



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: 26 April 2023	Time: 1:00PM – 2:30PM	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 7.

Synina, then turned the meeting over to Rachelle Ellison and Niklia Smith of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) and introduced the Rhonda Whitaker Streets to Life DC Women’s Initiative. The group, is comprised of women with lived experience of homelessness, is in partnership with the People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) and the Greater Washington Community Foundation (GWCF).

Group activities are made possible through Waldon Adams Grant from the GWCF.

Two years ago this week, both Adams and Whitaker, both of whom were strong advocates of those with lived experience passed away from a hit and run incident. See slides 1-5.

Following the presentation by People for Fairness members, Synina covered slides 7-11 including:

- Meeting agenda
- Introductions and housekeeping conventions.
- Adopting meeting notes, absent any comments/feedback and
- Managing the board listserv
- Review of the meeting agenda.

Co-chairs Tony Newman (Deputy FSA Administrator – Individuals, DHS) and Reginald Black (Co-Director, PFFC) introduced themselves and welcomed attendees.

Synina then introduced special guests to the meeting from the National Weather Service (NWS) – Kevin Rodriguez, Lead Meteorologist – and Anthony Hill from the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) to discuss the implementation of the District’s Heat Emergency Plan and how DC coordinates this important effort with the NWS.

II. HYPOTHERMIA CLOSE-OUT

A. APRIL ALERTS / OPERATIONAL SHIFTS

Quinn Grier, (DHS) LBS Monitoring Coordinator with DHS, led this presentation – see Slides 13-14.

- Provided an overview of the District’s recent hypothermia season.
- Provided information for total number of alerts issued including cold weather emergencies.
- Provided data on the number of beds utilized segmented by gender.
- It was noted that warming buses were deployed February 3-4 requiring an update to the cold weather total.

Anthony Newman (DHS) also added the following information:

- Adams Place and 801 East sites will be kept operational to use for overflow sites and noted appreciation to Catholic Charities’ staff.
- Pat Handy Site – The population is over 130. To prepare for Emery opening, there is a plan to get the bed count down to 130 to coincide with the Emery opening. Work is underway to set up temporary beds. Currently 100 beds are permanent but there is enough slack in the system to transition without much discomfort.
- Blair – Due to construction schedules, this location can remain open to the end of September. When Emery is operating, will be able to get Blair operational.

Synina thanked both Quinn and Tony for their diligence and leadership during hypothermia season. There will be a hypothermia debriefing scheduled next month.

B. TRANSITION PLAN FOR OVERFLOW LOCATIONS

DHS discussed transitions plans for overflow locations. Details on slide 6:

- Planned 2022-2023 hypothermia and overflow sites close-out schedule.
- Operational adjustments for of 24/7 access in six (6) low barrier shelters
- Discussion on operations of overflow locations

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS: NATIONAL WEATHER & HEAT EMERGENCY PLAN PRESENTED BY HSEMA

A. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) PRESENTATION

Kevin Rodriguez, Lead Meteorologist with the National Weather Service (NWS) provided an overview of the federal entity and how it collaborates with both HSEMA and DHS during the hot months of the year, noting that extreme weather is an increasing threat. Significant highlights include:

- Over the last five years, there have been 18 major weather events.
- Goal is to be weather-ready nationwide to protect life and safety.
- Heat is the #1 weather-related killer with many fatalities going unreported.
- For DC, HSEMA is the lead agency for heat emergencies, in collaboration with DHS.
- HSEMA triggers heat emergencies when the threshold of 95 degrees has been met either by heat index or temperature.

NWS power point presentation is not included in slide deck

- Heat Product Triggers:
 - Heat Index of 105-109 - NWS issues Heat Advisory
 - Heat Index of 110+ - NWS issues Excessive Heat Warning
 - DC actions outside of NWS thresholds

- Knowledge that hot areas in the city will be higher
- <https://www.weather.gov/lwx/heat> (new NWS Baltimore / Washington Heat Page)
- <https://www.Weather.gov/Washington>
- DC is in Region 3 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 18. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- How should heat maps be utilized in determining deployment of resources.
- Discussion and questions on predictions for the summer.
- Discussion on heat related deaths in comparison to deaths during colder months.

B. PROPOSED HEAT EMERGENCY PLAN – HSEMA PRESENTATION

Anthony Hill, Deputy Bureau Chief in the preparedness operation of HSEMA, provided an overview of the District’s 2023 Heat Emergency Plan. Please see Slides #20-33.

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 34. Topics are summarized here for easy reference:

- Outreach to staff of designated cooling centers, about the designations of their site as a cooling site for the public.
- Discussion on providing and distributing additional support for cooling, for example distribution of ice and perhaps coolers.
- Create a communication mechanism to address bag limitations for cooling buses.
- Development of Heat Alert / Emergency Cards – laminated cards with vital information to distribute to those unsheltered
- Discussion on UPO transportational hours during heat emergencies.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

- Catherine Crosland reminded the group of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council’s annual conference, scheduled for May 15-18 in Baltimore, MD.
- ICH Director Theresa Silla announced that DCPL has a Peer Specialist Position available - https://careers.dc.gov/psc/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_SCHJOB_FL&Action=U&

V. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

Synina noted that the next meeting will be held May 24. She thanked the group the group for their presentations and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting	Date: May 24, 2023	Time: 1:00PM – 2:30PM	Location: WebEx
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Participant List (67 attendees, 33 organizations)

<p>Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC) Alec Coutroulis (HSEMA) Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities) Andrew Worrell (HSEMA) Anna Gray Anthony Hill (HSEMA) Anthony Newman (DHS) Antwan Washington (UPO) Betty Gentle Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities) Brandi G. Brendan Haley (Everyone Home DC) Candyce Coates (TCP) Catherine Crosland (Unity) Chelsey Brown Chris Pitocchelli (Friendship Place) Cliff Rogers (Covenant House) Corinne Edds (DCHSEMA) Daisean Foster (ICH) Daja J. Dervin Brown (UPO) Donna Harris (ICH) Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (PFFC) Eileen Rosa (ICH) Fermanda Huffman</p>	<p>Gayan Troussard Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen) Jill Carmichael (National CC) Joshua Drumming (Legal Clinic) Kaira Smith (DC Council) Kalifia Thomas (Community of Hope) Kate Coventry (DCFPPI) Kelly Andreae (GMC) Kevin Rodriguez (NWS) Leslie-Ann Byam Lindsay Curtin (DHS) Lynn Amano (Friendship Place) Marissa Oden Marsheika Gee (TCP) Megan Hewitt Michael Ferrell (DCCFH) Ms. Naomi (PFFC) Nadia Malik (Miriam's Kitchen) Niklia Smith (PFFC) Novella Queenie Featherstone (PFFC) Quin Grier (DHS) Rachelle Ellison (PFFC) Ray Rebecca Kellett</p>	<p>Reginald Black (PFFC) Rico Harris Robert Warren (PFFC) Sakina Thompson (DMHHS) Samantha Nolet (TCP) Sangita Joshi (N Street Village) Sari Frankel (DBH) Synina Pugh (ICH) Ted Joseph (DHS) Theresa Silla (ICH) Tynesha McManus Tyrell Victoria Alves (SMYAL) Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic) William Kuennen (DHS) 2026****86 9102****68</p>
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