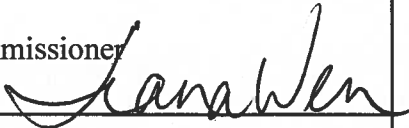



F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner 	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0239R – Informational Hearing – Baltimore City’s Efforts to Make Homelessness a Rare and Brief Experience		

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

September 4, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0239R – Informational Hearing – Baltimore City’s Efforts to Make Homelessness a Rare and Brief Experience. The purpose of this bill is to call on Baltimore City agencies engaged in the struggle against homelessness to appear before the City Council to update it on the City’s efforts to make homelessness a rare and brief experience in Baltimore, and to discuss where improvements can be made in best utilizing the City’s partnerships and resources to meet this goal.

The Health Department is committed to providing all of our homeless citizens with quality health care services. 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.

This past month, we provided the following number of people with services:

- 85 people - have completed the Overdose Response Training;
- 16 people- have been tested for HIV/Syphilis;
- All persons encountered were provided with the resources list for services.

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:

- Bon Secours - Mobile outreach, case management, and supportive services for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness;
- People Encouraging People - Mobile outreach, case management, and supportive services for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness;
- Helping Other People Through Empowerment Wellness & Recovery Center - Drop in center for individuals experiencing homelessness with a mental illness;

- Safe Haven I, University of Maryland - Low barrier temporary housing intervention for individuals who are street homeless, traditionally hard to engage, and have a severe and persistent mental illness;
 - Safe Haven II, Helping Other People Through Empowerment - Low barrier temporary housing intervention for individuals who are street homeless, traditionally hard to engage, and have a severe and persistent mental illness.
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- Healthcare for the Homeless - BHSB funds one outreach worker through SAMSHA's Project for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (PATH) that connects with individuals participating in the Homeless Docket of Baltimore. The docket seeks to divert individuals accused of nonviolent misdemeanors from institutionalization criminalization.
 - University of Maryland Community Support Program - one PATH outreach worker that connects with High Inpatient Utilizers in emergency departments across the city.
 - BHSB employs one certified substance use counselor at the Weinberg Housing and Resource Center shelter to assess, screen, and refer homeless individuals to the appropriate level of care for a substance use disorder.

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