



Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems

invites you to participate in a

“A Listening Circle” “The Impact of Addiction on Families”

ALL ARE WELCOME

Purpose

- **Learn** how bSAS is working for you to address this public health crisis
- **Share** how addiction has impacted you and your family and if the help you needed has been available
- **Suggest** what Baltimore City and bSAS can do in support of families dealing with addiction All are welcome to attend

**On-site “confidential”
treatment assessments and
referrals will be available**

Thursday May 28, 2009

New Shiloh Baptist Church

2100 North Monroe Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

AGENDA

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Registration and Buffet Dinner

6:00 – 6:10
Opening Remarks

6:10 – 6:25
“State of Treatment” in Baltimore City
Greg Warren, President-bSAS

6:25 – 6:30
History and Purpose of “Listening Circles”

6:30 – 7:30
Three “20 minute” Listening Circle Sessions

7:30 – 8:00
Report Out - Next Steps

Seating for this event is limited - To RSVP, please contact Carlos Hardy – Director of Public Affairs via email at chardy@bsasinc.org, or register by telephone at (410) 637-1900

History of “Listening Circles”

Listening Circles... are recognized in many communities as gatherings for people to share common and not so common experiences with one another.

A Listening Circle is like a forum or “town hall” meeting in that it provides a place and time for public discourse. Issues of the day are aired and debated – raising awareness and at times leading to community-wide decisions.

Yet the concept of Listening Circles reaches deeply into the heritage and tradition of ethnically diverse communities across the globe. Whether held in African society among elders under the fabled Baobab tree, in Native American communities as talking circles, or in Latino communities as encuentros,

Listening Circles... are not only places for a meeting of minds, but for the sharing of what is in our hearts.

Listening Circles... hear the personal truth a husband, wife, child, or young person struggles to confront, and they embrace an individual with collective wisdom.

Listening Circles... give people the courage to drag the ugly into the open so that it may be made into something more beautiful. Listening Circles reflect the belief that we never are alone in our world. The world – no matter how it may treat us – can be enhanced or overcome by the unity of many people in whose love and commitment we abide.