



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Ordinance: 21-0103

Suicide Prevention Coordinator - Establishment

Sponsor: *President Mosby, et al*

Introduced: *July 19, 2021*

Purpose:

For the purpose of establishing the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator within the Health Department; and providing for the duties of the Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

Effective: The 30th day after the date it is enacted

AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Health	
Department of Finance	
City Solicitor	

ANALYSIS

The bill would add a new section to Title 2, Subtitle 1 of the Health Article to establish the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator within the Health Department. The Suicide Prevention Coordinator would be responsible for collaborating with system partners to support behavioral health system management and working to prevent suicides and mental health crises. The duties of the Coordinator would include:

1. Reaching out to community organizations, groups and agencies to inform them about available resources regarding suicide prevention;
2. Coordinating and providing suicide prevention trainings and trainings regarding the relationship between trauma and suicide as needed;

3. Carrying out new public awareness prevention strategies;
4. Distributing resource materials as appropriate;
5. Generally collaborating with: the State Behavioral Health Administration's Office of Suicide Prevention; the Baltimore Police Department; the Fire Department; local emergency departments; Baltimore Crisis Response; the Baltimore City Public School System; academic partners; people with mental health conditions; and other local agencies and services;
6. Collaborating with the Health Department's Child Fatality Review team to develop and implement prevention plans;
7. Collaborating with emergency departments, pediatricians, primary care physicians, the Baltimore City Public School System, and colleges and universities to encourage screening for suicidality and to establish continuity of care for patients at risk of suicide;
8. Developing and coordinating a data collection and analysis plan to determine trends regarding suicides and suicide attempts;
9. Developing a plan of action to reduce suicides in Baltimore City;
10. Providing consultations to mental health, school, juvenile, and social services professionals;
11. Representing the Health Department in interagency meetings and committees;
12. Supporting system accountability to ensure that services are responsive to the behavioral health needs of Baltimore City residents;
13. Working with diverse populations in Baltimore City to actively decrease stigma associated with mental health; and
14. Fulfilling other related duties as assigned by the local behavioral health authority.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies, Bill 21-0103



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