

## Baltimore City's Overdose Prevention Team (OPT)

*December 9, 2024*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Overdose Prevention Team</b>		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	December 9, 2024	<b>Meeting Time</b>	2:00pm
<b>Chair</b>	Jennifer Martin	<b>Meeting Location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Crista Taylor		
<b>Minute Taker</b>	Melanie Wellstein	<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	March 10, 2025

### *Member Attendees:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Status</b>
Rania Mohamed	BCHD	
Emma Kniola	BCHD	✓
Jennifer Martin	BCHD	✓
Dr. Ihuoma Emenuga	BCHD	
Charrica Green	BCHD	
Sadiya Muqueeth	BCHD	✓
Steve Johnson	BHSB	✓
Pslams Rojas	BHSB	
Lynn Mumma	BHSB	✓
Crista Taylor	BHSB	✓
Daniel Jarvis	BHSB	✓
Brittney Wright	BHSB	✓
Howard Ashkin	Med Mark	✓
Vickie Walters	IBR-REACH	
Phillip Wells	DEA	
Michelle Smith	MOEM	✓
Lt. Bryan Johnson	BCFD	✓
Chief Raymond Bartock	BCFD	
Chief James Matz	BCFD	✓
Tiffinee Scott	MPAC	
Sean Augustus	Recovery Network	
JD Merrill	Mayor's Office	
Alissa Zhu	Media	
Augusta Gribetz	Mayor's Office	
Jessica Babb	Media	
Avery Meyer	MDH	
Ben Lawner	BCFD/UMMS	
Marla Oros	Mosaic Group	



Kelleigh Eastman	BCHD	
Daniel Rabbitt	BHSB	
Elise Bowman	BCHD	
Eric Weintraub	UMMS	
Kate D’Adamo	SPARC	
Johnathan Davis	BCRI	✓
Bill Janu	BPD	✓
Reverend Richard Henderson	BHH	✓
Brian McCarthy (for Jackie Lowery)	DEA	✓

## Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Staff Transitions
- Review and Approval of September 2024 Minutes
- Overdose Data Dashboard Review
- Mayor’s Executive Order Update
- Overdose Needs Assessment overview, status and OPT participation
- Discussion
- Public Comment

## Minutes

### I. Welcome

- a. Jennifer Martin (BCHD) opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and providing an overview of the agenda.

### II. Staff Transitions

- a. Brittney Spencer (BCHD) has left BCHD and is being replaced by new Interim Director Charrica Green
- b. Melanie Wellstein is the new Overdose Prevention Team Coordinator for BCHD

### III. Review and Approval of September 2024 Minutes

- a. Minutes were approved aside from discrepancies with attendance record

### IV. Overdose Data Dashboard Review

- a. Emma Kniola (BCHD) reviewed [BCHD Overdose dashboard](#) and highlighted new materials
  1. Home Page shows overdose death data from 2020 through Quarter 1 of 2024
  2. Understanding the Trends
    1. Nonfatal Overdose data from the BCFD, shows the number of EMS contacts and naloxone administration, number has gone down 2024
    2. Comparison dashboard of overdose in Baltimore City vs. the rest of the state and other cities across the nation
    3. Demographics pages: Data and statistics also available in comparison by age, race, place of death, gender
    4. Older adults demographics – residents aged 60+ have a much higher overdose rate, especially in comparison to the state/nation, specifically this changed in 2022 when they overtook younger demographic in rates

5. Substances involved page: MDH 2022 data (most recent data available) to show fatal overdoses by substance – fentanyl 87%, cocaine 2nd highest, heroin only 3.6%
6. Prescription opioids and their effects
3. Science of Addiction
  1. Risk Factors
  2. Signs of an Overdose
4. Resources Page
  1. Reversing an Overdose
  2. Access to Resources and Treatment
- V. Mayor's Executive Order Update
  - a. An overview of the Mayor's Executive Order from August 2024 was presented by Jennifer Martin. The Executive Order:
    1. Established the Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) that handles the money from the cases Baltimore City has won
    2. Establishes a 15-year trust
    3. Creates 2 new positions in the Mayor's office
    4. Established a restitution advisory board
  - b. An update was given regarding the current phase of litigation on Opioid Restitution for Baltimore City. The City is currently in the abatement process, in which a judge will decide the amount of the award for the harms and damages done to Baltimore City. This process began the week of December 9, 2024.
  - c. An update on the current work under the Executive Order was reviewed, including:
    1. The hiring process for the Mayor's Office positions
    2. The process of establishing the Restitution Advisory Board and its membership by scoring and ranking applicants. The hiring team is currently in the process of interviewing highly ranked applicants, and is moving the most highly qualified applicants forward and to meet with the mayor. The goal is to establish membership early 2025
- VI. Overdose Needs Assessment overview, status and OPT participation
  - a. The overview of the Overdose Needs Assessment was presented by Sadiya Muqueeth BCHD Chief Health Policy Strategy Officer. The goal of the needs assessment is to look at the qualitative and quantitative data related substance use and overdose. The findings of the assessment will drive the broader strategy for overdose reduction.
  - b. The Overdose Needs Assessment will be conducted via focus groups, a public comment form on the BCHD website, interviews targeting people with Substance Use Disorder conducted by peers and public townhalls/listening sessions. Membership of the OPT was encouraged to participate, especially in helping conduct peer to peer interviews.
  - c. The needs assessment will revolve around the 5 pillars of the overall strategy: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Recovery, and Public Wellness/Safety
- VII. Discussion
  - a. Reverend Henderson asked how many young people ages 13-19 have overdosed/been revived because of Narcan? Do we have this data?
    1. Emma Kniola answered that the deaths in those age group are usually 10 or less and are usually not included in larger statistics data given the smaller numbers
  - b. Jennifer Martin highlighted that we do not know how often naloxone is being utilized by community members, and asked how can we measure the efficacy of the distribution in communities etc.?
- VIII. Public Comment
  - a. An open floor was provided for public comments, allowing community members and stakeholders to voice their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions.

- IX. Closing:
- a. Crista Taylor, Co-Chair of the OPT welcomed input and appreciates everyone's partnership
  - b. Meeting concluded by Jennifer Martin with plans for future communication and collaboration.

*Next Meeting: March 10, 2025  
2:00-3:00 PM  
Microsoft Teams*