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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Public Health and Environment Committee** is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of Baltimore's residents by advancing policies that promote health equity, environmental justice, and sustainability. Recognizing the deep connection between public health and the environment, the committee works to reduce health disparities, improve access to essential services, and address climate-related challenges that impact communities.

**The Honorable Phylicia Porter
Chair**

PUBLIC HEARING

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

RECONVENING HEARING

Legislative Oversight #LO25-0023

**Understanding Psychiatric Programs (PRPs) in Baltimore
City**

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**CITY OF
BALTIMORE**

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor
Zeke Cohen – Council President



Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director
100 Holliday Street, Room 415
Baltimore, MD 21202

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0023

Understanding Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRPs) in Baltimore City

RECONVENING HEARING

Sponsor: Councilmembers Porter, et al

Introduced: June 16, 2025

Purpose:

For the purpose of examining the accessibility, effectiveness, and regulatory oversight of PRP services, ensuring they align with community needs and best practices in mental and behavioral health care. The discussion will focus on improving coordination, accountability, and equitable service delivery.

Effective: Upon enactment.

State Level Partners that have been invited:

Maryland Behavioral Health Administration
Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore

Background

On July 23, 2025, the committee held its first hearing on this legislative oversight topic. Following are notes taken during the hearing:

Major Speakers

- Alyssa Lord, Behavioral Health Administration
- Dan Rabbitt, Behavioral Health Systems - Baltimore
- Public Testimony/Speakers
 - Cecilia Gonzalez, Action Baybrook, Inc.
 - Jan Eveland, Action Baybrook, Inc.
 - Venn McCormick, New Life Recovery Center
 - Darren Rogers, Steps 2ward Success
 - Vanessa Day, Speaker
 - Yolanda Pulley, People Empowered by the Struggle
 -

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Porter gave opening remarks. Some remarks were: “This hearing serves as a follow-up for past hearings and for future hearings to come! The issues we are having in the city, we want to know what the drivers and tangible solutions are needed to address same; want to rectify problems within the community(s).” She also informed the attendees and listening audiences how the hearing would proceed.
2. The representative from the Behavioral Health Administration gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
3. Committee member Torrence also gave opening remarks stating, “I am concerned about meeting the needs of community members. There are high rates of substance abuse and mental health issues! We want to make sure we have “good actors” involved in and/or with addressing these issues.”
4. The representative from the Behavioral Health Administration – Baltimore, gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
5. Committee/council members asked the representatives from the Health Administrations questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/concerns were:
 - Regulation Requirements: What is the process, follow-up and discipline process?
Answer: Per Ms. Lord, will follow up in writing.
 - Question: When the programs in the City do not perform the proper work, why continue licensing them?
 - Providers Ratio: Do you have data for same? Concern: Primary care desert in the 7th District (not enough available) – is of concern
 - Concern: Decisions being made by Providers
 - Quality of Outcomes:
 - Is there data available for outcomes; that shows results of the PRPs? Such as:
 - The start, progress and etc. of customers?
 - Concern: Separating the good from the bad providers
 - Concern: Bringing together partners; bringing together the “quality of outcomes,” connecting the dots needed!
 - Providing licenses: Comments, questions and is of concern!
 - Comments and concern regarding needs not being met
 - Growth of the Customers Served
 - Was there growth within certain areas and/or geographics?
 - One goal is to bring in more stakeholders
 - Workforce shortage – is of concern. How are you dealing with these shortages?
 - How do you look at the maps to determine where additional services are needed?
 - Location of centers: Centers are crowding out other businesses in the community – is of concern
 - Changes in the COMAR Regulations: Talk about this. Was there a committee for same? And if so, who was on the committee?
 - How is the oversight for providing and/or referring customers to the best care possible?
 - I would like to review the rate(s) of return!
6. Public Testimony was held (approximately six [6] speakers). Some comments, topics of discussion and/or concerns were:
 - Concerns:
 - Better enforcement and distribution needed
 - Confusion about license requirements

- The number of people who are “bused” into communities causes:
 - Increased crime
 - Decreased homeownership
 - Too many providers serving in community(s)
 - Obtaining rehabilitation specialists is hard!
 - Bringing in more partners for quality relationships
 - Providers having the knowledge needed for serving customers – is of concern
 - More strategies are needed with partners to hold people accountable
 - Sustainability and quality care and services
 - PRPs Program is being run inefficiently; it is making millions of millions of dollars off of customers’ pain!
 - Oversight is lacking!
 - Accountability is needed
 - Baltimore city community deserves better!
 - Concern: Building trust
 - Comments:
 - Goal: Is to propel individuals to the next level of success
 - Building skill sets
 - I would like to have more conversations with pertinent parties
5. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks stating, “We are attempting to resolve incrementally, these issues! We need partners with the State of Maryland and State legislation to get the services needed.”
 6. Hearing recessed.

On Wednesday, February 4, 2026, the committee will reconvene the hearing.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Notes taken during July 23, 2025, committee hearing.

Marguerite Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite Currin
 Analysis Date: February 2, 2026

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**PUBLIC HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

LO25-0023

**REPORTS
AND/OR
HANDOUTS, ETC.**

NONE AS OF THIS WRITING

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NONE AS OF THIS WRITING