



Investigation Hearing – Existing Alternatives to Policing Strategies Council Bill #21-0049R

6/30/21



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Addressing Violence as a Public Health Crisis



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Violence as a Public Health Crisis

- Violence increases risk for harm to overall health and is preventable
- American Public Health Association (APHA) deemed violence as a public health crisis in 2018
- Exposure to trauma and violence linked to chronic diseases, increased risk taking behaviors, sexually transmitted infections, suicide, depression, anxiety, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

(APHA, 2018)



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Social Determinants and Violence

- Social determinants of health linked to cause and effect of violence
 - Safe housing, access to grocery stores, quality of education and job training, exposure to violence and crime, racism, residential segregation, and socioeconomic conditions, etc.
- Disproportionate burden placed on people living in poverty

(APHA, 2018)



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Addressing Social Determinants of Health

- SD must be addressed to make real and lasting impact
- SC is key to prevention
- Programs and services should address needs collaboratively with communities
- Cultural competency should be prioritized in programming and services

(APHA, 2018)



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Citywide Violence Prevention Task Force



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Violence Prevention Legislation

- Ordinance passed in May 2020
- Convened first meeting 9/17/20
- Task Force charged with developing a plan to address violence
- Plan aimed to address social determinants of health



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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SUCCESS



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Results and Indicators

Table 1. Citywide Violence Prevention Task Force Results and Indicators

Result	Indicator
Equitable life opportunities	Graduation rates
Equitable life expectancy	Life expectancy
Are safe	Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) total crime data
Are thriving	Percentage of the population employed (ages 16-64)



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Framework into a Violence Prevention Plan

- Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement created
- MONSE to operationalize plan



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Purpose of the Task Force

- Develop a Citywide violence prevention plan
- Collectively address violence and trauma
- Focus on addressing the social determinants of health (SDoH)
- Begin with developing a Violence Prevention Framework



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Result 1: People who live, work, and visit Baltimore City have equitable life opportunities

- There is a disparity in graduation rates based on race.
- Overall, 72.18% of Baltimore City students graduate from high school. Unfortunately, when looking at disaggregated data, graduation rates are 72.94% for White students and 97.82% for Asian students graduate; yet only 72.46% for African American students and 54.91% for LatinX students.
- In response, Task Force members identified accountability, activities, quality of education, and stability as supports that can help students graduate high school.



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Strategies

- Extra-curricular activities
- Life-skills training
- Diversion projects
- Summer and year-round employment
- Mentoring
- Social emotional learning



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Result 2: People who live, work, and visit Baltimore City have an equitable life expectancy

- In 2018, the average life expectancy for a resident of Baltimore City was 72.7 years.
- In 2017, the greatest recorded disparity in life expectancy was between Clifton-Berea (66.9 years) and Cross Country/Cheswolde (87.1), representing nearly a 20-year difference.



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Strategies

- Health focused interventions (smoking cessation)
- Decrease in liquor store density
- Safe sex interventions
- Supportive and quality relationships,
- Savings plans for those under 18



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Strategies continued

- Walking clubs
- Collective group spaces
- Mindfulness
- Quality food markets
- Gyms
- Social services



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Result 3: People who live, work, and visit Baltimore City are safe.

- In 2019, Baltimore City experienced 84,904 individual crimes. That same year, 93 percent of homicide victims in Baltimore City were Black/African American, while 89 percent (311) were male victims (2020). Out of 348 victims of homicide, 325 were Black.



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Strategies

- Elijah Cummings Healing City Act implementation
- Formal training to enhance service delivery to trauma-informed and responsive



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Result 4: People who live, work, and visit Baltimore City are thriving.

- To measure whether our communities are thriving, the Task Force determined it should track the City's employment rate, which had been slowly increasing between 2015 (60.4%) and 2018 (63.4%).



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Strategies

- Therapeutic services
- Substance use treatment
- Transportation
- Teen court diversion
- Ban the box
- Vocational training
- Increased community involvement
- Peer support



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Upstream Approach



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Supporting Our Students (SOS)

- Program within the Office of Youth and Trauma Services
- 10 years of implementing Dating Matters® Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships curriculum developed by CDC to address teen dating violence before it starts
- Teaches 11–14-year-olds healthy relationship skills to reduce behaviors that increase risk of dating violence, substance misuse, and sexual risk-taking



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SOS Partners

- 4 high schools in West Baltimore
 - ConneXions: A community-based arts school
 - Frederick Douglas High School
 - Reginald F. Lewis School of Business and Law
 - Renaissance Academy



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SOS

Adapting to Covid-19

- Covid-19 prevented youth from attending school where most programming took place
- Year 4 focused on expanding to include CBOs such as:
 - AZIZA/PE&CE
 - Let's Thrive Baltimore
 - Truth to Power, Baltimore



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SOS Results

- 835 youth educated through curriculum
 - Identifying behaviors leading to violence
 - Successful methods of conflict mediation
 - Knowledge to distinguish between abusive vs. healthy relationships
 - Connecting teens experiencing dating violence to appropriate resources



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Services and Care Coordination



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Youth Services and Advocacy Project (YSAP) Objectives

- Program within the Office of Youth and Trauma Services
- Reducing risk factors associated with exposure to violence (ages 11-24)
 - Increase youth access and utilization of victim services
 - Increase education and awareness of violence and trauma
 - Empower primary and secondary victims affected to safely seek help



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YSAP Results

- FY21 to date
 - Currently serving over 100 survivors of crime
 - \$35k provided in rental assistance to 28 participants (25% of total clients)
 - \$56k in rental assistance in FY20
 - Of the 28 participants, 8 survivors had lost a family member to homicide (32% needed rental assistance)



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YSAP Results

- FY20
 - \$56k in rental assistance (49 participants)
 - 18 of the participants that were assisted were victims of domestic violence (37% for rental assistance)
 - 26 victims lost a family due to homicide (53% needed rental assistance)
 - 15 were shooting survivors (31% received rental assistance)
 - 4 victims of human trafficking



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Assessment

- Confidential intake assessments/packet
 - Client information (demographics)
 - Housing stabilization determination
 - Rental assistance determination
 - Types of victimization
 - Abuse and neglect, violence crime, property crime, human trafficking, hate crime, bullying, etc.



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Assessment continued

- Confidential intake assessments/packet
 - Medical health history
 - Trauma history
 - Substance misuse
 - Mental health diagnosis
 - Social needs
 - Service plan
 - Referrals
 - Consent
 - PTSD Assessment



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Other Services

- Relocation
- Mental health services and supports
- Employment opportunities
- Housing assistance
- Transportation assistance
- Educational services
- Trauma-focused peer support groups
- Legal support



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Partners

- State's Attorney's Office of Victim Services
- House of Ruth
- ConneXions
- Renaissance
- Keys Development
- Homeless Shelters
- BCHD internal referrals
- Local Care Team
- Self-referrals



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