



Yolanda Pulley
Founder and Executive Director
People Empowered By The Struggle (PEBTS)
4502 Carleview Rd
Baltimore, MD 21207
443-355-8014

Public Health & Environment Committee
Councilwoman Phylicia Porter, Chair
Councilman Mark Conway, Vice-Chair
100 N. Holliday St
Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

LO25-0024 - Oversight of Recovery Homes and Substance Abuse Clinics in Baltimore City

Date: July 30, 2025

Chairwoman Phylicia Porter, Vice-Chairman Mark Conway, Committee Members, & Citizens of Baltimore City,

My name is Yolanda Pulley and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony for the Public Health & Environment Committee Oversight Hearing

Let's call it what it is, these so-called addiction clinics are drug mills with a business license. Americare on Pennsylvania Avenue should be shut down immediately. They're not treating addiction, they're feeding it, prolonging it, and billing the hell out of Medicaid while they do it.

They're putting people on opioid treatment who never even used opioids just to pad their insurance claims. That's not medicine, that's exploitation. They are keeping Black and poor communities sedated for profit, stringing people along for months, even years, with no intention of helping them get clean. This is legalized street dealing behind a desk, and it's killing our communities slower than fentanyl, but just as sure. Shut. Them. Down.

Now let's spend a minute on what's actually working.

I want to talk to you about what real healing looks like.

It's not someone chained to a methadone clinic for years. It's not walking into a cold building to get a dose and walk out still broken, still lost.

Healing is what happens at Cornerstone Treatment Center on Pennsylvania Avenue. You feel it the moment you walk through those doors there is no judgment, only truth. There is no shaming, only rebuilding.

I watched two people, two people who were buried deep in addiction, who had lost everything, climb out of that darkness together through the support and care at Cornerstone. They didn't just get clean. They learned to live again. I stood at their wedding. I watched them say, "I do" not just to each other, but to life, to wholeness, to a future. They are now working, parenting, and living proof that recovery is real when the right people are leading it.

Cornerstone didn't drug them into submission. They gave them tools, structure, and hope. They gave them back their names.

This center is not a clinic, it's a place where people are restored. It is what every other treatment program should strive to become. Because when you see someone go from being just another number in a system, to being a bride and groom standing tall, sober, loved, and free, that's not just recovery. That's resurrection.

Imagine if every treatment center in Baltimore had the same heart, the same structure, and the same success stories as Cornerstone. How many families would be restored? How many children would get their parents back? How many funerals could we stop?

Sincerely,

Yolanda Pulley

Yolanda Pulley

Executive Director/Founder

People Empowered By The Struggle

501(c)3 Nonprofit

"A One-Stop-Shop for all Struggles"