



FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department	 HEALTH DEPARTMENT BALTIMORE MARYLAND
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Resolution 12-0065R Informational Hearing – Mandatory Transportation for Drug Treatment Programs		

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

September 14, 2012

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Resolution 12-0065R Informational Hearing – Mandatory Transportation for Drug Treatment Programs. The purpose of this bill is to request representatives from the City and State agencies that regulate and support chemical dependency treatment programs appear before the Council to discuss steps that can be taken to make treatment more accessible to residents of areas far from existing facilities while minimizing the impact of treatment facilities on their host neighborhoods, including the possibility of requiring facilities to provide transportation to their patients.

BCHD recognizes and appreciates that the needs of those individuals seeking treatment for substance abuse obtain services. Our goal is to ensure that everyone who needs treatment receives it. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide transportation to the treatment facilities. Our limited resources are directed toward the treatment, and subsequent recovery of those seeking our assistance.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this hearing to discuss access to substance abuse treatment and will provide any additional information necessary to facilitate this conversation. Our partner, Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems (BSAS), who implements the City's substance abuse treatment system, is also available to provide additional information.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health
Greg Warren, President & CEO, BSAS

Comments

