



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0007

Behavioral Health

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

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM
Time (Ending): 11:45 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20 In-Person
 Approximately 15 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter Ryan Dorsey
 Mark Parker Odette Ramos
 Mark Conway

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

• **Public Testimony/Speakers**

- Stacey Loveless, Speaker
- Kim Wireman, Powell Recovery Center
- Adrienne Breidenstine, Behavioral Health System Baltimore, BHSB

Major Issues Discussed

1. The Committee held the third (3rd) hearing on Behavioral Health; prior hearings were held on March 12, 2025, and September 10, 2025.
2. Chairwoman Porter gave opening remarks. Some remarks were:
 - Today, we are continuing discussions about this area
 - Conversations similar to those we will have today are important!
 - Today we will discuss:
 - State regulations
 - Protecting people in Baltimore City
 - Sharing the work that goes on with our partners
 - Identifying the root causes
 - She also explained to the public/listening audience why she allows public testimony first.
3. One attendee gave public testimony. She stated, “conducting this oversight is essential!” She also talked about some of the hardships she experienced doing her recovery phase.
4. The representative from the Behavioral Health System Baltimore gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.** Some topics discussed and presented in the PowerPoint Presentation were:
 - Core functions
 - Mental Health Clinics
 - Help line (access to care) – call 988
 - COMAR 10.63 Revisions (where they are now)
 - Also stated, “Is excited to seeing the revisions going into effect!”
 - Procedures/processes for “filing complaint(s)”
5. Chairwoman Porter gave some remarks regarding COMAR 10.63 revisions.
6. The representatives from the Powell Recovery Center gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.** Some topics discussed and presented in the PowerPoint Presentation were:
 - Public Insurance System
 - Blindspot(s) in behavioral health
 - What centers does and the services provided
 - The representatives/employees of the Center continue to ask themselves, “What more can we do? And what is actually working.”
 - Discussed the processes associates with the “data warehouse”
 - There is a need for more outcome data!
7. Chairwoman Porter talked about why she invited Ms. Wireman, Powell Recovery Center to the hearing. She commented on the importance of “practice-based evidence; looking at where folks can be now as well in the future (intervention).” This is an opportunity for both organizations (Behavioral Health System and Powell Recovery Center) to work together, she said.
8. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/concerns were:
 - **Committee requests: Chairwoman Porter: - To BHBS**
 1. **Provide the Audit Report(s) for Service Providers at the “aggregate level”**
 - **To use for upcoming budget season**
 - To generate new ideas for Council
 - To have a more assertive discussion regarding policy
 - Specifically looking for types of complaints
 - To examine if the audits are effective or not
 2. **Provide the data surrounding complaints. To include:**
 - Types of complaints
 - i. **At the district level**

- A committee member said to the representative from the Powell Recovery Center, “I am glad to see you that you are tracking folks, outcomes and collecting the data pertaining to same.”
 - What does it cost to operate your data base at the Powell Center? Answer: Don’t have that information now but can research and report back.
 - How intensive is time for collecting data?
 - How are people coming into the Center in terms of their circumstances? We want to make sure we are dealing with the root causes. Is data available for same?
Answer: Yes
- COMAR 10.63
 - How are these update requirements being made? Is it a bill?
 - Data requirements:
 - Comments:
 - The best opportunity to improve quality is to do so before opening to make sure:
 - You have good people, good processes, good accountability, good spot checks, to identify things working/not working and to sort the good from the bad?
 - The regulations that are being updated, “Is there any data component being required regarding licensing? And, if there is, will it be made to the public?”
 - There is not much information out there for patients looking for quality care, they usually go to the closes facility to them and may not get the best services needed. Concern: Improved quality!
- Committee requests: **Committee member Conway: - To BHBS**
 - 3. During the COMAR 10.63 Revisions – if possible, add some type of data requirement that can be made public so people can sort the good from the bad
- Licensing Process
 - Is there a requirement in the licensing process for data to be reported to the State so that we can have regular updates on outcomes and/or output from various providers?
- Accreditation Surveys
 - Concern: State not sharing data with City of Baltimore
 - Per Chairwoman Porter a new bill is being worked on that will require surveys in the future to be submitted to the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals and the Office of Consumer Affairs.
- Gaps in Care – is of concern
 - There should be some way for “information sharing” between organizations, agencies and hospitals!
 - There should be more reporting between case managers and hospitals!
 - Engaging hospitals to close gaps, to be more organized!
 - More coordinated needed for people to get the care they need!
 - Per committee member Ramos, “I would be interested in following up on “closing gaps.”
- Housing
 - Concern: Housing stability is important!
 - What is happening in this area?
 - We want to make sure that the housing piece is up front, centered and working!

- Residential Treatment Centers in Neighborhoods
 - Talk more about this
 - We need a better understanding of what is going on in our neighborhoods
- Enforcement of Unlicensed/Uncertified Facilities (Recovery Homes)
 - This is of concern
 - Per Chairwoman Porter, "Stay tuned – there is an upcoming bill to address this issue, to outlaw unlicensed facilities in Baltimore City! To adhere to certain standards!
- Concentration of Providers – is of concern
 - Concentration of providers could be bad for clients!
 - It could have an impact on the customers who need care!

9. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?
If yes, describe.

Yes No

1. See highlighted areas above in "red and yellow."

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff
 Cc: Bill File

Date: April 13, 2026

Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight: Behavioral Health	# LO25-0007
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Phylcia Porter
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stacey	Loneless	4812 Pennington Ave Balto MD 21226	✓				
Kim	Wireman	145 Broadway Powell Recovery 21239	✓				✓

*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



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 1, 2026

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2342 618 7603, Password: Public,
Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?
MTID=mdf77975e1f9300e1a17441f1a5ecddb8](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=mdf77975e1f9300e1a17441f1a5ecddb8)

LO25-0007 - Behavioral Health

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 5 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, Ryan Dorsey, and Odette Ramos

Absent 2 - James Torrence, and John Bullock

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO25-0007 Behavioral Health

For the purpose of reviewing Baltimore City's capacity to respond to increasing behavioral health challenges, including BCHD staffing, data-based evaluation and reporting, alignment of City-funded non-City entities, and the visibility of pro-behavioral health efforts

Hearing recessed; to reconvene at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT