

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baltimore City to Host Public Hearing on Primary Care Access

BALTIMORE, MD - (March 17, 2009) - The Baltimore City Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene are announcing a public hearing to address the primary care shortage in Baltimore City.

The establishment of this hearing is in response to a recent report by RAND Health indicating that rate of likely preventable hospitalizations is substantially higher in Baltimore City than in other parts of Maryland or the District of Columbia. RAND found that a shortage of as many as 150,000 primary care visits in the city each year may be a major cause of the problem.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 from 9-11:30 am in Feinstone Hall at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The Health Department invites community leaders, community health centers, hospitals, academic experts, state officials, and others to testify. The hearing will seek input on three questions:

- Why is there a gap in primary care access in Baltimore?
- What are the consequences of a gap in primary care access?
- What programs and policies can address this problem?

Anyone who is interested in offering public testimony at the hearing should contact the Baltimore City Health Department at jennifer.monti@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-1408. Written testimony will also be accepted. Please address comments to:

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The RAND report is online at:
http://www.baltimorehealth.org/info/2008_12_18.RANDReport.pdf.

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