


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject: Position:	20-0239R – Informational Hearing - Responding to Mental Health Crises NO OBJECTIONS		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

September 22, 2020

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #20-0239R, entitled, “Informational Hearing - Responding to Mental Health Crises.” The purpose of this bill is to call on several City agencies and mental health advocates “to investigate how behavioral and mental health crises are handled, identify gaps, and develop the best path forward for addressing and de-escalating crises.”

BCHD is a strong proponent of a “health in all policies” approach, and addressing mental health crises should be no different. Regarding the specifics of how such events should be handled, however, BCHD defers to Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB), the designated local authority on behavioral and mental health. In deferring to BHSB, BCHD has **no objections** to Council Bill #20-0239R.