

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Baltimore City Health Department's Statement on
Health Education Resource Organization**

BALTIMORE (November 19, 2008) – In light of some misunderstanding about the situation regarding Health Education Resource Organization (HERO), Commissioner of Health Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein released the following statement:

“Over the last several months, several major funders of HERO have recognized that the organization has substantial debts and is facing insolvency. In order to protect patients from a complete loss of access to care, the Health Department, Office of Homeless Services, and the Maryland AIDS Administration made the decision to transfer funded services to other health providers by the middle of December.

“HERO has not provided medical care to HIV patients for the last year. One of the goals of the transition period is to locate other services in the same setting as patients’ own doctor. Service providers who are stepping forward to help HERO’s patients include Total Healthcare, Women Accepting Responsibility, Chase-Brexton, Johns Hopkins, LIGHT, and others. I thank these organizations for their commitment and flexibility.

“The Health Department is working closely with HERO during this difficult time. I urge HERO patients and their caregivers to visit HERO for assistance or call the Health Department’s hotline at the Ryan White office at 410-396-1408.”

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