

# INFORMATIONAL HEARING— DEVELOPING A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO BALTIMORE CITY'S OVERDOSE CRISIS

Baltimore City Council

Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

November 17, 2021



**Behavioral Health System**

Baltimore

# CORE FUNCTIONS



# STATE SYSTEM CONTEXT

Maryland Department of Health

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graph TD; A[Maryland Department of Health] --> B[BHSB]; B --> C[BH Organizations]; C --> D[Individuals, Families, Communities];
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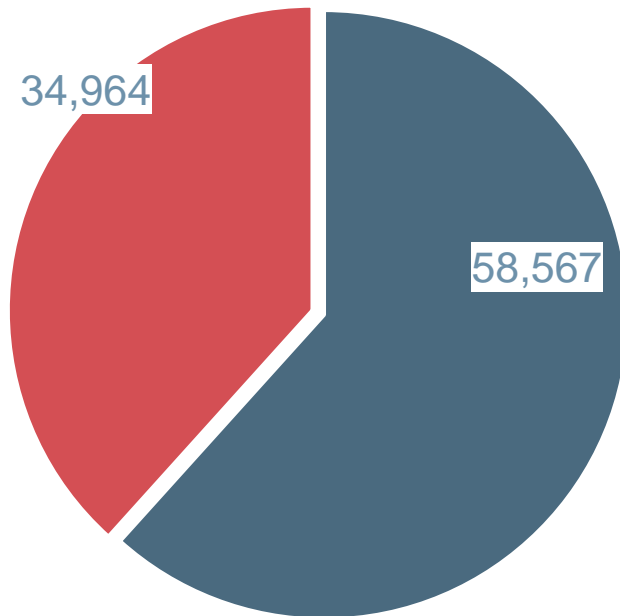
BHSB

BH Organizations

Individuals, Families, Communities

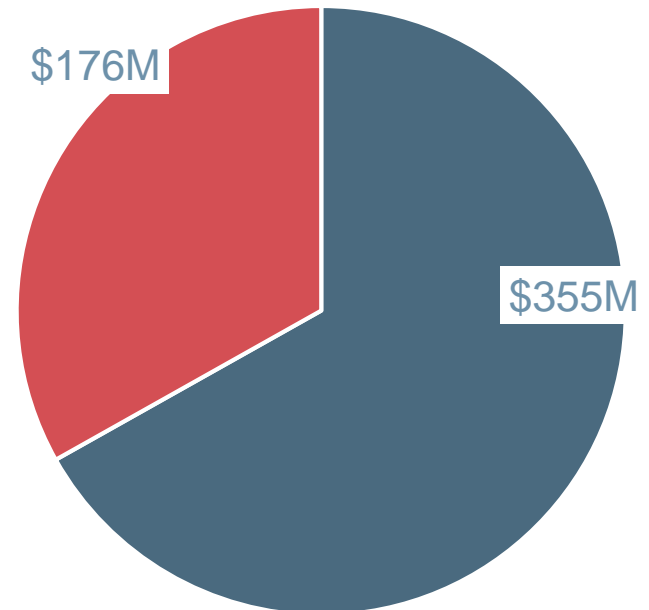
# FEE-FOR-SERVICE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IN BALTIMORE CITY

People Receiving Behavioral Health Services, FY 19



- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Services

Expenditures on Behavioral Health Services, FY 19



- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Services

# FY20 GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

\$45 million

109 organizations

254 contracts



# COORDINATED OVERDOSE RESPONSE

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Collaboration with System Partners  
and Community Stakeholders

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Overdose Prevention and Education

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Broadening Access to Opioid  
Treatment & Recovery Supports

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Advocacy for harm reduction strategies  
and Overdose Prevention Sites

# COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES

- Overdose Intervention Team (OIT)
- Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)
- Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Quarterly Forums
- Overdose Prevention & Response (BCHD/BHSB internal)

# OVERDOSE PREVENTION

- Bmore POWER, network of people with lived experience
- 10,582 people trained on OD prevention and how to administer naloxone
- 23,347 doses of naloxone distributed
- [www.GoSlow.org](http://www.GoSlow.org)





# ACCESS TO OPIOID TREATMENT

- 35 Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) in Baltimore City
- Hub and Spokes Project
  - Developed 5 spoke provider
  - 87 individuals served
- Methadone Home Delivery Project served 218 people
- Buprenorphine Initiative (expand access to uninsured)
  - Office-Based Opioid Treatment
  - PCARES Re-entry van
- Patient Medical Engagement Project

# WELLNESS & RECOVERY CENTERS



- Six centers provide consumer-centered peer support services
- Baltimore City residents visited Wellness and Recovery Centers 78,127 times
- 1,297 one-on-one peer support sessions
- 3,216 group support sessions
- 217 people confirmed entering treatment

# ADVOCACY FOR HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- End the War on Drugs
- Decriminalization of drug paraphernalia
- Broader use of fentanyl testing

## ADVOCACY FOR OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES

OPS provide innovative and effective ways to engage people who use drugs around safer drug use and link them to treatment and support services

BRIDGES Coalition launched “Yes on my Block” campaign

[I say Yes to OPS in Baltimore, Maryland - Action Network](#)



When you say **yes** to overdose prevention sites, **you say yes to:**

- ✓ Safer communities
- ✓ Saving lives
- ✓ Healthy neighbors

Overdose  
Prevention Sites?

**YES!**  
on my  
block

Learn more: [www.bridges4ops.org](http://www.bridges4ops.org)

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Here2Help Hotline: 410-433-5175.** Free confidential advice, emotional support, and referrals to services.
- **Maryland Crisis Stabilization Center:** 2700 Raynor Ave, Baltimore, MD 21216. Walk in recovery support services offered 24/7. No insurance required.
- **NAMI Metro Family Education & Support:** Trainings for caregivers of people with mental illness and/or Family Support Groups, <https://namibaltimore.org/find-support/>
- **Maryland Coalition of Families Peer Support Services:** one-on-one support for parents and caregivers of children with mental health conditions, <http://www.mdcoalition.org/get-help-now/help-for-parents-caregivers>

# CONTACT US



*Envisioning a city where people live  
and thrive in communities that  
promote and support behavioral  
health*

**Adrienne Breidenstine**  
**Vice President, Policy &  
Communications**

[Adrienne.Breidenstine@BHSBaltimore.org](mailto:Adrienne.Breidenstine@BHSBaltimore.org)

100 S. Charles Street,  
Tower II, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Baltimore, MD, 21201

Phone: 410-637-1900

Website: [www.BHSBaltimore.org](http://www.BHSBaltimore.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BHSBaltimore](http://www.facebook.com/BHSBaltimore)

Twitter: @BHSBaltimore