



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: 29 March 2023	Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Location: Webex
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Meeting Notes

I. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Synina Pugh (ICH, ERSO Advisor) opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and started the recording with a reminder about the ICH recording conventions detailed on slide 2.

Synina, asked co-chairs Tony Newman (Deputy FSA Administrator-Individuals, DHS, and Reginal Black (Co-Director, PFFC) to introduce themselves. Ms. Pugh asked co-chair Reginald Black to provide a review of the meeting agenda.

Synina covered housekeeping items slides 5-6 including:

- Introductions and call for announcements.
- Adopting Notes and Managing Listserv

II. HYPOTHERMIA CHECK-IN

A. MARCH ALERTS / OPERATIONAL SHIFTS AND FEEDBACK FROM YOUTH PROVIDERS

Anthony Newman called on Shaquin Grier (DHS) to provide hypothermia alert data as of March 28. Please see slides #8.

B. YOUTH FRONT-DOOR SERVICES – SAFETY CONCERNS

Special Advisor Jorge Membreño (ICH) provided an overview of the feedback received regarding safety concerns at youth shelters, drop-in centers, and shelters, specifically regarding facility safety, safety in the neighborhood, and concerns over substance abuse. Please see slides #9-10.

Comments, questions, and concerns are summarized below.

- Should anyone need assistance, Ms. Sari Frankel is a Narcan Operator at DBH. Contact naxolone@dc.gov if you need training to administer as well as Narcan distribution. HIPPS also distributes strips.
- One of our advocates, Ms. Umi suggested that now McPherson is closed, fentanyl testing strips should be distributed during dinner hours at the newly located food distribution location near Farragut Square.
- ERSO co-chair, Reginald Black inquired about outreach to the Office of Neighborly Engagement and/or Safe Passage regarding the turf wars occurring. Do we know whether these offices can help mediate OR can we facilitate engagement from the ONSE office?

- ICH – ICH has contacted the ONSE office and has received help where they are seeing upticks but haven't engaged with them regarding Columbia Heights. We're working to re-establish a point of contact and develop a referral service.
- ICH – There's no surprise that front-door service staff is short-staffed - they must be upfront AND monitor center programs. Any number of weapons entering service sites are creating difficulty,

C. 2022-2023 HYPOTHERMIA CLOSE-OUT PLAN / TRANSITION PLAN FOR OVERFLOW SITES

Anthony Newman (DHS) provided a review of the plan to close out hypothermia sites – indicating the plan to 'shrink' the Pat Handy Legacy location in preparation for its closing. Please see slides #12 - #15. It was noted that Madison House staff are connecting with clients at Adams Place Day Center and Sherwood to transition clients from hypothermia locations to emergency or transitional shelter beds.

Comments, questions, and concerns are summarized here for easy reference.

- What is the timing for Emery returning online versus Pat Handy?
- How are DHS and DGS optimizing beds for maximum capacity within the building, since the locations are transitioning from a work bed program to a low-barrier shelter?
- How is DHS planning to ensure the program at Emery is open to all low-barrier clients, and not just the individuals residing at Pat Handy?
- How are we addressing the implosion of the system for women, as there are enough sites for men?
- We remain in contract development, but we are looking to extend for women, during post-hypothermia season; however, contractual items must first be solidified.

III. UPDATES

A. OFFICE OF MIGRANT SERVICES (OMS)

Debra Crawford (OMS) introduced Tatiana Largborde, program manager of the new Office of Migrant Services, and provided a review and update of the office now being stood up. Please see slides #16-18.

Comments, questions, and concerns are summarized below:

- Wes Heppler from the Legal Clinic inquires to see if the OMS plan remains for a unified DC Welcome Center, unlike Churches.
- DHS responds that the team is still evaluating the situation and this is a work in progress; as OMS is still looking for a site location.

B. COVID-19

Madeleine Solan (DHS) provided an update on the key metrics on COVID-19 testing, hospitalization, and vaccinations, as well as guidance updates. She noted that DHS is moving to the next phase of COVID-19 given that the public health emergency ends on May 11, 2023, and Unity COVID-19 testing will end on April 1. Please see slides #20-24.

A question was raised to the group regarding the comfort level of removing the mask mandate at shelters. Please see the results of the survey:

- 24% voted to **lift** the mask mandate.
- 6% voted against

- 10% were uncertain.
- 49% abstained.

Comments / Feedback Questions:

- What does this mean for health/comfort?
- We're unable to get comfort data.

IV. DISCUSSION: ANNUAL PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS

Theresa Silla, Executive Director (ICH) focused the group's attention on the committee's priorities for FY23, recommending four areas. Please see slides #26 - #28. Among the recommendations is re-activating Shelter Conditions and Operations work group, focusing on organizing services and supports at our front door, and establishing a new Health Care Committee that would have three (3) work groups that would focus on

- Behavioral Health and Homeless Services
- Hospital and Homeless Services
- Mortality Review

Comments, questions, and concerns are summarized below.

- Advocates stated better health care for street-level unsheltered is critical.
- The recommendation for the creation of the proposed committee and work groups received very positive feedback to move ahead.
- ERSO co-chair Reginald Black inquired if we're going to have a Health Care Committee, is this enough incentive to get the Director of the Department of Health appointed to these meetings? We need health.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

Candyce Coates (TCP) reminded the group/providers that worked with TCP and had gift cards, that the cards will be collected that were not used. It was noted that TCP must provide a final report to DHS on the incentives and how they were used during the pandemic (i.e., for vaccinations and testing).

VI. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

From Madeleine Solan (DHS) and Synina Pugh (ICH) – deep appreciation was expressed to the group and their teams for the incredible work performed during the hypothermia season and during the pandemic. Co-Chair Anthony Newman thanked the group, noting that he would provide shelter capacity numbers, and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting	Date: April 26, 2023	Time: 1:00pm – 2:30pm	Location: WebEx
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Participant List (69 attendees, 34 organizations)		
2026****09	Ishan Heru (Community Connections)	Rebecca Kellett (GMC)
2029****31	Jasmin Miller (DHS)	Reginald Black (PFFC)
7037****82	Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen)	Robert Warren (PFFC)
Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)	Jessica Yopez Rufino (LAYC)	

<p>Aldo Hurtado (LAYC) Annemarie Cuccia (Street Sense) Anthony Newman (Co-Chair/DHS) Betty Gentle Bill Kuennen Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities) Brendan Haley (Everyone Home DC) Candyce Coates (TCP) Capt, Jon Dorrrough (MPD) Catherine Crosland (Unity) Christian Howard Chris Pitocchelli (Friendship Place) C. Rogers Daisean Foster (ICH) Darryl Phillips (Community Connections) Debra Crawford Dervin Brown (UPO) Donna Harris (ICH) Erin Byrne (DCCADV) Fernanda Huffman</p>	<p>Jill Carmichael (National CC) Jonathan Jorge Membreño (ICH) Joshua Drumming (Legal Clinic) Judy Williams Kalifia Thomas (Community of Hope) Kate Coventry (DCFPI) Kelly Andreae (GMC) Krysta Aguilar (DHS) Leticia Lindsay Curtin (DHS) Madeleine Solan (DHS) Marissa Oden Maydeen Merino (Concerned Citizen) Michael Cook (HSEMA) Michael Ferrell (DCCFH) Nikila Smith (Consumer) Novella Brown-White</p>	<p>Ronnie Stanley (Central Union Mission) Sakina Thompson (DMHHS) Samantha Nolet (TCP) Sangita Joshi (N Street Village) Sari Frankel (DBH) Shaquin Grier (DHS) Synina Pugh (ICH) Tatiana Laborde (OMS) Theresa Silla (ICH) Tyrell Veronica Fabani (Catholic Charities) Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic) William Kuennen</p>
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