



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: 26 January 2022	Time: 1 – 2:30 PM	Location: Webex
------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------	--

Meeting Notes
I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER
<p>Theresa Silla (ICH) wished meeting attendees a Happy New Year and covered the agenda quickly while meeting attendees were gathering. See the PPT slide for details. Rachel Pierre (DHS) indicated that she would not be able to join for the whole meeting and requested that the Committee review COVID Updates & Concerns first.</p> <p>Co-chairs Reginald Black (PFFC) and Bill Kuennen (DHS) called the meeting to order and asked for partner announcements and updates. There were no updates flagged.</p>
II. DISCUSSION
A. COVID UPDATES & CONCERNS
<p>Rachel Pierre (DHS) quickly covered updates related COVID, with an emphasis that the recent surge in positive tests is already on the decline. See PPT for more details.</p> <p>Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback raised include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule for Regular Testing: currently revising the mass testing strategy, which is an episodic strategy triggered when there is a confirmed COVID case at a location. Currently, Low Barrier and Hypothermia sites have access to rapid antigen testing at Low Barrier and Hypothermia and are testing close contacts of positive cases for 5 consecutive days regardless of symptoms. That has not changed yet but DHS is evaluating the strategy and looking to mirror the strategy to the need. Some inconsistency in reporting results from Hypothermia Sites but Low Barrier Sites are reporting results consistently.• DHS COVID Storyboard: Vaccination rates were pulled from the current storyboard because it doesn't appropriately reflect vaccination data available with DC Health and Unity. Currently, it only reflects the data from DHS Expect that it will go back up with clarifying information shortly.• Social distancing at Day Centers and Transportation: Concerned about the ventilation and the fact that individuals are eating inside so a recommendation from Consumer Representatives to Down from 120 to 80/85 individuals at the Downtown Day Services Centers and at about 85% capacity in Vans (versus 65% COVID capacity), but not going back down to the 60/65% reduced capacities during the height of COVID. Clients are required to wear masks and the PPE supplies are maintained at the shelter and on vans. Cases are going down, mimicking the overall District data, so the data seems to imply that additional protocols are likely not warranted.• De-densifying Low Barrier Shelters by Removing Condition of Match to Permanent Housing for Intake into PEPV: Request to consider using PEPV to de-densify LBS and Hypothermia sites as PEPV will be open through hypothermia season. Note that FEMA is reimbursing at 100% and the underlying 75% reimbursement will be extended for as long as the government recognizes that we are in a pandemic.

B. WINTER PLAN

Theresa Silla (ICH) covered clarifications made to the Winter Plan at the 01/11 Executive Committee meeting and operational shifts due to Winter Storms and Cold Alerts with the goal of capturing lessons learned from these events. See note below and PPT for details.

1. UPDATES APPROVED 01/11

Again, see PPT for framing on what was covered during the meeting.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback raised include:

- **PEPV Intake:**
 - **Medical Vulnerability:** Lack of clarity on who and what kind of medical vulnerabilities would be prioritized for PEPV. Example from Catholic Charities of 25-30 clients with additional medical vulnerabilities that are not likely to match, so working to case conference those clients and advocate for their clients to get placed at PEPV.
 - **Hesitations related to PEPV:** a lot of uncertainty around PEPV around how long PEPV will be around and what they can expect. Clients know what they know where they are and are more comfortable. Multiple transitions are also intimidating for clients. Especially when clients are already anticipating moving to housing and leaving the community that they have been in for 1+ years. Role of peers in supporting clients to accept PEPV.
 - Relaxing Rules at PEPV:
- **Blair:** feedback that the Winter Plan does not accurately capture that Blair is a hypothermia site that is being used for the season as renovations are slated for Spring, 2022. Winter Plan to be updated to reflect clarification.

2. OPERATIONAL SHIFTS DUE TO WINTER STORMS & COLD ALERTS

Theresa Silla (ICH) outlined operational shifts for each of the Winter Storms since the 12/22 meeting. Melvyn Smith (DHS) both confirmed the shifts and outlined the most significant lessons learned from shepherding the community through the storms.

Detailed feedback/notes from the community are captured in the PPT deck itself, so please see PPT for both framing and community concerns/recommendations/feedback.

C. 801 EAST: TRANSITION TO THE NEW FACILITY

Melvyn Smith (DHS) provided an update on transition activities. Both the update and the feedback/notes from the community are captured in the PPT.

III. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

Theresa Silla (ICH) proposed a break in February. Kate Coventry (DCFPI) recommended an email update in lieu of meeting would be critical; especially from DHS regarding the status of COVID, PEPV, Hypothermia, and the 801 East Transition. Consensus on the call that an email update would be critical.

Decisions & Action Items

Email update re COVID, PEPV, Hypothermia operations, and 801 East transition, if February meeting is canceled.

Next Meeting	Date: TBD (likely 23 March 2022)	Time: 1 – 2:30 PM	Location: Webex
---------------------	---	--------------------------	--

Participant List

Carla Branham (DHS)
Theresa Silla (ICH)
Kim Glover (DHS)
Sakina Thompson (DMHHS)
Betty Gentle (SOME)
Bill Kuennen (DHS)
Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities)
Michael Ferrell (Coalition for Homeless)
Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic)
Jesse Rabinowitz (MK)
Kate Coventry (DCFPI)
Reginald Black (PFFC)
Candyce Coates (TCP)
Kelly Paton (TCP)
Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)
Jerod Lee (DHS)
Kalifia Thomas (Community of Hope)
2027****51
Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities)
Tiffany Tyler (DHS)
Ana Elias (Community Connections)
Qaadir El-Amin (PFFC)
Hajira Fuad

Dervin Brown (UPO)
micheal coleman (PFFC)
heidi gauthier (NSV)
2029****64
marcy bernaum
Ramona Thomas (DHS)
Andrew Wassenich (MK)
Luline Almonacy (UPO)
Sangita Joshi (NSV)
Jill Carmichael (NCC)
Ted Joseph (DHS)
Alicia Horton (Thrive DC)
Sari Frankel (DBH)
Ronnie L Stanley, Jr. (Mission DC)
Ceymone Dyce (Pathways)
A Angell (H3 Project)
Jean Badalamenti (DCPL)
Sheila Clark (DHS)
Belinda Fadlelmola (HUD)
Elizabeth Coleman (Catholic Charities)
Rachel Pierre (DHS)
Jessie Henry (Everyone Home DC)
Liza Pors (Friendship Place)