



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE & SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

<b>Meeting Details</b>	<b>Date:</b> 04 January 2023	<b>Time:</b> 1 – 2:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Webex</a>
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### Meeting Notes

#### I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

ERSO Committee co-chair, Reggie Black (PFFC, CEWG), welcomed the group and invited attendees to introduce themselves in the chat.

ICH Advisor, Synina Pugh, notified the group that the recording was started and covered housekeeping reminders for the Committee outlined on 3-4.

#### II. DISCUSSION

##### A. HYPOTHERMIA DEBRIEF

Synina Pugh (ICH) and Tony Newman (DHS) covered these updates. Please see slides 7-8 for more details.

##### Overview of Hypothermia Alerts from December 2022:

- 19 Hypothermia alerts that took place after 7 pm, 17 hypothermia alerts at 7 am.
- 5 Cold Weather Emergency Alerts

#### OPERATIONAL UPDATES & CAPACITY

##### Notes:

- On the coldest nights during the holidays, the lowest vacancy count was around 50.
- Note that capacity numbers on slide 7 are as of 1/2/23.
- Vacancies increased after Xmas when the weather turned, and the temperatures increased.

##### Comments/Recommendations/Feedback:

- **Shelter Occupancy/Vacancy Rates:** Question re occupancy compared to initial estimates for added capacity before hypothermia season. Tony Newman (DHS) noted that at the start of hypothermia season, DHS did not have the rec centers online that we do now. Capacity was added early in the season, including the Church of Epiphany and Salvation Army as well as the two rec centers, so we have the available vacancies. If we have a cold winter, later in the season as last year, we will likely see lower vacancy rates.
- **Turn Away & Reluctance to Access Shelter:** Question on turn away data and reluctance to go into shelter.

- Tony Newman (DHS) noted the reluctance will likely require more discussion, but outreach teams, DHS and UPO staff worked to engage and prepare encampment and unsheltered residents for the cold.
- Reggie also noted that shelter turn away data is reviewed in the Shelter Capacity meeting that precedes the ICH ERSO Committee meetings.
- **Clients Declining Shelter:** Dervin Brown (UPO) shared that before hypothermia season there were concerns about LBS reaching max capacity early in the evening, so the additional rec centers online during hypothermia are very helpful. From UPO standpoint, have not heard of any shelter turn aways since November. During outreach however, UPO has had some people refuse shelter. UPO is tracking this data.
- **LGBTQ shelter beds:** Question on additional need for LGBTQ beds since the current site has been at capacity. Tony Newman (DHS) noted that DHS is tracking need though there were 6 vacancies on the night of 1/3.
- **UPO pickups:** Concern from Miriam’s Kitchen that during the very cold nights, outreach called UPO for shelter transport, but the person was not picked up and UPO did not show. Dervin Brown of UPO requested that information on these instances be sent to him [dbrown@upo.org](mailto:dbrown@upo.org)

**Next Steps:**

- DHS to provide vacancy counts for 12/25 to inform comparison of 1/2/23 vacancies depicted on Slide 7.
- UPO to share data on clients declining shelter during outreach.

**COLD EMERGENCY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Notes:**

- McPherson Square was the highest utilized location, a second bus was re-routed to that location.
- The warming buses were provided by WMATA this year. There was strong coordination and adjustments made after the first night. DHS and WMATA staff added signage to the buses, and WMATA provided new buses every 8 hours for refueling.
- The buses were available 24/7 during the Cold Emergency.

**Comments/Recommendations/Feedback:**

- **Families:** Concern from consumers on the number of women staying outside Union Station, some of which have children with them. Rachel Pierre (DHS) noted that it is District policy for shelter to be available to families. Outreach teams are responsible for engaging and referring to VWFRC and, during Cold Weather Emergencies, likely also need to flag to child welfare agency due to extreme weather safety concerns.

Rachel Pierre (FSA Administrator at DHS) shared thanks and gratitude for all who served above and beyond over the Christmas holiday and during the Cold Weather Emergency, particularly frontline staff, UPO, and DHS staff.

**B. SHELTER REDESIGN: NYA REDEVELOPMENT & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS**

Synina Pugh (ICH) facilitated this discussion and reviewed initial data from the Shelter Redesign engagements. Please see details on slides 10-16.

**Comments/Recommendations/Feedback:**

- **Observations**
  - Question on how many clients at 801 were staying in senior/medically frail beds, given that the age skews higher.
  - Observation that responses to the shelter usage questions may have changed since the 24/7 shelter has been in place due to COVID. Question on the possibility of analyzing surveys to understand differences in responses from people who stayed in the shelter before they were 24/7.
- **Inclusion of Unsheltered/Encampment Residents:**

- Recommendation from outreach teams to engage unsheltered clients in the survey process to inform the design and broader shelter interest as well as PEP-V residents.
- Interest in including shelter questions on the Point in Time (PIT) survey, if possible.

Next Steps:

- ICH to continue with the full client and staff survey analysis.
- ICH and DHS work with outreach to determine a plan for engaging unsheltered clients to inform shelter redevelopment and design process.

### III. UPDATES

#### B. PEP-V & RESPITE BEDS

Tony Newman (DHS) shared these updates. Notes are included below.

##### DHS UPDATES ON MEDICAL RESPITE BEDS AT 801 EAST

There was a delay in bringing on Medical Respite beds at 801 East back in August 2022 due to elevator issues that limited the functioning of the other LBS floors. Now that the elevator issues have been resolved, 801 East is moving forward to bring the 24 respite beds online and is taking referrals. Community Connections has identified referrals and is working with hospitals to streamline the referral process. The process for referrals directly from outreach and other shelters is to be determined.

Comments/Recommendations/Feedback:

- **FD-12s:** Question on the number of FD-12s, eligibility for referral into respite beds and if the beds are appropriate for people who were previously FD-12. Tony Newman (DHS) noted two FD-12s were related to the cold weather emergencies; however, the respite beds are inappropriate for DBH referrals.
- **Medical Services/Staff:** Question on how beds will be brought online and if there is sufficient medical staff on-site. Per Tony Newman (DHS), beds will be opened on a dorm-by-dorm basis to allow for adjustments. Regarding medical staff, DHS is confident this is sufficient. Medical staff have completed dry runs/simulations and should be able to handle the flow.

Next Steps:

- DHS to follow up on the referral process for medical respite beds at 801 East to include referrals from outreach and shelter providers in the CoC

##### DHS UPDATES ON PEP-V

DHS is planning to release full communication on the status of PEP-V and will address more details by the February ERSO Committee meeting on what the continuation of PEP-V will look like.

Comments/Recommendations/Feedback:

- **Need for Respite Beds relative to PEP-V:** Comment from Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic) that the need for respite beds is imminent because PEP-V is not meeting the needs of people now with limited accessible rooms for people in wheelchairs, walk-in showers, etc. Still have several hundred people in PEP-V, most are matched to PSH, so urging continued PEP-V operations due to the delay in the housing process.

## C. OFFICE OF MIGRANT SERVICES

Rachel Pierre (DHS) covered this update. Please see details on slides 21-23.

### Comments/Recommendations/Feedback:

- DHS is providing temporary accommodations to 3 hotels for over 700 individuals, including almost 200 families. As of 12/28 had 171 families in Days Inn and Hampton Inn hotels. DHS noted that they are not currently providing an alternative outside of homeless services for individuals, however, some people are being triaged to stay in churches and working with mutual aid groups.
- Question from UPO to clarify the process for referring migrants who call the Shelter Hotline. DHS noted that this is the same process for our non-migrant consumers. Individuals should still be referred and transported to low-barrier shelter. Families should continue to be referred to VWFRC and will be diverted as appropriate.
- **Migrant Individuals:** Question on the tracking mechanism for individuals and if people are diverted to other counties. Rachel Pierre (DHS) noted that data for individuals is less accurate since individuals may enter low-barrier shelter and are not required to identify as a migrant or provide other identifying information. However, the current estimate is 150-200 individuals in the LBS. Also, most are not staying in the District for longer than 3 days.
- **Services for Families:** Question on the program's scope and process for migrant families in the hotels. Rachel Pierre (DHS) stated that the plan is to help them establish a new resettlement plan and to coordinate with their identified sponsors for resettlement.
- Question on the broader fiscal impact on services and reaching clients staying in low-barrier shelters.

## C. COVID & MONKEYPOX

Madeleine Solan (DHS) reviewed these updates. Please see slides 24-26 for details.

### Comments/Recommendations/Feedback:

- Question on the location of the new ISAQ site. DHS noted that this information is not typically shared publicly to protect client confidentiality since it is not considered a low-barrier shelter. As such, the site location can be shared offline.

## IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Kenyatta Brunson, CEO of N Street Village, shared that the Bethany's Day Program has recently reopened for female-identifying clients.

- **Hours:** currently limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 7 am – 4 pm.
- **Location:** 1333 N Street NW.
- **Additional Details:** Breakfast and lunch are served. We anticipate being able to go back to a 7-day-a-week operation next month.

## V. SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT

Synina Pugh (ICH) adjourned the meeting and noted that due to the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count on 1/25, the next ICH ERSO Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, February 1, from 1 – 2:30 pm. The ICH will update the calendar invite and send reminders accordingly.

<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Date:</b> 01 February 2023	<b>Time:</b> 1 – 2:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> Webex Link TBD
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**Participant List (67 attendees, 35 organizations)**

Reggie Black, PFFC, CEWG  
Qaadir El Amin, PFFC, CEWG  
Robert Warren, PFFC, CEWG  
Rachelle Ellison, PFFC  
Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud, PFFC  
Synina Pugh, ICH  
Eileen Rosa, ICH  
Daisean Foster, ICH  
Donna Harris, ICH  
Jorge Membreno, ICH  
Anthony Newman, DHS  
Emil Pauling, DHS  
Jamie W. Thomas, DHS  
Jill Carmichael, DHS  
Madeleine Solan, DHS  
Quin Grier, DHS  
Rachel Pierre, DHS  
Adam Gerstenfeld, DHS  
Leticia Dyer, DHS  
Naomi Bellot, DHS  
William Kuennen, DHS  
Aaron White, DBH, YAB  
Abby Sypek, Everyone Home DC  
Amanda Chesney, Catholic Charities  
Blair Copeland, Catholic Charities  
Juan Cespedes, Catholic Charities  
Annemarie Cuccia, Street Sense  
Antwan Washington, UPO  
Dervin Brown, UPO  
Belinda Fadlelmola, HUD  
Candyce Coates, TCP  
Samantha Nolet, TCP  
Charlene Flaherty, COH  
Cpt. Jon Dorrough, MPD

Erin Byrne, DCCADV  
Erin Whelan, SMYAL  
Fernanda Huffman, LAYC  
Florence B. Rozario, Pathways to Housing  
George Johnson, Sasha Bruce  
Helen Richman, Sasha Bruce  
Trenicia Lewis, Sasha Bruce  
Imani Davis, Friendship Place  
Lauren Havoc, Friendship Place  
Lynn Amano, Friendship Place  
Scarlet Levy, Friendship Place  
Jean Badalamenti, DCPL  
Jesse Rabinowitz, Miriam's Kitchen  
Nadia Malik, Miriam's Kitchen  
Kaira Smith, DC Council  
Kate Coventry, DCFPI  
Kelly Andreae, GMC  
Rebecca Kellett, GMC  
Kenyatta T. Brunson, NSV  
Russell McDowell, NSV  
Lauren Puryear, Covenant House  
Michael Cook, HSEMA  
Michael Ferrell, DCCFH  
Michele E Rochon, Concerned Citizen  
Ms. N, Concerned Citizen  
Nechama Masliansky, SOME  
Rainer Rodriguez, SJCS  
Ronnie Stanley, Central Union Mission  
Sabrina Burrell, DHS  
Sakina Thompson, DMHHS  
Sari Frankel, DBH  
Wes Heppler, Legal Clinic  
Joshua Drumming, Legal Clinic