

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0103
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: President Mosby and Councilmembers McCray, Cohen, Bullock, Porter,
Middleton, Burnett, Ramos

Introduced and read first time: July 19, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance,
Health Department

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Suicide Prevention Coordinator – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator within the Health
4 Department; and providing for the duties of the Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

5 BY adding

6 Article - Health

7 Section 2-103.1

8 Baltimore City Revised Code

9 (Edition 2000)

10 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
11 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

12 **Baltimore City Revised Code**

13 **Article – Health**

14 **Title 2. Department of Health**

15 ***Subtitle 1. Organization and General Authority***

16 **§ 2-103.1. Suicide Prevention Coordinator.**

17 (a) *In general.*

18 There is a Suicide Prevention Coordinator within the Health Department.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 (b) *Scope.*

2 The Suicide Prevention Coordinator shall:

- 3 (1) collaborate with system partners to support behavioral health system management;
4 and
5 (2) work to prevent suicides and mental health crises.

6 (c) *Duties.*

7 The Suicide Prevention Coordinator shall:

- 8 (1) REACH OUT TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND AGENCIES TO INFORM
9 THEM ABOUT AVAILABLE RESOURCES REGARDING SUICIDE PREVENTION;
- 10 (2) COORDINATE AND PROVIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAININGS AND TRAININGS
11 REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRAUMA AND SUICIDE AS NEEDED;
- 12 (3) CARRY OUT NEW PUBLIC AWARENESS PREVENTION STRATEGIES;
- 13 (4) DISTRIBUTE RESOURCE MATERIALS AS APPROPRIATE;
- 14 (5) GENERALLY COLLABORATE WITH:
- 15 (I) THE STATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION’S OFFICE OF SUICIDE
16 PREVENTION;
- 17 (II) THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT;
- 18 (III) THE FIRE DEPARTMENT;
- 19 (IV) LOCAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS;
- 20 (V) BALTIMORE CRISIS RESPONSE;
- 21 (VI) THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM;
- 22 (VII) ACADEMIC PARTNERS;
- 23 (VIII) PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS; AND
- 24 (IX) OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES AND SERVICES;
- 25 (6) COLLABORATE WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM
26 TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PLANS;
- 27 (7) COLLABORATE WITH EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS, PEDIATRICIANS, PRIMARY CARE
28 PHYSICIANS, THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND COLLEGES AND

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1 UNIVERSITIES TO ENCOURAGE SCREENING FOR SUICIDALITY AND TO ESTABLISH
2 CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR PATIENTS AT RISK OF SUICIDE;

3 (8) DEVELOP AND COORDINATE A DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS PLAN TO
4 DETERMINE TRENDS REGARDING SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS;

5 (9) DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION TO REDUCE SUICIDES IN BALTIMORE CITY;

6 (10) PROVIDE CONSULTATIONS TO MENTAL HEALTH, SCHOOL, JUVENILE, AND SOCIAL
7 SERVICES PROFESSIONALS;

8 (11) REPRESENT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN INTERAGENCY MEETINGS AND
9 COMMITTEES;

10 (12) SUPPORT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY TO ENSURE THAT SERVICES ARE RESPONSIVE
11 TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF BALTIMORE CITY RESIDENTS;

12 (13) WORK WITH DIVERSE POPULATIONS IN BALTIMORE CITY TO ACTIVELY DECREASE
13 STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL HEALTH; AND

14 (14) FULFILL OTHER RELATED DUTIES AS ASSIGNED BY THE LOCAL BEHAVIORAL
15 HEALTH AUTHORITY.

16 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
17 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
18 Ordinance.

19 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
20 after the date it is enacted.