


FROM	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0249R – Informational Hearing – Providing Cultural Competence Training to Homeless Services Providers to Assist Them in Serving Homeless LGBTQ Youths		

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

September 17, 2015

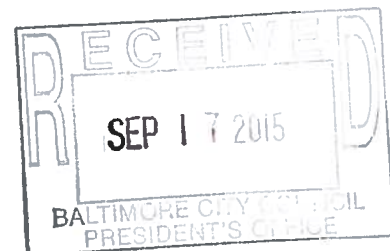
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0249R – Informational Hearing – Providing Cultural Competence Training to Homeless Services Providers to Assist Them in Serving Homeless LGBTQ Youths. We look forward to discussing how cultural competence training can be broadly provided to service agencies to assist them in helping Baltimore’s vulnerable population of homeless LGBTQ young people.

The Health Department is committed to providing quality services for our city’s homeless LGBTQ young people. Through our Community Risk Reduction Services we can provide clinical care to Homeless residents on demand. Our services occur in primarily three areas: naloxone training and prescribing, HIV and syphilis testing and distribution of information on available homeless services within the City. Our staff regularly interacts with homeless individuals from a wider variety of backgrounds and experiences. Understanding different cultural perspectives is essential to providing effective and quality care, especially for our young people. The Health Department supports incorporating cultural competency training into our training curriculum for our risk reductions service providers.

Our partners at Behavioral Health System Baltimore partner with various public and private entities to support and provide a wide range of services to our homeless population. BCHD would encourage all of our partners to provide cultural competency training to all of their outreach workers. This training would make our efforts more effective and enable us to better assist our homeless LGTQ youth, who are among our most vulnerable and at-risk citizens.

The Health Department supports this resolution and appreciates the opportunity to discuss this important issue. We will be present at the hearing to answer any questions the Council may have on this matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Andrew Nicklas, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Health



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