


FROM	NAME & TITLE	CHRIS RYER, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #19-0410 / THE BALTIMORE CITY TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE CARE ACT		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

August 20, 2019

The Department of Planning is in receipt of City Council Bill #19-0410, which is for the purpose of establishing the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force and its members; setting forth certain duties of the Task Force; requiring certain agencies to designate certain individuals to undergo formal training in trauma-informed care and to perform certain other duties related to ensuring that certain agencies are delivering services in a manner consistent with best practices in trauma-informed care; requiring certain agencies to submit periodic progress reports to the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council regarding the re-orientation of certain city services to focus on trauma-informed care; re-constituting the current Office of Children, Youth, and Families to be the Office of Children and Family Success; making a primary duty of the Office of Children and Family Success to lead a citywide initiative to prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of services; defining certain terms; correcting and conforming related provisions; and generally relating to providing trauma-informed services to the citizens of Baltimore.

The 2019 Sustainability Plan (formally adopted on April 22, 2019) addresses the need for increased trauma-informed care practices in Baltimore City and support of children and families:

People and Nature

Strategy #2: Build stronger neighborhoods and stronger social connections.

Action 1: Develop high quality nature immersion programs for young children as a coping tool for trauma and stress.

Action 2: Expand the Docs in the Parks program by increasing the number of participating local medical professionals and developing a park locator map to show what features and amenities are accessible to patients.

Healthy School Environments

Strategy #2: Provide a welcoming environment for students, faculty, and families, and increase access to nutritious foods.

Action 1: Fund a Community School Coordinator in every school and maintain an active School Wellness Team to improve school climate and address family and community needs. Involve families and community members in school decisions and develop opportunities for parent learning.

The Department of Planning's Office of Sustainability has partnered with the Department of Recreation and Parks to plan and implement the Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) initiative. This initiative addresses the need for increased trauma-informed care practices in Baltimore City:

Strategy #1: Strengthen partnerships between the health, early childhood, education, and environmental communities.

Action 2: Increase trauma-informed care practices among the environmental and education communities, and increase nature-based experiences among the health and childcare communities.

The CCCN team has created a "Cross-Training Committee" dedicated to addressing this strategy. The committee includes representatives from the Office of Sustainability, the Health Department, Recreation and Parks, the Baltimore City Childcare Resource Center, the National Aquarium, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Baltimore City Schools, and others. They are currently planning a day of workshops to provide education, environmental, and childcare providers with trauma-informed care training, as well as outdoor experiential training to those in the health and education sectors.

The Department of Planning recommends approval of City Council Bill #19-0410.

The Department of Planning looks forward to working with the Department of Health, the Office of Children and Family Success, and others on partaking in trauma-informed care training and providing trauma-informed services to the people of Baltimore. The Department would need additional funding for the trainings mentioned in the bill if they will be at a cost to city agencies, and therefore suggests the trainings be provided by the Office of Children and Family Success.

Given increasing research showing the mental and physical health benefits of connecting children to nature, the Office of Sustainability recommends the amendment of *Part IV Section 22-17: Baltimore City Trauma-Informed Care Task Force – Composition* to include a representative from the Department of Recreation and Parks or the Office of Sustainability to advocate for increased nature connections in Trauma-Informed Care.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Anika Richter, Youth Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Sustainability at 443-984-2725.

CR/ewt

cc: Mr. Jeff Amoros, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. Colin Tarbert, BDC
Mr. Derek Baumgardner, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration

Mr. Bob Pipik, DHCD
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Mr. Liam Davis, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Dominic McAlily, Council Services