



## IN LOVING MEMORY

*Carol B. Butler*

July 5, 1945 – May 7, 2009

Carol Burton Butler served as Program Director of IBR/REACH Mobile Health Services from 1997 until her death in May 2009. During her tenure, she expanded the use of mobile services in Baltimore City, was instrumental in securing the building in which IBR/REACH now resides, and became a nationally recognized expert in the use of medication-assisted treatment and mobile services for substance abuse patients.

Carol was born and raised in Baltimore County. She graduated from Towson High School in 1963. After entering recovery from her own addiction to opiates, she began her career in substance abuse treatment in 1971, moving from a secretarial position, to a counseling position to director of Sinai Hospital's Drug Dependency Program. In 2000, she received her Masters of Arts degree from Notre Dame College and was inducted into the National Honor Society of Business Administrators, Delta Mu Delta.

Carol was one of the early pioneers in substance abuse treatment in Baltimore and a cornerstone in the foundation of Baltimore's substance abuse treatment system. Her focus was first and foremost on quality care for patients. She became known as a visionary and innovator in developing programming that anticipated the needs of patients and expanded services to those afflicted with this disease. Some early innovations included a hospice care program for substance abuse patients with HIV who were homebound and continued to need medication, and co-locating primary health care services on the premises of substance abuse treatment programs to encourage patients to seek healthcare at the facility. The intent was to improve the quality and continuity of their healthcare as well as decrease their costly use of hospital emergency departments for non-emergency issues.

Most recently, Carol's work in advancing the technology of mobile treatment attracted attention from as far away as Australia and as near as the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She worked with several countries, states and local counties to establish or expand medication-assisted treatment services within their jurisdictions through the use of mobile services. She pioneered teaming the mobile unit with existing Baltimore City substance abuse treatment programs who did not have access to medications used in substance abuse treatment. This allowed more programs to offer their patients a full-continuum of care at one site.

Perhaps Carol's biggest contribution to the field was her passion, knowledge and experience. Even after 38 years of working for vulnerable patients, battling the stigma of substance abuse, and dealing with society's lack of knowledge about substance abuse treatment, she continued to be a compassionate and outspoken advocate, refusing to tolerate anything less than excellence in programming, service and policy. Her work, dedication and example resulted in saved lives and the alleviation of pain for many individuals.

Her colleagues remember her as a generous, gracious, compassionate woman who enlivened any discussion and who never lost sight of what it was all about: her patients. This is her legacy to us.

By Suzan Swanton, LCSW-C

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