



# BCHD PRESS RELEASE

---

Baltimore City Health Department

1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202

*Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor – Oxiris Barbot, M.D., Commissioner of Health*

Media Contact: *Brian Schleter*  
443-984-2623  
[mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Health Department Welcomes New Directors of Office of Policy & Planning, Legislative Affairs**

**BALTIMORE, MD (November 9, 2011)** – Commissioner of Health Dr. Oxiris Barbot is pleased to announce two new appointments in the Health Department’s Office of Policy & Planning.

Sarah Morris-Compton, MPP, has been named Director of the Office of Policy & Planning at the Health Department. Ms. Compton-Morris directs and manages the department’s policy advocacy agenda, including [Healthy Baltimore 2015](#).

Ms. Compton Morris holds a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Ball State University Honors College. A Sargent Shriver Fellow, she has more than five years of experience with policy and regulatory analysis at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, where she led federal, state and local government system change efforts.

*Healthy Baltimore 2015* presents 10 priority areas where coordinated efforts for improving health hold the greatest promise for creating a city where all residents realize their full health potential. *Healthy Baltimore 2015* includes leading indicators within the priority areas with measurable goals for success. Some of these measurable goals include: decreasing the rate of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease, reducing the number of Baltimore’s food deserts, decreasing teen pregnancy and HIV, and increasing the percent of adults meeting physical activity recommendations.

The Health Department recently was awarded a \$154,800 Health Impact Assessment to Foster Community Design grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control to build capacity for studying how planning and policies affect public health. Health Impact Assessments are used to gauge the potential health effects of both development projects and proposed city polices. The Office of Policy & Planning will oversee the grant.

“I look forward to engaging government and community partners to align our goals and collaborate on improving community health,” Morris-Compton said.

Additionally, Amy Samman, JD, has been appointed Director of Legislative Affairs. In this role, Ms. Samman will support city, state and federal legislators in their efforts to improve the lives and health of city residents.

Ms. Samman has eight years experience as an attorney, most recently as a registered lobbyist representing national trade associations, nonprofit organizations and corporate clients before the Maryland General Assembly and local governments.

“I am excited to work with our elected officials in Baltimore to improve the health of the community,” Ms. Samman said.

“The Office of Policy & Planning plays a critical role in supporting the department’s mission of creating a city where all individuals reach their full health potential. I’m pleased to welcome Amy and Sarah to our team,” said Dr. Barbot.

For more information on the *Healthy Baltimore 2015*, visit our Website at <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/healthybaltimore2015.html>.

###