



F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0048R – Request for State Legislation - Child Tracking System		

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

July 25, 2008

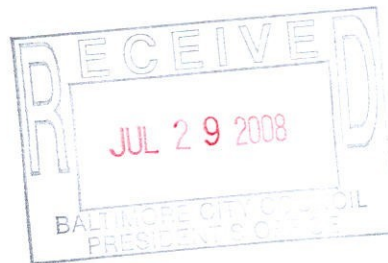
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Resolution 08-0048R. This resolution urges the Baltimore City Delegation to the 2009 Maryland General Assembly to introduce legislation creating a centralized community and governmental resource that would allow for the collection and integration of Maryland-born children's evolving data and would help to share children's information among schools, after-school programs, social service agencies, and medical providers from birth to age of majority, in order to increase positive outcomes for Maryland's youth.

School drop-out, juvenile delinquency, violence, and repeated foster care placement are concerns shared among social service, juvenile justice, health and educational systems. These experiences have been associated with a negative life trajectory often resulting in a greater likelihood of teenage pregnancy, HIV infection, abuse of alcohol and other drugs as well as major health problems.

Recognizing the critical role that each City agency plays in lives of our young people, the Health Department strongly supports efforts to provide youth and their families with more coordinated access to City services. A key component of this is the collaboration and sharing of information between agencies.

The Health Department looks forward to continuing to work with the Baltimore City Council and state and local agencies to improve the health and overall well-being of our City's youth.

Cc: Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
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Comments