



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0021

City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

Committee: Public Health and Environment
Chaired by: Councilwoman Phylicia Porter

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM

Time (Ending): 11:35 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 45 In-Person
Approximately 10 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter	Ryan Dorsey	Odette Ramos
Mark Parker	Mark Conway	James Torrence

Bill Synopsis in the file?	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Agency reports read.	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	☐ yes	☐ no	☒ n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	☐ yes	☐ no	☒ n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	☐ yes	☒ no	☐ n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Letitia Dzirasa, Mayor's Office
- Michelle Taylor, Health Department
- Sara Whaley, Mayor's Office of Opioid Response (MOOR)
- Public Testimony/Speakers
 - Kim Wireman, Powell Recovery Center
 - Allen Tien, Medical Decision Logic, Inc.
 - Venn McCormick, New Life Recovery Center
 - Andre Robinson, Speaker

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Porter, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks and afterward received public testimony.
2. Public Testimony (four [4] speakers). Some concerns and/or comments by speakers were:
 - The need for stable housing
 - Engagement is important!
 - More data is needed
 - Thanked the councilmembers for holding hearings
 - Talked about statistics/data regarding overdose deaths in 2025 vs. 2024
 - A new campus is being built on the 100 block of St. Paul Street
 - Appreciates the way the Opioid Fund is being disbursed!
 - Has worked over 15 years at the frontline to promote prosperity in Baltimore City
 - Know enough about the opioid eco-system for prevention treatment
 - Need tools that are useful to frontline staff!
 - The work we do as Scientist does not always get into “community use” in a timely manner
 - Importance of bridging gaps for prevention, intervention and tracking.
 - Talked about DISK = data, information, scientific, knowledge – for the purpose of making better decisions and outcomes
3. Dr. Dzirasa, Dr. Taylor, and Sara Whaley in conjunction presented and discussed a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
4. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
 - **Committee requests by Chairwoman Porter:**
 - Epidemiological (EPI) Investigation
 - Concerns:
 - New & emerging drugs
 - How drugs are getting into the market
 - What are we doing to combat this from a health department perspective?
 - **Within 30 days** after the completion of the investigation, provide a public forum and/or briefing regarding same with council members
 - Naloxone Neighbors
 - What are the five (5) neighborhoods?
 - Is there any connection and/or collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs (MOCA)? If not, I would like you to make a connection/collaboration with MOCA; **to include briefings available for council members and community associations.**
 - Healthy Cities Need Assessment
 - It is my understanding that it will take approximately six (6) months to complete!
 - **After the assessment is completed, provide a briefing to council members regarding same.**

- Question(s)/Comments/Concerns/etc.:
 - **Academic Detailing Program**
 - I thought this program was in place (scope & program) – Can you talk more about this?
 - **Training – Substance Use Providers**
 - Why don't hospitals provide training within their own infrastructure?
 - **Committee request by Chairwoman Porter: Comment: Believes there is an opportunity for hospitals to engage more in this area. I would like to follow up and hold a meeting(s): To meet with Dr. Taylor, her team and representatives from the hospital(s) to figure out what the balance of work and mission can be, just to make sure that the Health Department is not mission creeping in areas where we are already stretched thin! (Maximizing workloads)**
 - **Overdoses/Overdose Deaths – Committee/councilmember Conway**
 - What do you see in overdoses? Overdose deaths? Is any data gathered for same?
 - What drugs are people overdosing on?
 - What type of drug(s) are people dying from?
 - What is the change for drug use in the City? Especially since the supply available has dropped! **Per Dr. Taylor, will research and report back. (possibly what appears on the death certificates)**
 - **Prevention**
 - Concern: How we prevent addiction to begin with! Or, for those suffering from addiction, how do we get them the proper help needed?
 - Concern: How are we thinking about helping with support services for those dealing with addiction? How do we articulate the needs?
 - Question: How do we interface with the treatment side of things?
 - **The Systems**
 - The City has made significant progress for emergency responses to overdoses! The question/trick here is: What do we do to make sure the actual event(s) doesn't happen again! The only way to do it is by helping people manage their addiction! And that is when our partnerships with treatment centers become really important for making connection with folks!!!
 - Comment: I am always thinking about how we can do things better!
 - **Drop in Overdose Fatalities**
 - How effective is this matrix when thinking about the scale and scope of substance abuse disorder in our communities? And are there other matrixes available for tracking the problems we need to address?
 - Comments regarding: Devastating impact on families and communities in the long term.

- Upcoming Needs Assessment
 - Assessment will focus on housing and homelessness specifically! I can recommend several other groups that at least need to be considered in terms of who's at risk.
 - Are we able to work with you on the housing issues? I would like to be a part of the conversation! **Answer: Yes**
 - Older Adults
 - Comments: Impact of COVID, isolation, housing instability, uptick in homelessness (disturbingly so!) – What are you thinking about in this area?
 - We need a legion of social workers to help!
- City Schools
 - We need to work proactively with our schools to educate and for prevention!
 - Are testing strips available? Available at least in our high schools!
- Changes in Drug Supplies
 - Talk more about this, especially the increase in testing
 - How equipped are we within our strategy to make continual adjustments to some fairly rapid changes in the drug supply? (National trends)

5. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks. Hearing recessed; to reconvene at a later date.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe.

1. See "red" highlights above.
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Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File

Date: May 4, 2026

Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight: City's Response to the Opioid Crisis	# LO25-0021
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Phylicia Porter
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



			Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allen	Tien	Medical Decision Logic	X	✓			
Kim	Wireman	Powell Recovery Ctr.	X	✓			
Venn	Mcormick	New Life Recovery Ctr.	✓	✓			

*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

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First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allen	Tien	7921 Ruxury Rd TOWSON, MD	✓	✓			
Andre Rob	Roberson	6411 FOREST RD CHEVERLY MD	✓				

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City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Public Health & Environment Committee

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2346 139 8282, Password: Public,
Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m94007af36d5764f2a910c76621c1c61f)
MTID=m94007af36d5764f2a910c76621c1c61f

LO25-0021 - City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 6 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, Ryan Dorsey, James Torrence, and Odette Ramos

Absent 1 - John Bullock

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO25-0021 City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

For the purpose: to provide a platform for city agencies, healthcare providers, and community advocates to discuss ongoing challenges, identify service gaps, and explore policy solutions to enhance Baltimore's collective response to opioid addiction and overdose prevention.

Hearing called to recess; to reconvene at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT