



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0007

Behavioral Health

Committee: Public Health and Environment
Chaired by: Chairwoman Phylicia Porter
Hearing Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM
Time (Ending): 11:25 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 40 In-Person
Approximately 10 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter James Torrence
Mark Parker Odette Ramos
Mark Conway

Excused Absence: Ryan Dorsey

Bill Synopsis in the file?	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Agency reports read.	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	☒ yes	☐ no	☐ n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	☐ yes	☐ no	☒ n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	☐ yes	☐ no	☒ n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	☐ yes	☒ no	☐ n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

• Public Testimony/Speakers

- Darci Curwen-Garber, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Candy Kerr, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Dr. Steve Daviss, Baltimore City Medical Society

• **Speakers from the Behavioral Health System Baltimore**

- Crista Taylor
 - Dan Rabitt
 - Adrienne Breidenstine
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. This is the Committee's second hearing held on Behavioral Health; the first hearing was held on March 12, 2025.
2. Chairwoman Porter gave opening remarks and stated, "This hearing is one of a series of scheduled oversight hearings. We look forward to continuing working with non-governmental agencies; taking a robust approach and looking at the quality of care offered. We will discuss some of the COMAR regulations today that pertain to this issue."
3. President Cohen also gave opening remarks and stated, "This is an extremely important issue. Other related hearings will be and/or are held in our Committee of the Whole."
4. Public Testimony was taken (approximately three [3] speakers). Some comments, topics of discussion and/or concerns were:
 - Concerns and/or Comments:
 - It can be confusing for people to know where to go for help!
 - Some of the issues people are experiencing are:
 - Health issues
 - Addiction, and
 - Services available
 - As a medical doctor, I have seen many problems!
 - Much more interaction with the government is needed
 - More data is needed
 - Will be attending other scheduled meetings the committee has in the future!
5. After public testimony, Chairwoman Porter gave some remarks regarding the importance of holding Providers accountable and for tying things together. She also told Dr. Daviss that she would like to connect with him sometime in the future.
6. The representatives from the Behavioral Health System Baltimore gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.** Some topics discussed and presented in the PowerPoint Presentation were:
 - COMAR revisions
 - Pause on Medicaid Providers, and
 - Importance of Providers being held accountable for services provided
7. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/concerns were:
 - Agreement to Cooperate
 - How are you ensuring the non-continuation of "over saturation?"
 - Community Needs Assessment
 - A scope is needed for the assessment
 - And it would be helpful!
 - Corrective Action Plans
 - What happens when these plans are not followed?
 - Connecting the dots because you can't just shut facilities down!
 - Complaints from Residents

- Too many facilities in location; not wanted in neighborhoods
 - Facility(s) that do not run properly!
 - Concern: “bad actors”
 - How can we build-in a greater ability for accountability?
 - Concern: more accountability is needed
 - What do you think are some of the things and/or ways that can be used to judge the quality of facilities and care? Such as: services provided, indicators and/or outcomes?
 - Medicaid Fraud
 - How do you handle these complaints?
 - Do you have the ability to shut things down after an investigation?
 - Zoning – C1 – Commercial
 - Registered Facilities (new clinics)
 - Are you working with Providers on where they will be located? **Answer: No**
 - Concern: changing certification after getting location
 - We need to discuss this issue, so the community don’t believe they have lied too!
 - We need to get on the front-end of this issue, especially with the revision of COMAR!
 - R8 Districts also need to be included in the assessment (parking regulations)
 - The goal is making Baltimore City thrive for every resident!
 - Concern: Facilities not following the building codes
 - Regulations
 - Where can the Council be helpful with updating the Regulations? We would like a “seat at the table.”
 - We need to know who to call to get involved. **Suggestion made by one of the attendees: Send a letter from the Council.**
 - Per Chairwoman Porter: “We will write that letter!”
 - Per Committee member Ramos: I would like to work with Chairwoman Porter to produce that letter prior to the Regulations coming out!
 - Timeline for Medicaid Reimbursement
 - Remind us of when and/or how long the moratorium was extended.
 - Application for new Providers – talk about this process
8. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks, “We will continue having conversations and she informed the public to “feel free to contact her office.”
9. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

If yes, describe.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File

Date: September 18, 2025

Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight: Behavioral Health	# LO25-0007
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Phylcia Porter
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY				What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
<u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u>				 Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email						
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dan	Rabbitt	BH SR						
Crista	Taylor	" "						
Adrienne	Breidenstine	" "						
Darci	Curwen-Garber	Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition	✓					
Candy	Kerr	Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition						
Gene	Daviss	Balto City Medical Society	✓					

*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

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

10:00 AM
Virtual Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
#1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2347 771 4355, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m5d57d5b8807f7d7d75236e884d8b1635)
MTID=m5d57d5b8807f7d7d75236e884d8b1635

LO25-0007 - Behavioral Health

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 5 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, James Torrence, and Odette Ramos

Excused 1 - Ryan Dorsey

Absent 1 - John Bullock

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO25-0007 Behavioral Health

For the purpose of reviewing Baltimore City's capacity to respond to increasing behavioral health challenges, including BCHD staffing, data-based evaluation and reporting, alignment of City-funded non-City entities, and the visibility of pro-behavioral health efforts

Hearing was recessed.

ADJOURNMENT