



**POWELL RECOVERY CENTER, INC.**

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## **Written Testimony Submitted for the Record**

### **Baltimore City Council Public Health & Environment Committee**

Legislative Oversight LO25-0021 — City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Chair: Councilwoman Phylicia Porter

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Kim Wireman, and I am the President and CEO of Powell Recovery Center in East Baltimore.

Thank you for continuing to focus on the opioid epidemic and on the people, families, and neighborhoods living with its impact every day. I appreciate the City's leadership and the seriousness with which this Committee is approaching this work.

At Powell, we see every day that recovery often begins in the middle of crisis. Many people arrive after repeated overdoses, repeated emergency department visits, trauma, and unstable housing. In our own client population, only about 10 percent report stable housing when they come to us. That reminds us that people are not starting from a level playing field — they are starting from survival.

That is why engagement matters so much. We have worked hard to strengthen the front door of treatment through immediate access to medication, greater client choice, mental health triage, comfort-focused withdrawal support, and close review of who is staying engaged and who may be at risk of leaving too soon. We have learned from our own data that when someone completes 30 days of treatment, they have about a 70 percent chance of remaining in treatment for 90 days.

We have also learned that better data can help all of us respond earlier and more effectively. At Powell, we have built a data warehouse that connects treatment, client surveys, ED visits, pharmacy, lab, and vital-records data to help us understand risk sooner and improve care in near real time. When providers, hospitals, outreach teams, and City leaders can see patterns faster, we have a better chance to intervene before another overdose, another emergency visit, or another loss.

I am here today to say thank you for continuing this work, and to offer Powell as a willing partner in efforts that strengthen engagement, coordination, retention, and practical use of data to help shape better treatment, intervene more effectively and save lives.

Thank you.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Kim Wireman, LCSW-C, LCADC**

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