

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Commissioner  
210 Guilford Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21202

For Immediate Release

**Media Contact: Ingrid Antonio Tel: 443-984-2623**

**Email: [Ingrid.Antonio@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Ingrid.Antonio@baltimorecity.gov)**

## City Announces Availability of Funds for Treatment Program

**BALTIMORE, MD (April 25, 2007)** — The Baltimore City Health Department and Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc. are announcing the availability of funding for an evidence-based treatment program for youth at risk for delinquency, out of home foster care placement, and school failure.

The program is called Multi-Systemic Therapy and is commonly known as MST. MST is a family and home based treatment modality that strives to change how youth function in their natural environment – home, school and community, in ways that promote positive social behavior while decreasing antisocial behavior.

Targeted youth are Baltimore City residents between the ages of 11 and 17 years who exhibit a pattern of delinquent behavior and are at risk for out of home placement. Along with preventing out-of-home placement of these children, MST aims to prevent re-arrest, disruptive school behaviors, substance abuse, and psychiatric hospitalizations. The underlying philosophy of treatment is to strengthen parents' skills and resources to promote positive functioning of the youth in the family, school and community.

The project is funded by grants from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice and the Baltimore Community Foundation. Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc. will select a provider to deliver MST services through a competitive RFP process. The RFP will be available on the BMHS website ([www.bmhsi.org](http://www.bmhsi.org)) today.

The program will fund one MST team to serve approximately 50 to 60 high-risk juveniles from Baltimore City. Each youth receives approximately four to six months of services.

“MST is a proven treatment for adolescents at high risk,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health. “This is an important step toward our goal of making this treatment available to all those youth who need it. I look forward to working with the state of Maryland to incorporate MST into the Medicaid program for further funding.”

Questions can be directed to Jermel Gilliam, at 410-837-2647 or by email at [jgilliam@bmhsi.org](mailto:jgilliam@bmhsi.org).

###