



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

City Council Resolution: 21-0044R

Informational Hearing - COVID-19 and Mental Health

Sponsor: Councilmember McCray, et al

Introduced: May 3, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, and members from the Baltimore City healthcare community to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss the financial, physical, and social impacts that COVID-19 has had on the mental health of Baltimore City residents and what resources are available to help people cope and recover from this trauma.

Effective: Upon enactment

AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Health	
Mayor's Office of Human Services	
Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success	
City Solicitor	

ANALYSIS

The resolution invites representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, and members from the Baltimore City healthcare community to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss the financial, physical, and social impacts that COVID-19 has had on the mental health of Baltimore City residents and what resources are available to help people cope and recover from this trauma.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic recession are impacting mental health in a variety of ways. COVID-19 survivors, particularly those who experience severe or prolonged symptoms, often have lasting mental health impacts and may be at higher risk of suicide. Additionally, many people have experienced job and income loss, housing insecurity, loss of healthcare coverage, social isolation, and other challenges associated with poor mental health outcomes. The pandemic has also created new barriers to accessing mental health services.


A Kaiser Family Foundation analysis published in February 2021 found a significant increase in adults reporting symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder during the pandemic. It also highlighted the negative mental health impacts from the pandemic on young adults, adults in households with job loss or lower incomes, women with children, people of color, and essential workers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s):

- L Sher, Post-COVID syndrome and suicide risk, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7928695/>
- Kaiser Family Foundation, The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use, <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/>
- Resolution 21-0044R



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