
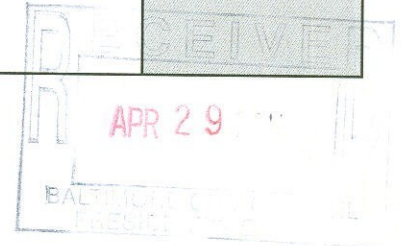


FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner <i>Oxiris Barbot</i>	Health Department	 HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF BALTIMORE 1797 BALTIMORE MARYLAND
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Resolution- 11-0268R Informational Hearing – Adult Protective Services		

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

April 1, 2011



The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) has reviewed Council Resolution- 11-0268R Informational Hearing – Adult Protective Services. The purpose of the bill is to request the Baltimore City Department of Social Services and the Baltimore City Office of Adult Protective Services to report to the City Council on the operations of their agencies. This bill asks for an accounting of the number of incidences of abuse and neglect of adult vulnerable persons, as compared to the number of cases that are substantiated. They are also asked to discuss their efforts to educate communities about abuse of the elderly and the vulnerable, as well as the procedures and responsibilities for reporting abuse.

As stated in the bill, Adult Protective Services serves persons aged 18 and over who lack the physical or mental capacity to provide for their daily needs. The purpose of the program is to prevent or remedy the abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interests and are at risk of immediate harm to their own person or to others. The program provides professional services to protect the health, safety, and welfare of endangered, vulnerable adults living in the community by themselves, in family homes, group homes, or assisted living facilities. Adults over 18 who are considered vulnerable due to age, mental, emotional, or physical abilities are an at-risk population for abuse often because of their reliance on others to care for them. These individuals can be neglected, abused, or exploited financially, and victims often do not report due to embarrassment, fear of rejection by loved ones, or fear of having to leave their homes.

The Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE) Services is now operated by the Health Department under the Office of Aging & CARE Services (OACS). The OACS offers a variety of services to improve the lives of seniors in Baltimore, and envisions Baltimore as an elderly-friendly city where all of our older adults will have the opportunity to age with choice, independence, and dignity as they move along the aging continuum. OACS is the primary public agency in the city responsible for advocating for Baltimore's older adult population, their families and caregivers. Therefore, we welcome the opportunity to discuss the efforts to protect this population from abuse and neglect. Services provided through OACS include advocacy and the protection of elder rights. Programs and initiatives provide a variety of services including investigation of complaints of abuse, case management for vulnerable adults, education, information and assistance. The Guardianship program protects the most vulnerable populations and in an effort to educate the public about this abuse, OACS sponsors trainings for

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caregivers, family members, nursing home staff and others about identifying and reporting abuse. They provide information and assistance to callers about the process for reporting abuse. Additionally, OACS staff are trained professionals and are required by law (COMAR 07.02.16.04) to report any suspected abuse or neglect of any vulnerable adult.

BCHD supports Council Resolution 11-0268R, and will be participating in the hearing to provide any information about work of BCHD's CARE Services that may be helpful in informing the public and the council members about the importance of protecting our vulnerable adult population from abuse and neglect.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
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Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health  
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