



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

<b>Meeting Details</b>	<b>Date:</b> 26, July, 2023	<b>Time:</b> 1 – 2:30 pm	<b>Location:</b> Webex
------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

### Meeting Notes

#### I. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Synina Pugh (Special Advisor, ICH) welcomed committee members, beginning with a reminder that the District is at the beginning of a four-day heatwave forecasted by the National Weather Service. She advised members and providers to be aware of the symptoms of heat stroke, heat exhaustion and overexposure while outdoors.

Please refer to slide 1 for quick reference.

##### Things to Track for Overexposure (Dr. Crosland)

- Checking for elevated body temperature.
- Heat exhaustion/heat stroke can happen to those who are unhoused.
- Attempt to replacing electrolytes (Gatorade is an example)

Co-chairs Reginald Black (Housing Advocacy Director, Serve Your City Ward 6 / PFFC) and Anthony Newman (DHS/FSA) welcomed everyone and officially started the meeting.

Reginald Black (co-chairs, ERSO) covered housekeeping items. Please refer to slides 3-6

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting conventions

#### II. SYSTEM CHECK-IN

##### A. OPERATIONAL SHIFTS – HOT WEATHER EMERGENCY

Synina (ICH) led this update on the District’s current Hot Weather Emergency/heatwave that begins Wednesday, July 26 and is projected to end Sunday, July 30. Please refer to slide 8-13 including additional updates/details and feedback.

Highlights include:

- Conducting extra welfare checks.
- Operational shift of extension of hours at the Bethany Day Center – 1333 N Street, NW (N Street Village / Ward 2)
- Outreach Teams will distribute water, cooling towels, water bottles with a fan to use as a cooling spray.
- The deployment of Five (5) cooling buses -starting 11am Wednesday to 8pm Sunday.
- Cooling buses will remain at designated locations on 24-hour cycles.

\_Tony Newman (DHS) and Shaquin Grier( DHS) provided operational updates:

#### Cooling Buses

Buses have been deployed today at 12 Noon at the following locations:

- 21<sup>st</sup> and E Streets
- Columbia Heights Plaza
- Starburst Plaza
- Eastern Market
- Triangle Park – Good Hope Road / Minnesota Avenue SE

#### Supplies

- A few hundred cooling towels are available,
- Gallons of water
- Water bottles

#### Communications

- Quin updated that signage will be visible inside the buses, indicating ‘DHS Cooling Bus.’
- DHS will work to print signage for cooling bus locations as a flyer or PDF.
- Outreach Teams were on alert Monday and have been alerting the community on heatwave that starts today and goes through Sunday.

#### Day Centers

Bethany Day Center Hours – Wednesday 7am-6, Thursday 7am to 6pm and Saturday 7am to 5pm (closed Friday and Sunday)

Downtown Day Services Center Hours – 9am to 7pm and Saturday 10am to 5pm

Comments, questions, and concerns are summarized here for easy reference. Please see slides 9-13 for details.

- Constituents voiced concerns of experiencing A/C problems in one of the shelter locations.
- There are concerns that cooling buses are not accessible for people downtown.
- Addressing incorporating Downtown BID as a downtown cooling option.
- Inquires about utilizing vacant spaces into a cooling center. ( i.e. closed Starbucks)
- Discussion on access to UPO and the need to limit baggage as much as possible.
- Discussion on the lack of language access at DDSC.
- Constituent’s concerns are not seeing outreach teams.

## B. NAMING SHELTERS

Executive Director Theresa Silla led this segment, noting that the Living Life Alternatives (program name) shelter for the LGBTQIA+ subpopulation will recognize its one-year anniversary on August 17.

DHS has asked the ICH to support the naming of the building and future shelters that will come online.

The committee discussed the ICH proposal to establish a process for naming new shelter facilities that would leverage existing District Code(s) and other agency protocol for naming public spaces. Office of Planning has protocol for naming spaces.

Key Questions:

- What needs highlighting in naming a property (people, places, or things)?
- Who needs to participate in the process established?

Suggested names can be sent to [ICH.Info@dc.gov](mailto:ICH.Info@dc.gov) and will be shared with DHS for joint consideration.

For feedback on this conversation, please refer to slides 15-16

Highlights include:

- Follow Mayor’s protocol of naming prominent African Americans,

### III. DISCUSSION: WINTER PLAN

#### A. REVIEWING WINTER PLAN UPDATES

Synina (ERSO Advisor) and Executive Director Theresa Silla (ICH) led this portion of the discussion to review and update of the District FY24 Winter Plan, a legislatively mandated product of the ICH.

There are references to the COVID-19 public emergency in terms of integrating the lessons learned from last fiscal year. Other highlights:

- DHS will provide notice if low barrier shelters will not operate on a 24/7 basis.
- References to Monkeypox were removed.
- There is reference to the creation of the Office of Migrant Services (OMS) – historical information on the influx of the migrant population is being saved.
- Engagement with ERSO Committee and the Shelter Capacity Workgroup will be updated/summarized.

For committee feedback, please refer to slides 18-28.

The committee pivoted to shelter capacity shortfalls> Please refer to slides 20-25,

- DHS estimates bed capacity needs will total 1,991 (1,419 for men and 549 for women).
- The committee also reviewed an ICH estimate of shelter capacity beds available, as well as an early look at capacity shortfall.
- It was noted that ICH estimates do not account for progress in housing placements as a result of FY22 and FY23 resources.

#### **Next Steps:**

The ICH will distribute a draft of the FY24 Winter Plan to group by mid-August to go over as a body before the next meeting.

### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

The next ERSO Committee meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2023.

### V. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

TN – if any follow up comments/suggestions – send to [ICH.Info@dc.gov](mailto:ICH.Info@dc.gov) and they will forward to DHS and any other partners. Reginald thanked everyone for feedback and Synina thanked everyone, stay safe and adjourned the meeting.

<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Date:</b> August 23, 2023	<b>Time:</b> 1 – 2:30 pm	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">WebEx</a>
---------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------	--

**Participant List (77 Attendees | XX Organizations)**

2026\*\*\*\*86 (Concerned Citizen)  
 Roberta Shapiro (ANC Commissioner, ANC 6a03)  
 Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)  
 Annemarie Cuccia (StreetSense Media)  
 Betty Gentle (SOME)  
 Clifton Rogers (DHCD)  
**Cornell Kinard (DC Gov)**  
 Kalifia Thomas (COHDC)  
 Kassein Green (DHS)  
 Kate Coventry (DCFPI)  
**Richard Ayodele, Jr. (DC Gov)**  
 Ronnie Stanley (DC Gov)  
 Russell McDowell (N Street Village)  
 Sakina Thompson (DMHHS)  
**Tamika Weldon (DC Gov)**  
 Chelsey Brown (CHDC)  
 Rico Harris (CCNV)  
 Dr. Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Jakia Carroll (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Ronnie Stanley (Central Union Mission)

Ms. Naomi (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Nikila Smith (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Qaadir El-Amin (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Rachelle Ellison (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Reginald Black (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Robert Warren (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Queenie Featherstone (CEWG/PFFC)  
 Amanda Chesney (CCDC)  
 Ishan Heru (CCDC)  
 Darryl Phillips (CCDC)  
 Anthony Newman (DHS)  
 Joshua Thomas (DHS)  
 Shaquin Grier (DHS)  
 Ted Joseph (DHS)  
 William Kuennen (DHS)  
 Kelly Andreae (GMCCT)  
 Rebecca Kellett (GMCCT)  
 Antwan Gillis (Friendship Place)  
 Chris Pitocchelli (Friendship Place)

Liza Poris (Friendship Place)  
 Lynn Amano (Friendship Place)  
 Andy Wasserich (Miriam's Kitchen)  
 Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen)  
 LaJuan Brooks (Legal Clinic)  
 Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic)  
 Timothy Nelson (Miriam's Kitchen)  
 Marissa Oden (Friendship Place)  
 Candyce Coates (TCP)  
 Samantha Nolet (TCP)  
 Tyrell McQueen (TCP)  
 Dervin Brown (UPO)  
 Novella Brown White (UPO)  
**ICH Staff**  
 Daisean Foster  
 Donna Harris  
 Eileen Rosa  
 Jill Carmichael  
 Synina Pugh  
 Theresa Silla