



Baltimore City Health Department
1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health

TO: Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
FROM: Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health
CC:
SUBJECT: OIG Case #22-0052-I

DATE: September 13, 2022

This memo is written in response to the Office of the Inspector General Case #21-0052-I Management Alert that examined unsanitary conditions and maintenance issues at the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) Druid Health Center (DHC). Below are agency responses to the investigative findings.

Regarding pest control concerns, as indicated in a previous response, BCHD has worked with DGS to establish pest control services at the building to remove old traps and install new ones. DGS has confirmed that this service is being provided monthly. Previously, the contracted janitorial vendor has communicated to BCHD that removal of dead rodents is outside of their scope of services. The scope of services for the janitorial contract has been revised to help resolve this issue. We are waiting for this new contract to begin. DGS has also been onsite to inspect and eliminate potential rodent points of entry.

The potential security concerns identified are continuing to be addressed. Health is aware of the ongoing alarm issue on the rear emergency door and alternative solutions are being investigated. DHC staff have been notified that they must close the doors behind them in order for the doors to lock. The medications in the Pyxis room have been removed and placed in a secured area. Additionally, the building security system is in the process of being repaired.

For the other general maintenance concerns, service requests have been made. DGS will ask vendors to engage the site personnel frequently to ensure that all issues are being addressed, even if not detected during the monthly walk-through. While many of the ceiling tiles have been replaced, this building remains on a list of facilities with damaged and missing tiles that will be replaced once DGS receives an order of tiles that is pending receipt.

The DHC recently had a site visit from Maryland Occupational Health and Safety (MOSH) and we received a Citation and Notification of Penalty for some deficiencies that were noted by MOSH. We have been making a good faith effort to meet the abatement requirements and have made significant progress with all of the citations. We place the highest priority on responding to these citations. The

original concern, lack of needles with safety covers, was addressed immediately and has not recurred. We plan to complete documentation of abatement to send to MOSH in the coming weeks.

We take the safety and health of our staff and clients very seriously. We continue to work through the unsanitary conditions and maintenance issues identified in this report and others as they are reported. Our Facilities Manager meets with staff at this building every two weeks to discuss and work to resolve any building concerns.
