baltimore and trying to do what little I might to be a part of Baltimore's success going forward."

William C. Baker, president and CEO of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is OSI-Baltimore's newest board member. He has lived most of his life in and around Baltimore and participates in many charitable and service organizations. He is vice chairman of the board of Johns Hopkins Medicine, an honorary trustee of the Baltimore Community Foundation, a director of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and an honorary board member of the Garden Club of America.

Baker began working for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in 1976, after graduating from Trinity College in Connecticut. He started as an intern and never left. In 1982, he was named president and CEO of the foundation, which is the largest nonprofit conservation organization dedicated solely to preserving, protecting, and restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

He lives in Ruxton—in the very house he grew up in—with his wife, Mayer.

Q. What interested you and made you want to join the OSI-Baltimore Board?

A. I've long admired OSI. What OSI does is tackle the issues that very few others are willing to go after. I admire that. I admire their focus and quite frankly, I admire their results. I came on a little over six months ago.

Q. What was it about OSI-Baltimore that made you want to be a part of the work it does?

A. The focus on Baltimore really attracts me—I've lived in and around Baltimore almost all my life and I really have a strong sense of being a citizen of Baltimore and trying to do what little I might to be a part of Baltimore's success going forward. All four of OSI's major areas are focused on Baltimore—and the issues we get involved with statewide have an impact on the city as well.

Q. Is there one area of OSI-Baltimore's work that particularly resonates?

A. I'm interested in all four, but if there were one that concerned me more than anything else, it might be the work on drug addiction. Although everything—the work focused on education, the criminal and juvenile justice system, and even the Community Fellowship program—all of those are so very important, too.

But drug addiction is a hugely intractable problem in Baltimore and elsewhere; the drug trade is one of the biggest industries in the country. There are so many

elements that make it challenging: the federal policies that treat addiction as a crime, the barriers to treatment that have to be overcome just to get people into treatment; the societal views toward people who are addicted—even as one's own family members are addicted. It is true insanity.

What OSI-Baltimore is trying to do is to make the secondary and tertiary impacts of the drug industry less acute for the city and its residents. By approaching addiction as a public health issue, we are trying to address the roots of the problem. Using that approach, we are succeeding.

Q. How does your experience as the head of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation help you contribute to the work of OSI-Baltimore?

A. The skills I will draw on are the skills I have hopefully gained in my 30-some year professional life, which relate to advocacy and political acumen, marketing and trying to be strategic when utilizing limited resources to bring about societal change.

For so many years, Chesapeake Bay—and all of the rivers and streams that lead into it – had poor water quality.

When you think about all of the things that have been done to correct that over the years, and the challenges that have made progress so slow, it's very similar to the things we're trying to correct and reverse in Baltimore. These things aren't as easy as some of us on the outside looking in have thought. Big change takes a long time.

Q. How can OSI-Baltimore get more Baltimoreans involved in its work?

A. There's a lot of background noise in our lives; there's so much competition for the limited hard drives called our brains. It's not unusual for people to not know about organizations, government programs, or private sector operations in a community or a major city. So groups like OSI-Baltimore always have to be cognizant of the need to explain who they are, brand who they are, let people know what they're doing and explain it over and over again. I know because I've been working at it with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation since its inception. And I plan to help OSI-Baltimore in that area. I think that as time goes on, more and more people will know about us. 🌱

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PROFILE OF AN OSI-BALTIMORE INVESTOR
AND LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER:

MARY LOUISE PREIS

"All of us who serve on the Leadership Council, we do this also for ourselves.
We live here. This is us. This is our city."

Mary Louise Preis has been a newspaper reporter, a successful lawyer, an influential Maryland state delegate and a regular name on the list of "Maryland's Top 100 Women."

Today, at 72, she is the sum of all the years spent in those roles and others—including as the mother of three—and she generously lends her wisdom, insight and support to OSI-Baltimore as a donor and member of the Leadership Council.

Preis was born in St. Louis and grew up in Jacksonville, Illinois. She studied at Georgetown University, earned her law degree at the University of Maryland and was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1990. She served until 1999. After serving as a state delegate, Preis was appointed as Maryland's Commissioner of the Office of Financial Regulation. She became General Counsel to Citigroup in 2003 and retired as its Vice President for Community Relations in 2008.

Preis lives in Roland Park, with her husband, Frederick.

Q. You came from a small city in Illinois, which you say had “traditional values, very little social change and very little diversity.” How did you come to be such a proponent of justice for underserved populations?

A. I came to Washington to go to graduate school at Georgetown in the last bit of the Kennedy era. It was a very exciting time. There was a lot of change going on, a lot of vibrancy. In general, I think, people had a major sense that things didn't have to be the way they were; they could be different if you wanted them to be. And there was an awakening among women of their potential and place—and that they could be change agents as well. I found that very exciting.

Q. What led you to choose a career in public service?

A. I always had a job. Before the children came, I was a teacher. For a few years,

I was a writer for a local newspaper—I covered local politics and the theater. In 1980, I went to law school and from then on I have worked in some way in public service. The opportunity to work for the public has been wonderful. It shapes you to understand how hard the problems are and that there's not just one solution to things. You learn that things are not going to change dramatically in a tiny period of time. Change takes time.

Q. At one point, you were involved in many organizations, sitting on many boards throughout the city. But after retiring in 2008, you scaled back to only a few, including OSI-Baltimore's Leadership Council. Why do you support OSI-Baltimore?

A. The word they use is “audacious.” I do think they have the most audacious approach, but I also think it's a very courageous approach to problem-solving, and they get very talented people to help. OSI-Baltimore doesn't pick out

everything to do. They focus on the things they believe are really fundamental to both change and improvement in people's lives. They direct their attention to those things that are significant in Baltimore. And the things that they work on are things that I'm very interested in, such as juvenile justice and school attendance. Those are two key topics in our city and they're actually related.

Q. You are a devoted member of OSI-Baltimore's Leadership Council. What's your role on the Council?

A. My role is to listen and learn what OSI is projecting to do, what some of the OSI-Baltimore Community Fellows are doing, what new initiatives are being undertaken. Then what I do is support and offer ideas. I'm persuaded that the collective is more important than the individual in many ways. Collective effort is what supports the individual, and this is a very rewarding way to be a part of the collective effort. OSI has proven that their initiatives and approaches are replicable, transferable and scalable. I'm no longer in a position to work on these things myself, but it's rewarding to me to be able to help other people continue to try to do it. But also, it's important to say: All of us who serve on the Leadership Council, we do this also for ourselves. We live here. This is us. This is our city. 🌟

CHANGE



"YOU LEARN THAT THINGS ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY IN A TINY PERIOD OF TIME. CHANGE TAKES TIME."

A portrait of Antoine Bennett, a Black man with short hair, wearing a white t-shirt with a logo and a long chain necklace. He is sitting outdoors on a red, textured surface. The background shows a residential area with buildings and trees.

PROFILE OF AN OSI-BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FELLOW:

ANTOINE BENNETT



As a young man growing up in Sandtown-Winchester, Antoine Bennett ran with a crew he says “inflicted a lot of negativity on our community.” At 18, in a misplaced show of loyalty and bravado, he shot a man. He ended up spending three-and-a-half years in prison—a stint he called “frightening.”

Bennett got his GED in prison, read piles of books and felt compelled upon his release to give back to the community he’d once harmed.

As a 2012 Community Fellow, Bennett created Men of Valuable Action (MOVA),

a leadership development program that strives to reduce recidivism among men in the community by promoting education, encouraging family stability and offering career development support. The program serves fathers who dropped out of high school or were formerly

incarcerated, with the ultimate goal of helping those men be the best fathers to their children as possible.

“Fatherhood is the common denominator,” says Bennett, now 43. “We want to partner with these men to help them not



"Men want to be of help; we want to solve problems. I'm telling you: If you give a brother just an ounce of encouragement by saying 'this is who you are and this is how you can help,' they identify and they do help. They do contribute."

recognize how willing he was to help guide her future.

Today, along with the help of several dedicated mentors, those are the same things he strives to personally provide the 35 men who have come through the MOVA program.

"Many times we look at African-American dads and assume they are deadbeat dads, not dead-broke dads," he says. "If we don't feel that we can help provide for our children when they need it or want it, it cuts us off at the knees. So whenever a gentleman is talking to me about his role as a dad, he almost always says, 'I need to find a job.' I haven't met one man yet who said, 'I don't love my kids at all.' It is always from a position of, 'I wish I could do better.'"

MOVA helps connect men to GED programs, such as one run by 2013 Community Fellow Bernice Bishop and job-training programs, such as those at the Center for Urban Families. Bennett also

hosts regular events for the fathers, such as "Dancing with Daddy"—a date night for fathers and their daughters or sons.

"We have movie nights free of charge with hot dogs, popcorn. We've had

Halloween parties with candy, hot chocolate and, cider," Bennett says. "At Christmas time we gave away over 100 toys—one toy per child. I can't express to you the elation of dads being able to bring their kids to do something that makes them so happy. One dad had five kids, and every one of them walked away with a toy."

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only improve their lives but also help them improve the community by stabilizing the family unit—restoring them to the families they all want to be a part of, but don't always know how."

Coming out of prison, Bennett knew what he needed to get on track and get back into his own daughter's life: **He needed an education, a good-paying job, and a sense that he could be of value to her.** He hoped to become the person she could believe in and he hoped she would



GROWTH

Most recently, Bennett and his mentors have started a weekly financial literacy course with the men, using a curriculum from “Rich Dad Poor Dad,” a best-selling personal finance book by Robert T. Kiyosaki.

The idea for the course came from a survey Bennett did of the MOVA participants that showed that budgeting and finances were a top need.

One of Bennett’s proudest accomplishments is the work he and the MOVA men did to clean up a small community park that had been a rodent-infested dumping ground and eyesore. The park had been restored once before, but fell into disrepair over the years.

Bennett and others envisioned the park as a place where the MOVA fathers could bring their children, where families could have picnics or enjoy outdoor concerts. With a grant from the Baltimore

ONE OF BENNETT’S PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS IS THE WORK HE AND THE MOVA MEN DID TO CLEAN UP A SMALL COMMUNITY PARK.

Community Foundation, and working with volunteers, MOVA tilled the ground, pulled up weeds, painted, planted flowers and repaired a gazebo. The process took a little more than a year, and Bennett is planning a celebration in August, with food and music.

“Many of the dads, if they don’t currently live in the projects, they come from there or their kids are still there,” Bennett says. “The park is a place where they can walk to and have some place safe, close and reliable where they can go to with their kids.”

And not insignificantly, the park restoration also provided the MOVA men a way to

give back to Sandtown-Winchester—tangible, sweat-built reparations for the past.

“We feel it so painfully when men are not stepping up in our community,” Bennett says. **“Men want to be of help; we want to solve problems. I’m telling you: If you give a brother just an ounce of encouragement by saying ‘this is who you are and this is how you can help,’ they identify and they do help. They do contribute.”** ☺

UPCOMING:

FALL EVENT SCHEDULE



FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES

OCTOBER 1, 2014, 7PM

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY, WHEELER AUDITORIUM
400 CATHEDRAL STREET, BALTIMORE

Charles M. Blow, New York Times op-ed columnist, will join us to talk about his own extraordinary life story—growing up in segregated, dirt-poor Louisiana, so poor that he and his four brothers literally ate the edible clay of a ditch. As told in his new memoir, Blow will share his reflections on coming of age during his chaotic and tumultuous youth. Shawn Dove, director of the Open Society Foundations' Campaign for Black Male Achievement, will serve as moderator for the discussion.



CRACKING THE CODES

OCTOBER 6, 2014, 7PM

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY, WHEELER AUDITORIUM
400 CATHEDRAL STREET, BALTIMORE

Race—more than any other demographic factor—determines levels of individual educational achievement, health and life expectancy, the possibility of incarceration, and wealth in the United States. And we need to talk about it. This evening will include a screening of *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity* and a community dialogue with filmmaker and racial justice educator Shakti Butler.

This event is co-sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore Racial Justice Action, and YWCA Greater Baltimore.

For more info on upcoming events, visit www.audaciousideas.org.

UPDATES:

CHANGEMAKERS

OSI'S WORK INFLUENCES STATE AND BEYOND

IDENTIFYING RISKS EARLIER

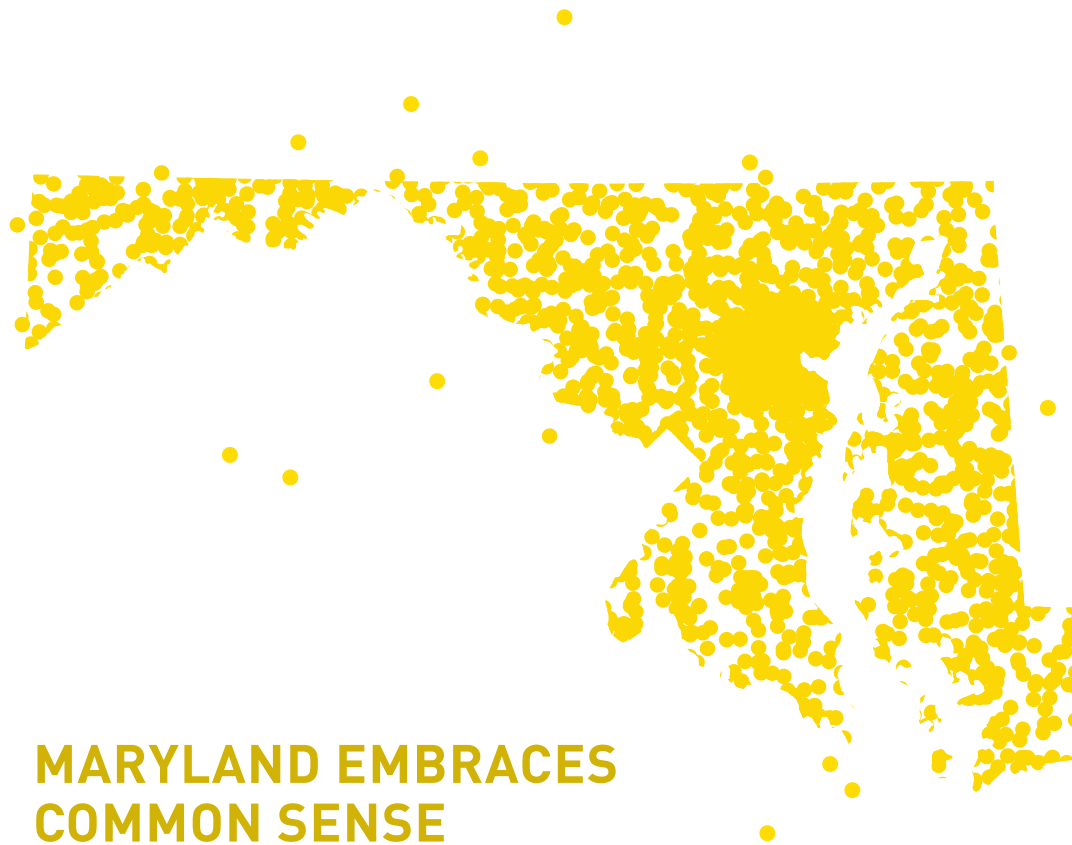
Doctors and nurse practitioners often do not recognize that their patients' complaints and ailments stem from drug addiction—especially because patients who use drugs frequently neglect to share that information.

Given that, it is not hard to understand why there is a significant gap between the numbers of individuals in Baltimore receiving substance abuse treatment and the number of those who need treatment.

To change the situation, in 2010 OSI-Baltimore provided support that enabled the Mosaic Group, under the direction of Marla Oros, to train primary care providers practicing in Baltimore to identify the symptoms of addiction and properly refer patients to addiction treatment. The process, Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), has been tested and used elsewhere. It has been shown to help identify individuals who may be at risk for substance use disorders or who may already be addicted and need a

referral for treatment. The OSI grant was used to support a planning process with four community health centers serving 16 sites in Baltimore City to develop protocols for the implementation of SBIRT.

THIS MODEL WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT IT HAS RECEIVED CRITICAL ACCLAIM WITHIN THE FIELD AND NOW HAS ATTRACTED SIGNIFICANT STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT.



MARYLAND EMBRACES COMMON SENSE DISCIPLINE PRACTICES

This model was so successful that it has received critical acclaim within the field and now has attracted significant state and federal support. **The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently announced an award of \$10 million over five years to Maryland to increase early intervention and treatment for adults at risk for substance abuse. Additionally, the Hilton Foundation has awarded a matching grant of \$1 million to focus on conducting SBIRT for adolescents, including at school based health centers.** All of this funding was leveraged through the success of a set of original planning and implementation grants from OSI-Baltimore.

Just in time for the new school year, the Maryland state school board adopted a new set of discipline guidelines aimed at keeping kids in school and on track to graduate—rather than pushing them out for minor offenses.

OSI-Baltimore has long championed this work in the city and across the state, most recently co-chairing the workgroup that drafted the new state guidelines. **In 2008, because of the work of OSI-Baltimore and our partners, Baltimore City Schools adopted a similar discipline code and has seen a decrease in the number of suspensions and an increase in graduation rates, especially for African American boys.**

Diana Morris and OSI-Baltimore were recently awarded the 2014 Friend of Education Award by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) for this work.

"We are honored to be recognized by NASBE as a Friend of Education," says Diana Morris. **"As we work together with schools, parents, and advocates to assure that every child attends school every day, we know that state and local boards of education are critical partners.** Keeping children connected to school, from their earliest years all the way through graduation, truly is a community effort. We hope that the changes happening in Baltimore and now in Maryland will be a fine example to school boards across the country." 🌟

EVENT PHOTOS:

VOICES OF DEMOCRACY IN AN AGE OF UNLIMITED CAMPAIGN FINANCING



Jonathan Soros, chief executive officer of JS Capital Management, and Heather McGhee, president of Demos, a research and policy center, spoke at a small gathering in June about the impact that money has on electoral campaigns and how we can improve the quality of democracy in our country.



Heather McGhee, Robin Wood, and Veronica Cool



Frank Gallagher and Jamie McDonald



Congressman Elijah Cummings, Heather McGhee, Jonathan Soros, and Tom Hilbink



Chip Wendler, Bill Clarke, and Calvin Butler



Jonathan Soros, Steve Ziger, and Adam Lioz



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BIG CHANGE

BALTIMORE 2014

CONNECT TO THE
POWER OF CHANGE

OCTOBER 27, 2014, 3:30-7PM

CENTER STAGE

700 NORTH CALVERT STREET, BALTIMORE

Back by popular demand, Big Change Baltimore 2014 will feature an afternoon of provocative speakers who will inform and challenge us.

Tickets going fast! Purchase tickets at BIGCHANGEBALTIMORE.ORG or call Center Stage Box Office at 410.332.0033.

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OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE focuses on the root causes of three intertwined problems in our city and state: drug addiction, an over-reliance on incarceration, and obstacles that impede youth in succeeding inside and out of the classroom. We also support a growing corps of social entrepreneurs committed to underserved populations in Baltimore. Before we make a single grant, we analyze the root causes of a problem, cull research and examine current practices. Because we aim for lasting sustainable solutions, we engage public and private partners from the start. It is only then, with a clear picture of the problem, that we begin to focus our approach and diligently craft a roadmap for change.