

'It was supposed to be a hospital, but it basically was a prison.'

Maryland students describe abuse within residential institutions

Trigger warning: This article contains information about and somewhat graphic descriptions of physical violence, suicidality, sexual abuse, and substance abuse.

When 15-year-old Alexander Sanderson moved down the former St. Patrick's Senior Center building in 2016, he thought it was just a residential facility. But he quickly learned it was not. In 2016, he was one of 12 students who just referred Sanderson to the Baltimore Children and Adolescent Health (BACH) clinic to school therapy. He said that when he first stepped into the residential mental health treatment program, he was shocked by the building's hidden inside the former St. Patrick's Senior Center in Baltimore. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

They had thrown me into a restraint chair, so I was strapped into a chair. No movement, no nothing. They had drugged me, and I was nodding out... when I woke up for a little bit, all the staff were freaking the f--- out.

ISABELLE PEREIRA

Students will learn and grow academically, socially and emotionally in a safe, secure and nurturing environment. But it didn't take long for Sanderson to realize that the facility was far from being a residential mental health treatment program. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

Abusive environment

"We were essentially being kept isolated from the outside world and our family members," Sanderson recalls. He was hospitalized during the same period when he brought up the "involuntary" treatment at the facility. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

Some students felt that, inside at the facility, staff members were not allowed to have any personal life. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

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According to Sanderson, the incident did not result in any real consequences for the staff involved. He also describes a person who was severely injured and had to be hospitalized. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

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According to her website, RICA admits admissions to its residential facility, which is unacceptable in terms of safety and care. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

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measures. Peters and Sanderson feel that RICA should be held accountable for the abuse. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

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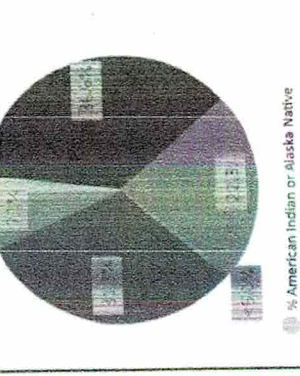
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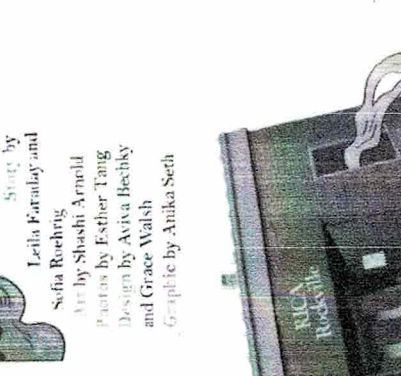
RICA Rockville 2019-2020 demographic breakdown



- % American Indian or Alaska Native
- % Asian
- % Black
- % Hispanic/Latino
- % Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- % White
- % Two or more races

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN: According to RICA's 2019-2020 school year, the most common race among students was Black, at 56.6 percent, followed by White at 31.3 percent and Latino students at 22.3 percent.

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While information about students' experiences within residential care remains limited, Peters and Sanderson believe that the program's impact on students' lives is significant. He said that he was shocked to find out that the building was not just a residential facility, but a residential mental health treatment program.

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