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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Public Health and Environment Committee** is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of Baltimore's residents by advancing policies that promote health equity, environmental justice, and sustainability. Recognizing the deep connection between public health and the environment, the committee works to reduce health disparities, improve access to essential services, and address climate-related challenges that impact communities.

**The Honorable Phylicia Porter  
Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025  
10:00 AM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

*Legislative Oversight #LO25-0024*

**Oversight of Recovery Homes and Substance Abuse Clinics in  
Baltimore City**

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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor  
Zeke Cohen – Council President



## Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director  
100 Holliday Street, Room 415  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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### BILL SYNOPSIS

**Committee: Public Health and Environment**

**Legislative Oversight: LO25-0024**

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#### Oversight of Recovery Homes and Substance Abuse Clinics in Baltimore City

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**Sponsor:** Councilmembers Porter, et al

**Introduced:** June 16, 2025

**Purpose:**

**For the purpose** of ensuring that individuals in recovery have access to high-quality, safe, and well-regulated recovery homes and substance abuse clinics is critical. To evaluate existing policies, assess provider accountability, and explore opportunities to enhance support systems for individuals in recovery. The discussion will prioritize community concerns, patient safety, and equitable distribution of recovery resources across the city.

Effective: Upon enactment.

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#### Partners and/or Organizations that have been invited:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore</li><li>• Powell Recovery Center, Inc.</li></ul> |
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### Analysis

#### Background

On Wednesday, July 30, 2025, the committee will convene, along with other pertinent representations to assess and/or discuss the policies of recovery homes and substance abuse clinics in Baltimore City. Some planned topics of discussion and/or concerns:

- Patient safety
  - Existing Policies
  - Assessing Accountability related to Providers
  - Exploring opportunities to enhance support systems
  - Distribution of recovery resources
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Also attached are:

- Guideline for opening recovery home(s) in Baltimore City
- Data regarding Substance Abuse Clinics

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### Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** Primary sponsor, the Honorable Phylicia Porter, Google, and the Baltimore City government website.

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*Marguerite Currin*

Analysis by: Marguerite Currin  
Analysis Date: July 28, 2025

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

To open a recovery home in Baltimore City, you need to obtain [Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences \(MCORR\)](#) and potentially enroll in [Maryland RecoveryNet \(MDRN\)](#) for funding and support. The first step is to apply for the MCORR certification, which involves submitting a detailed application, including documentation like proof of ownership or lease, insurance, and compliance with relevant regulations. After receiving certification, you can apply to MDRN for funding opportunities.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

### **1. Obtain MCORR Certification:**

#### **Review Documentation Checklist:**

Start by reviewing the documentation checklist available on the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) website to understand all the requirements.

#### **Complete the Application:**

Fill out the MCORR application form, providing accurate and complete information, and submit it to the BHA.

#### **Gather Supporting Documentation:**

This includes proof of ownership or lease, permission from the property owner (if applicable), insurance coverage, and evidence of compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

#### **Submit Application and Documents:**

Return the completed application and all supporting documents to the designated email address or contact the BHA for assistance with electronic submission.

#### **Undergo Inspection:**

Once the application is reviewed, your residence will undergo an on-site inspection to verify compliance with standards.

#### **Receive Certification:**

Upon successful review and inspection, you will receive the MCORR certificate of compliance.

### **2. Enroll in MDRN (Optional, but recommended for funding):**

#### **Meet Eligibility Criteria:**

Ensure your residence meets all MDRN eligibility criteria, including holding the MCORR certification.

### **Submit Application:**

Complete the application process for MDRN enrollment, providing any additional required documentation and information about your residence and services.

### **Receive Approval and Funding:**

Once approved, your residence will be enrolled in MDRN, granting access to funding and support services.

### **Important Considerations:**

#### **Zoning and Regulations:**

Ensure your property complies with all relevant zoning regulations and building codes in Baltimore City.

#### **Community Engagement:**

Engage with the local community and address any concerns or objections related to opening a recovery home in the area.

#### **Staffing and Management:**

Consider the qualifications and responsibilities of house managers, and establish clear policies and procedures for residents.

#### **Financial Resources:**

Develop a comprehensive budget and explore funding opportunities through grants or other programs.

#### **Legal Structure:**

Determine the appropriate legal structure for your organization, such as a non-profit or for-profit entity.

#### **Ongoing Support:**

Provide ongoing support to residents through case management, therapy, or other relevant services.

By following these steps and fulfilling the requirements, you can successfully establish and operate a recovery home in Baltimore City.

### What does a substance abuse clinician do?

Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors advise people on a range of issues, such as those relating to alcoholism, addictions, or depression. They provide support, including for prevention, to help clients recover from addiction, modify problem behaviors, or improve mental health.

Congress acted in the Consolidate Appropriations Acts, 2023 that impacted federal requirements for Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registrants, including those involved in Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 had two significant impacts on the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) related to opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment and practitioner training:

- **Elimination of the "X" Waiver for Buprenorphine Prescribing:** The Act, through the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act (Section 1262), repealed the requirement for a separate DEA "X" waiver for practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine for OUD treatment. Previously, this waiver was a significant barrier to expanding access to OUD treatment, effectively making it harder to prescribe buprenorphine than other opioid analgesics. This change was a bipartisan goal aimed at mainstreaming OUD treatment and improving access to life-saving medication.
- **New Training Requirement for DEA Registered Practitioners:** While eliminating the "X" waiver, the Act introduced a one-time, eight-hour training requirement for all DEA-registered practitioners (except veterinarians) on the treatment and management of patients with OUD or other substance use disorders (SUDs). This training aims to equip a broader range of clinicians with the knowledge and skills to address the addiction crisis. The DEA requires practitioners to attest to completing this training when renewing or applying for an initial registration after June 27, 2023.

In essence, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 aimed to streamline buprenorphine prescribing by removing a significant barrier (the X-waiver) while simultaneously establishing a baseline training requirement for practitioners to ensure responsible prescribing practices in OUD and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment.

- Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment: The Act made substantial investments in mental health and addiction services, incorporating provisions for community mental health services, substance use prevention and treatment programs, and support for crisis response systems.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 included:

- Reauthorization and Funding for Drug Control Programs: The Act reauthorized the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program, maintaining their funding at FY 2024 enacted levels through FY 2031.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2025 (CAA 2025) significantly impacts the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). It provides a \$246,924,000, or 9 percent increase, above the fiscal year 2024 enacted level, bringing the DEA's total allocation to \$2,813,924,000. This increased funding is intended to support the fight against fentanyl and protect national security, with \$1.2 billion specifically allocated for combating opioid trafficking.

The CAA 2025 **aims to strengthen drug programs** by providing dedicated funding, implementing policy reforms, fostering workforce development, and promoting research and prevention efforts.

- Funding and Programs to Address Substance Use and Mental Health:
  - The Act includes increased investments for substance use and mental health programs within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
  - Key programs receiving increased funding include the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (\$2 billion, a \$40 million increase over FY 2024), State Opioid Response (SOR) grants (\$1.6 billion, a \$25 million increase), and the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (\$155 million, a \$10 million increase).
  - These investments aim to expand access to treatment and prevention services, particularly for opioid use disorder and the overdose epidemic, according to the Senate Appropriations Committee.



- The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025, which passed the House of Representatives, also seeks to extend funding for substance use disorder and overdose prevention services through fiscal year 2030, covering prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**LO25-0024**

**AGENCY REPORTS  
AND/OR  
HANDOUTS**

**NONE AS OF THIS WRITING**

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**LO25-0024**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**NONE RECEIVED AS OF THIS  
WRITING**