



## HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0023

### Understanding Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRPs) in Baltimore City

**Committee:** Public Health and Environment

**Chaired by:** Councilwoman Phylicia Porter

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025

**Time (Beginning):** 10:10 AM

**Time (Ending):** 11:55 AM

**Location:** Council Chambers

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 45 In-Person  
Approximately 30 Virtually

#### Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter      Ryan Dorsey  
Mark Parker        John Bullock  
Odette Ramos       James Torrence  
Mark Conway

Bill Synopsis in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read. ....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

#### Major Speakers

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Alyssa Lord, Behavioral Health Administration
- Dan Rabbitt, Behavioral Health Systems - Baltimore
- Public Testimony/Speakers
  - Cecilia Gonzalez, Action Baybrook, Inc.
  - Jan Eveland, Action Baybrook, Inc.

- Venn McCormick, New Life Recovery Center
- Darren Rogers, Steps 2ward Success
- Vanessa Day, Speaker
- Yolanda Pulley, People Empowered by the Struggle

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### Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Porter gave opening remarks. Some remarks were: "This hearing serves as a follow-up for past hearings and for future hearings to come! The issues we are having in the city, we want to know what the drivers and tangible solutions are needed to address same; want to rectify problems within the community(s)." She also informed the attendees and listening audiences how the hearing would proceed.
2. The representative from the Behavioral Health Administration gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
3. Committee member Torrence also gave opening remarks stating, "I am concerned about meeting the needs of community members. There are high rates of substance abuse and mental health issues! We want to make sure we have "good actors" involved in and/or with addressing these issues."
4. The representative from the Behavioral Health Administration - Baltimore gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
5. Committee/council members asked the representatives from the Health Administrations questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and concerns were:
  - Regulation Requirements: What is the process, follow-up and discipline process?  
Answer: Per Ms. Lord, will follow up in writing.
  - Question: When the Programs in the City does not perform the proper work, why continue licensing them?
  - Providers Ratio: Do you have data for same? Concern: Primary care desert in the 7<sup>th</sup> District (not enough available) – is of concern
  - Concern: Decisions being made by Providers
  - Quality of Outcomes:
    - Is there data available for outcomes; that shows results of the PRPs? Such as:
      - The start, progress and etc. of customers?
    - Concern: Separating the good from the bad providers
    - Concern: Bringing together partners; bringing together the "quality of outcomes," connecting the dots needed!
  - Providing licenses: Comments, questions and is of concern!
    - Comments and concern regarding needs not being met
  - Growth of the Customers Served
    - Was there growth within certain areas and/or geographics?
  - One goal is to bring in more stakeholders
  - Workforce shortage – is of concern. How are you dealing with these shortages?
  - How do you look at the maps to determine where additional services are needed?
  - Location of centers: Centers are crowding out other businesses in the community – is of concern
  - Changes in the COMAR Regulations: Talk about this. Was there a committee for same? And if so, who was on the committee?
  - How is the oversight for providing and/or referring customers to the best care possible?
  - I would like to review the rate(s) of return!

6. Public Testimony was taken (approximately six [6] speakers). Some comments, topics of discussion and/or concerns were:

▪ Concerns:

- Better enforcement and distribution needed
- Confusion about license requirements
- The number of people who are “bused” into communities causes:
  - Increased crime
  - Decreased homeownership
  - Too many providers serving in community(s)
- Obtaining rehabilitation specialists is hard!
- Bringing in more partners for quality relationships
- Providers having the knowledge needed for serving customers – is of concern
- More strategies are needed with partners to hold people accountable
- Sustainability and quality care and services
- PRPs Program is being run inefficiently; it is making millions of millions of dollars off of customers’ pain!
- Oversight is lacking!
- Accountability is needed
- Baltimore city communities deserves better!
- Concern: Building trust

▪ Comments:

- Goal: Is to propel individuals to the next level of success
    - To build skill sets
  - I would like to have more conversations with pertinent parties
5. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks stating, “We are attempting to resolve incrementally, these issues! We need partners with the State of Maryland and State legislation to get the services needed.”
6. Hearing recessed.

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

**If yes, describe.**

☐ Yes ☒ No

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff  
cc: Bill File

Date: July 28, 2025

# Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject:</b> <span style="color: red;">Legislative Oversight:</span> Understanding Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRPs) in Baltimore City	<b>#</b> LO25-0023
<b>Committee:</b> Public Health and Environment	<b>Chair:</b> Phylicia Porter
<b>Date:</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">Wednesday, July 23, 2025</span>	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM
<b>Location:</b> <span style="color: red;">Council Chambers</span>	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Te	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Vena	McMinnick	102 Saint Paul St New Life Recovery Center vennerh@gmail.com	✓				
Jan	Eveland	511 E. Patapsco Ave Balt, MD 21225	✓				
Cecilia	Gonzalez	Action Baybrook 511 E Patapsco Ave cgonzalez@actionbaybrook.org	✓				
Quinn	Alk	Council President's Office					
Darren Rogers	Rogers	Steps2ward Success	✓				

\*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Public Health & Environment Committee

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Wednesday, July 23, 2025

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:  
#1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2341 461 2528, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=ma00bff6d6d3cb2b8d3df51cbc0211307)  
MTID=ma00bff6d6d3cb2b8d3df51cbc0211307

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#### LO25-0023 - Understanding Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRPs) in Baltimore City

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, Ryan Dorsey, James Torrence, John Bullock, and Odette Ramos

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO25-0023 Understanding Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRPs) in Baltimore City

For the purpose of examining the accessibility, effectiveness, and regulatory oversight of PRP services, ensuring they align with community needs and best practices in mental and behavioral health care. The discussion will focus on improving coordination, accountability, and equitable service delivery.

Hearing called to recess.

#### ADJOURNMENT