

# **Senate Finance Committee**

*Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair*  
*Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice-Chair*

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

## **Agenda**

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**1:00 p.m.**

### **Briefing on Baltimore City Mass Overdose Rapid Response Plan**

#### **Baltimore City**

- Mayor Brandon M. Scott
- Dr. Michelle Taylor, Health Commissioner
- James Matz, Assistant Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Baltimore City Fire Department
- Stefanie Mavronis, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
- Sara Whaley, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Overdose Response
- Dr. Leticia Dzirasa, Deputy Mayor, Health and Human Services



# Baltimore City's Mass Overdose Rapid Response Plan

Finance Committee  
February 3, 2026



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Mayor

# Defining a Mass Overdose Event

- **Cluster:** A geographic group of overdose reversals greater than expected for a given area and time (at least 3 within 0.75 miles in 1-7 days)
- **Mass overdose:** At least 5 overdoses in a 1-3-hour period in a defined/small geographic area or single location. triggers the **mass overdose rapid response protocol**



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# July 10 Mass Overdose Event

- On **July 10, 2025**, City agencies arrived immediately to engage in rapid response outreach and education at Pennsylvania Avenue & North Avenue and in the surrounding area in response to a mass overdose event
- Collected multiple samples, sent for testing
  - Results: mix of Acetaminophen, Caffeine, Fentanyl, Mannitol, Methylclonazepam, & Quinine



# July 10 Mass Overdose Event

- First call received at 9:20:48 (Incident #F251910223) at 1500 W North Ave
  - Units E13 and M16 on incident, with CP1 added
- More than a dozen additional emergency services calls received through 16:32:11

Division	Unit
Ambulances	A3, A23, A24, A25, A28, A28, A603, A605
Medics	M5, M9, M14, M16, M17, M19, M21
Engines	E13, E14, E20, E36, SQ40
Trucks	TW1, T16, T18
EMS Specialty	ASU1, CP1, NP1, DC5
EMS	BCEMS, EMS2, EMS3, EMS5, EMS6
Command	BC6, CAR5, CAR1, CAR6
OEM/Support	OEM2, OEM4, CAR414, CAR415

*Units on Scene for July 10 Penn North Mass Overdose Event*



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# July 10 Patient Triage

Transports	27
Refusals	3
BCHD	5
Total Patients	35

Priority 1	7
Priority 2	15
Priority 3	5



# Continued On-Scene Response

- Enoch Pratt Library established as field coordination site
- **July 10-July 25:** Daily coordination of outreach efforts by community partners and City agencies
  - Focus on harm reduction supplies and education
    - Harm reduction messaging disseminated
  - Nearly **500 volunteers, 30+ organizations** across the State
  - Approximately **4,500 naloxone kits, 2,600 fentanyl test strips, 760 xylazine test strips,** and **600 hygiene kits** distributed
  - **Resources:** food, water, and cooling buses
  - **Services:** peers and other coordinators to connect residents to treatment, housing, and employment services
- **July 25 – onward: Post-acute response**



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# Plan Development

**July 10:**  
Mass overdose in Penn-North

**July 15:**  
Agencies & Admin conduct hot wash

**Oct 8:**  
Mass overdose in Penn-North

**Nov 17:**  
Multi-agency meeting on Protocol

**Dec 2:**  
In-person multi-agency meeting on Protocol

**July 11:**  
City begins creating Protocol

**July 18:**  
Mass overdose in Penn-North

**Oct 9:**  
BCHD conducts hot wash

**Nov 25:**  
Agencies provide feedback

**Dec 12:**  
Protocol submitted to Mayor's Office



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# Protocol Objectives

## Immediate Response & Life Saving Measures

- Scene safety and security
- Rapid assessment and triage
- Administer naloxone and medical intervention
- Transport and medical surge management

## Public Health Service Delivery

- Reduce overdose fatalities
- Expand harm reduction efforts
- Analyze and share public health data
- Improve access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services
- Combat stigma

## Partnership & Collaboration

- Include trusted community partners in outreach response work
- Enhance public health and public safety collaboration



# Response Levels

## Partial Activation (5-10 overdoses)

- Informed by BCFD
- Activation of BCHD Health Dept Operations Center
- Activation of Field Coordination Site
- Overdose Response Programs support community canvassing

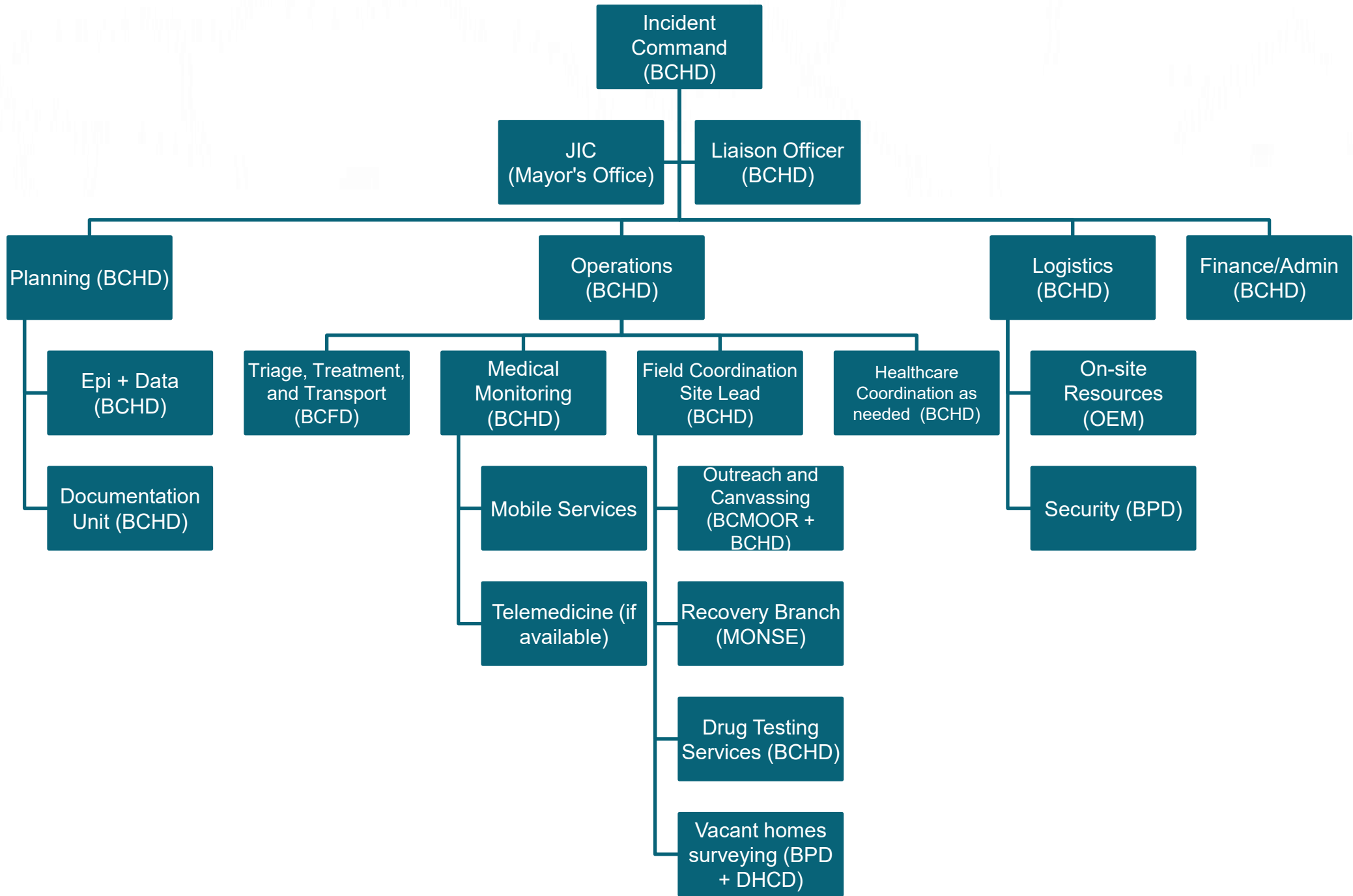
## Full Activation (11+ overdoses)

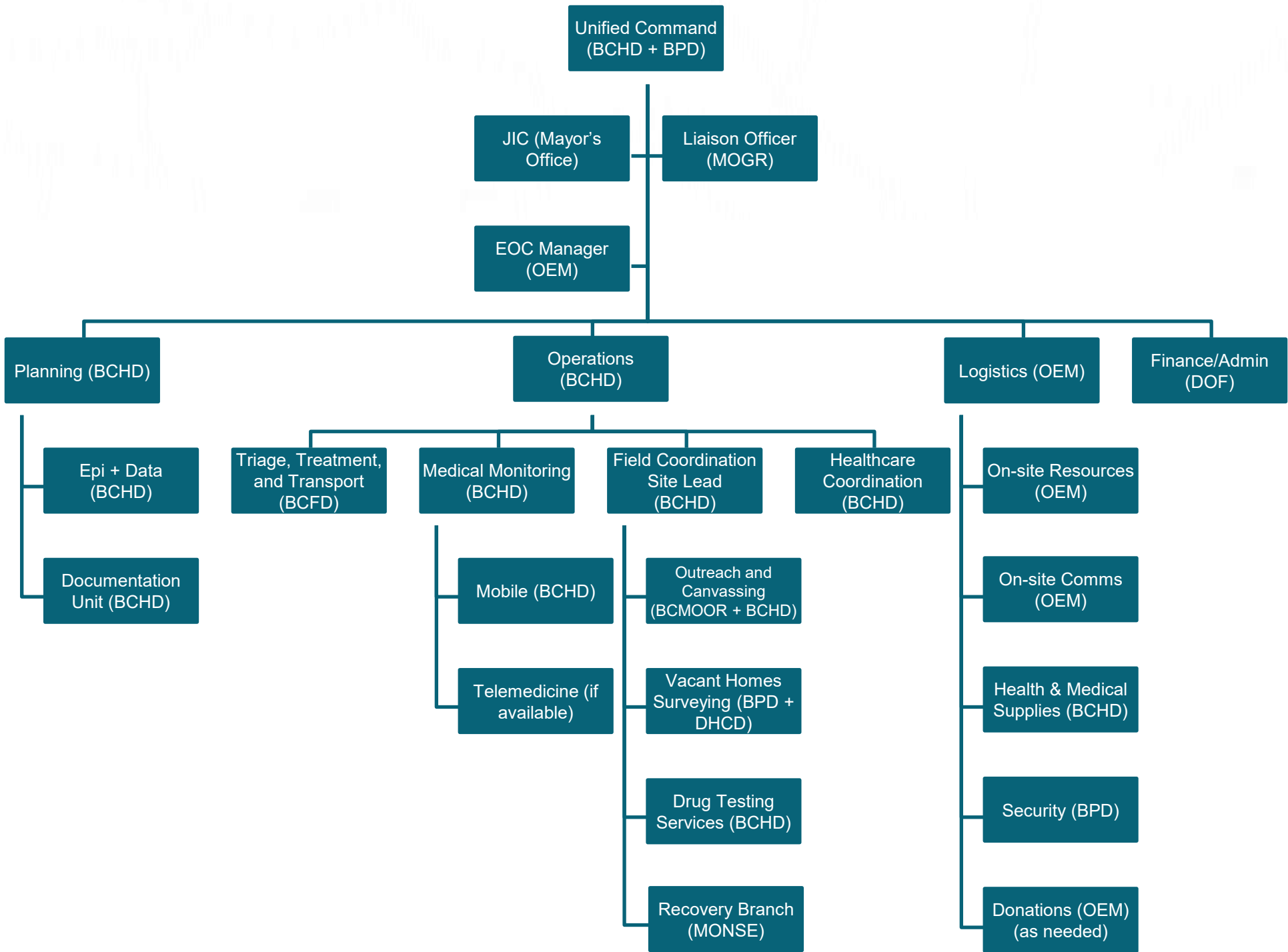
- Mass casualty incident
- Partial activation of the City EOC
- Unified Command jointly led by BCHD and BPD

Public Health Surveillance, Monitoring, and Reporting



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# Post-Acute Response

## Recovery

- Led by MONSE with technical support from BCHD and BCMOOR
- Focus on strategies to address the community's needs (e.g., sustained infrastructure or community improvement)

## Hot Wash

- BCHD and BPD or OEM will convene a meeting to discuss the event following the incident
- Identifies strengths and areas for improvement
- Insights will inform future revisions to the Protocol



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# Continued Intergovernmental Collaboration

## Successfully preventing and responding to future mass overdose events requires continued intergovernmental collaboration

- Information sharing
  - Strengthened data sharing between the State and City
  - Funding for provision of cross-jurisdiction technical assistance
- Continued support for policies and programs that promote public health and public safety
  - Decriminalization of paraphernalia to reduce barriers to life-saving services and promote safer, cleaner public spaces
  - Sustained investment in Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD) program
  - Safe places for PWUD to go and receive support



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**THANK YOU**  
**Questions?**

