



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: 27 July 2022	Time: 1 – 2:30 PM	Location: Webex
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Meeting Notes
I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER
ICH Director, Theresa Silla, called the meeting to order and notified the group that the recording was started. Committee Co-Chair, Bill Kuennen (Program Manager, DHS), welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda.
II. DISCUSSION
A. PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPLEMENTAL HUD COC NOFO
Director Silla introduced this topic and provided a summary with support from Jose Lucio (TCP).
Note that the Supplemental HUD NOFO is in addition to the standard annual CoC renewal HUD NOFO process. Under the supplemental NOFO, the District can apply for up to 14.6 million (amount determined by HUD).
Director Silla reviewed the components and process of the supplemental NOFO, highlighting that one of the first steps is for the ERSO Committee to vote on the proposed prioritization framework. See slide 6 in the PPT for more details.
Concerns/Recommendations/Feedback regarding the program types eligible for funding under this NOFO:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supportive Services Only (SSO): TCP noted that they received guidance from HUD that SSO projects are limited to Coordinated Entry System (CES).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Given the local investment to support the implementation of coordinated entry, TCP did not recommend prioritizing applications for a CES SSO project.○ Based on this update, ICH edited the recommended prioritization framework on slide 6 to correctly reflect the SSO update and moved it to the lowest priority based on live feedback from the meeting participants.• Funding Storage: Outreach teams indicated that storage was a significant gap in the current system. TCP relayed that based on the language in the NOFO and the guidance from HUD re Supportive Services Only, this NOFO can only fund permanent housing or planning grants for HMIS and CES.• Housing Navigation Services: TCP confirmed that housing navigation as a stand-alone program cannot be funded under the NOFO, but providers who are applying for permanent housing may include a specific focus on housing navigation in their submissions.• Projects Targeting Single Adult Women: Clarification that although the slides did not reflect example projects for single adult women, providers can certainly apply for a housing program targeted at single women specifically.• HUD Joint TH/RRH and RRH Program: in response to questions, TCP clarified<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Flexibility to house clients regionally: RRH funded under HUD can be used to house individuals outside of the District which is not currently possible for DHS locally funded RRH-I.

- **Limitations or requirements for clients to participate in the two program components:** Joint TH/RRH is one program with two components so providers are required to be able to provide both program components, but program participants are not required to complete both program components and can be flexible with amount of time needed in either program component.
- **Program Design for Unsheltered Individuals:** Question on how providers can incorporate specific considerations of unsheltered individuals into the program design and if the NOFO can fund more intensive programs than PSH. TCP clarified that the NOFO cannot fund more intensive PSH. It can only fund Joint TH/RRH, RRH, PSH, or HMIS and CES projects. ICH also noted that while the providers may include additional service details (e.g., wraparound mental health services, etc.) in their project applications, the group should consider impact on racial equity by targeting unsheltered homeless for housing resources.

To establish if there was a consensus, Director Silla asked Committee members if anyone objects to officially adopting the prioritization framework as edited in the meeting. No objections were noted, and the ICH ERSO Committee adopted the prioritization framework on slide 6 by consensus.

B. HYPERTHERMIA CHECK-IN

Director Silla facilitated the Hyperthermia Check-In with specific reflections on the recent Hot Weather Emergency. Please see attached PPT for more details

Concerns/Recommendations/Feedback

- **Definition of Hot Weather Emergency:** A Hot Weather Emergency is activated when the weather forecast predicts 4 or more consecutive days with heat alerts.
- **Appreciation for Staff Contributions During Heat Wave:** Jose Lucio (TCP) commended DHS and TCP staff on all the work and collaboration for additional operations. Committee Co-Chair, Bill Kuennen (DHS) also recognized the work of outreach teams, DDSC and Adams Day Center staff who all worked extended and weekend hours to provide additional capacity for consumers.
- **Reflections on Heat Wave & Operational Adjustments:**
 - Cooling buses leveraged as a backup in designated locations and shelter sites based on the ability of the location to accommodate cooling busses and at locations with the greatest risk for HVAC outages.
 - Need for cooling busses near McPherson Square flagged as unsheltered clients do not want to travel to New York Ave to access cooling options.
 - Need for additional women's bed/capacity in the system articulated by UPO and seconded by N Street Village and representatives with lived experience.
 - Census at Day Centers requested, particularly during the extended hours, to determine if there is a need to expand Day Center hours and integrate that into next year's Heat Plan. DHS confirmed they will follow up with service providers and DDSC for that data. UPO confirmed they do track census numbers at service centers daily and shelters during the day. The report is currently internal, but UPO will share the information with ICH.

C. HYPOTHERMIA PLANNING

Director Silla covered this agenda item and highlighted the two goals for the discussion were to review 1) demand for beds estimated by Shelter Capacity and 2) the inventory of facilities and beds to be available based on specific scenarios. Please see slides 12-17 for more detail as well as slide 18 which includes notes from the group's discussion.

Concerns/Recommendations/Feedback:

- **Alert Communication:** Concern that hypothermia alerts are determined and communicated too late in the day. Consumer advocates cite concern that individuals may not be aware of the additional shelter capacity available on alert nights until late at night. ICH noted that all low barrier shelters are currently open 24/7.
- **Storage:** Concern about storage if 24/7 operations are not instated permanently. If and when shelters stop

operating 24/7., ICH will ensure that this topic is a future discussion item .

- **Review of Shelter Facility Inventory Tables:**

- **Girard Street and Valley Place Shelters:** Clarification from Community of Hope that bridge housing sites (Girard Street and Valley Place) serve both men and women. ICH will update the tables finalized for the Winter Plan using the standard split of 70% men and 30% women.
- **New LGBTQ+ Beds:** Identified as missing from the tables as they will be coming online in August. ICH will update the tables finalized for the Winter Plan with the details.
- **ANC Action Against Pat Handy Legacy and Swing Shelters:** Efforts by the ANC to close of Pat Handy Swing and Legacy spaces were discussed. ICH noted that ANC likely does not have jurisdiction to force the closure of the two facilities. Need for a communication strategy that includes ANCs flagged. ICH noted that 4 new positions will be posted two of which are intended to support communication.

- **Migrants seeking shelter:**

- **Potential Impact** of migrants on shelter capacity planning evaluated.
 - Press reports, as noted by DCFPI and advocates, ~4,500 people have come through DC, with 10-15% (about 400-600 people) planning to stay in the District.
 - Advocates reporting buses continue to arrive with about 100 people per day with no clear timeline on when this may stop given the political climate.
- **Resource Limitations:** Consumer advocates noted concern that the homeless services system is already stretched and that accommodating migrants within the context of the homeless services system may result in prioritizing migrants for resources over local residents experiencing homelessness.
- **Need for language services:** While all documents should be available for transition in Spanish, the needs of the population are beyond what is available with over-the-phone translation services. As such, TCP noted that providers should anticipate the need for additional language services on site and leverage translators and bilingual staff.

D. BED RESERVATION FOR LOW BARRIER PROGRAMMING

The committee was not able to cover this topic in full, but Director Silla briefly reviewed the PPT slides and noted that the ERSO Committee can review this in more detail during the next meeting. See PPT slides.

III. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Director Silla and Synina Pugh (DHS) highlighted the upcoming DC Wave Festival: Community Wellness Event at Franklin Park on August 13th. This event was inspired by the success of DHS’ resource fair. It is open to the public but is mainly intended to be for homeless services consumers. The rain date for the event is Saturday, August 20th.

Upcoming Meetings

Topic	Date	Time	Location
Single Adult System WG	Aug 2	1 – 2:30 PM	Webex
Executive Committee	Aug 9	1:30 – 3PM	Webex
ERSO Committee Meeting	Aug 24	1 – 2:30 PM	Webex
Executive Committee	Sept 13	1:30 – 3PM	Webex

Participant List

<p>Theresa Silla (ICH) Novella Brown-White (UPO) Dallas Williams (DHS) Judy Williams (DHS) Eileen Rosa (ICH) Sakina Thompson (DMHHS) Antwan Gillis (Friendship Place) Bill Kuennen (DHS) Elizabeth Coleman (Catholic Charities) Kenyatta T. Brunson (NSV) Rebecca Kellett (GMC) Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen) Kate Coventry (DCFPI) Kim Glover (DHS) Nadia Malik (Miriam's Kitchen) Quin Grier (DHS) Micheal Coleman (PFFC, CEWG) Ana Elias (Community Connections) Evan Langholt (Catholic Charities) Fatima Bah (Calvary) Sara Platek (TCP) Veronica Thomassesay (Catholic Charities) Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC) Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities) Jamey Burden (COH) Synina Pugh (DHS) Elisabeth Young (TCP) Lois Achu (SOME) Natasha Charles (Catholic Charities)</p>	<p>David Freeman (Community Connections) Diana Weyandt (Children's National) Tiffany Tyler (DHS) Aaron White (DBH, YAB) Juan Cespedes (Catholic Charities) Dervin Brown (UPO) Kalifia Thomas (COH) Ronald Stubblefield (NSV) Madhvi Bahl (Sanctuary DMV and Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network) Jose Lucio (TCP) Reginald Black (PFFC, CEWG) Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic) Ted Joseph (DHS) Candyce J. Coates (TCP) Betty Gentle (SOME) Mary Bridget (Catholic Charities) Veronica Fabani (Catholic Charities) Ishan Heru (Community Connections) Sari Frankel (DBH) Russell McDowell (NSV) Ronnie Stanley (Central Union Mission) Qaadir El Amin (PFFC, CEWG) Robert Warren (PFFC, CEWG) Catherine Crosland (Unity) Larry Gooch (Catholic Charities)</p>
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