

F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner <i>Oxiris Barbot</i>	Health Department	MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201			
	Subject	Council Bill 11-0265R- Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Health Department - Loss of Federal Lead Paint Abatement Funding			

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

March 25, 2011

In response to City Council Resolution, 11-0265R, the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) will attend the hearing to provide the information requested. This resolution calls for the Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to address the City Council on the loss of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds for the abatement of lead-based paint in homes of low-income residents with children.

The Health Department (BCHD) welcomes the opportunity to address the misinformation that has been reported recently in print and broadcast media, and brief the council on the current situation. In 2007, BCHD assumed management of the city's lead abatement program from Healthy Start, Inc. The Health Department received \$3.9 million from HUD to abate 364 homes by January 14, 2011. Since lead abatement became a function of the Healthy Homes Bureau, the following successes have been realized:

- BCHD developed an efficient structure for getting contractors selected and paid through the City's procurement system
- BCHD has remediated 697 homes of lead paint risks hazards, a six-fold increase over the previous two year period (2005-2006)
- The number of lead poisoned Baltimore City children decreased from 315 in FY2008 to 205 in FY2010

In spite of these achievements, in April 2010 BCHD recognized that it was unlikely that the program would meet the original grant goal, and proactively reached out to HUD for assistance, requesting a 6-month no-cost extension. This slowdown in production was due to both the larger economic crisis, which impacted the number of units that could be approved under HUD rules for awarding remediation grants and loans and other factors. As a result, BCHD was unable to meet the requirements of the HUD Lead Abatement Grant.

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