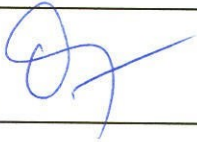



F R O M	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Health Department 1001 E. Fayette St.		
	Subject	Council resolution 10-0184R- Informational Hearing - HIV/AIDS State of Emergency		

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

March 10, 2010

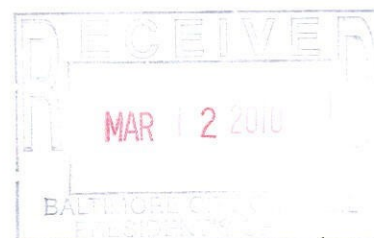
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Resolution 10-0184R- Informational Hearing - HIV/AIDS State of Emergency. This resolution calls for BCHD to update the City Council on efforts to alleviate the AIDS epidemic in Baltimore, and the ongoing collaboration between all levels of government and community partners working to address the HIV/AIDS state of emergency in Baltimore City.

Since the mid 1980s, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has profoundly affected citizens of Baltimore. Intravenous drug use and the sharing of used syringes has been a main catalyst for the spread of the disease since the beginning, causing a disproportionate impact upon individuals who are already at risk for poor health outcomes. Minority communities have been particularly hard hit in Baltimore. The number of city residents living with documented HIV/AIDS cases has risen to over 13,000 in 2007. The good news is that the city's annual HIV incidence rates appear to be decreasing in recent years. Meanwhile, public funding for HIV services targeting low income residents has reached a new height. The Health Resources and Services Administration directly awarded BCHD more than \$22 million this past year to fund HIV treatment and support services to the metropolitan area.

BCHD has been working to alleviate the effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Baltimore, and looks forward to the opportunity to discuss ways to facilitate ongoing collaboration to address this crisis. The attached report provides the City Council a snapshot of where Baltimore has been, and where it currently stands in relation to this epidemic. BCHD continues to work with the Mayor's Commission on HIV/AIDS and the Greater Baltimore HIV/AIDS Health Services Planning Council, as well as a variety of other partners in combating this disease. As a new decade begins with the HIV/AIDS state of emergency still in effect, BCHD recognizes that it is more important than ever to support and assist in coordination of the vital work of all of organizations combating this disease.

We appreciate the opportunity afforded to us by City Council Resolution 10-0184R to discuss our efforts, and welcome further discussion.

CC: Angela Gibson
Richard Matens
Rachel Indek



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Comments