



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE & SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

<b>Meeting Details</b>	<b>Date:</b> 27 September 2023	<b>Time:</b> 1 – 2:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Webex</a>
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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 recording conventions covered on slide 2.

While members gathered, she covered slides 3 – 6 including:

- an ice-breaker slide on National Preparedness Month, also noting that it is Hispanic Heritage Month
- the meeting agenda
- introductions and housekeeping conventions.

Also, Co-chair Tony Newman (Deputy FSA Administrator – Individuals, DHS) introduced himself. Co-Chair Reginald Black (Co-Director, PFFC) introduced himself in the chat upon joining the meeting.

#### II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were two items identified for discussion: a debrief on the Heat Plan and a review and approval of the Winter Plan.

##### A. HEAT PLAN DEBRIEF

Synina framed the discussion by introducing slides 8 – 11 on:

- Purpose and Background of the Debrief
- District Response to the Challenges from the Summer
- Feedback Received from 08/23 ICH ERSO CMTE and 09/22 ICH CEWG Meetings

She also invited Reggie Black and Ms. Umi to convey their feedback directly and opened the floor for discussion. Notes on the discussion are captured on slides 12 and 13. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Cooling buses
  - Buses appreciated and utilized by unsheltered clients
  - Lack of coordination with at least one organization also utilizing public space near the buses flagged
  - Importance of coordinating the transition of clients when refueling or switching buses flagged
- Emergency Preparedness
  - Request for alternatives when DCPL and DPR close
  - Request for support and guidance with prep for storms, including help with moving to higher ground and options for keeping belongings dry
  - AlertDC appreciated and utilized by unsheltered clients who have cell phones
  - Advance preparation for fast moving storms requested/discussed

## B. WINTER PLAN

Theresa Silla (Executive Director, ICH) framed the discussion on the Winter Plan by introducing slides 15 – 40 on:

- Roadmap & Key Discussion Questions
- Basics of Hypothermia Season
- Most Significant Changes (17 – 18)
- Other Significant Changes (19 – 20)
- Changes by Section (21 – 38)
- Adopting the Winter Plan (39 – 40)

Notes on the discussion are captured on slides 41 – 52. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Transportation:
  - Protocol for pick up? Is there anything clients need to know?
  - Availability of an app for tracking the status of the van
  - Escalation protocol due to issues with service
  - Clarification on hours of service with an explicit call-out for on-demand vs. scheduled transportation vs break hours
- Supplies:
  - Lack of supplies before Hypothermia Season and the activation of the Winter Plan
  - Confirmation that this issue has to be resolved outside the adoption of the Winter Plan.
- Limiting Use of Rec Centers:
  - Concern that the shift away from recreational centers is related to gentrification and ongoing community pressure against using recreational centers
- Leveraging Federal City Shelter (1 North):
  - Timeline for construction
    - Contingent on funding. No more than 60 days from the availability of funds.
    - Site will not be available at the start of the season. Likely mid to end of December with a buffer for the November holiday.
  - Approach to construction
    - Work focused on necessary repairs for using space this hypothermia season
    - HVAC repair is the main focus. Additional repairs related to lighting and bathroom areas to ensure the space is livable and dignified.
  - Impact on shelter capacity
    - Need to outline likely availability of overflow to meet forecasted demand by month
    - Importance of flexibility to pivot subpopulation served based on availability of overflow beds
    - Importance of a backup plan in case of a Cold Emergency Alert before activation of Federal City Shelter (1 North)
  - Services
    - Question about provider. Clarification that it will not be CCNV who operates programs in other parts of the building. DHS is working to contract a different provider.
    - Logistics of lines and waiting for access if the 1 North location serves 200 individuals but only operates from 7 pm – 7 am.
- Warming Buses:
  - Appreciated and utilized
  - Needs to be staffed to prevent the myriad of issues from the last hypothermia season.
- COVID-19 Concerns:
  - Concern about vaccine safety and availability. Request to work with DC Health to make vaccines and rapid tests easily accessible/available to clients and staff and think through protection measures for individuals who are unlikely to vaccinate.

- Significant concern and discussion about increasing shelter densities. Request for support with tracking COVID prevalence and adjusting shelter densities in partnership with DC Health
- Request for DC Health support in understanding and implementing CDC guidance for isolation/quarantine.
- Meals:
  - Concern about the quality and quantity of meals served at shelters
  - Clarification that budget cuts required significant compromises. DHS juggled cuts to the mid-day meal to preserve/maintain 24/7-hour access to most LBS locations.
- References to MPD Transportation:
  - Flag from MPD that it is inappropriate to use MPD for voluntary transportation.
  - Agreement that it is important to minimize interactions with MPD

After reviewing all the changes in the Winter Plan, Theresa asked if anyone on the call objected to adopting the Winter Plan by consensus. Co-chair Reginald Black and several other members flagged that as long as the Winter Plan is updated to reflect the Shelter Capacity WG recommendations and the feedback expressed in the meeting, there is a consensus to adopt the Winter Plan.

### III. SYSTEM CHECK-IN

Due to limited time, the ERSO Committee did not review the planned presentations related to the following topics:

- PEPV Demobilization (slides 54 – 68) and
- End of ISAQ (slide 60).

Synina encouraged meeting attendees to review the PPT post-meeting for those updates.

### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Due to limited time, the Committee did not review the planned presentation related to the following topics:

- DC Central Kitchen Engagement \*NEW\*
- DC DDS, RSA, DCHR Career Day \*NEW\*
- End of ISAQ – Effective 10/1 \*NEW\*
- Friendship Place: Anti-Racism Training
- HCS: RELiEF Program
- Homeless Youth Count (HYC) 2023 \*Underway Now\*
- ICH: Full Council Call for Nominations \*Extended to 10/20\*

Again, Synina encouraged meeting attendees to review the PPT post-meeting for those updates.

<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Date:</b> 29 November 2023	<b>Time:</b> 1 – 2:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Webex</a>
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### Participant List (76 Attendees, 33 Organizations)

2026****86 (Ms. Umi)	Emil Pauling (DHS)	Rachelle Ellison (PFFC/CEWG)
9102****68 (Concerned Citizen)	Gbolahan Aganga-Williams (DGS)	Ray Walker (Community Connections)
Aaron White (YAB/CEWG)	George S Johnson (Sasha Bruce)	Rebecca Kellett (GMC)
Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)	Harish Sundararaman (TCP)	Reginald Black (PFFC/CEWG)
Abideen Onigbanjo (DGS)	Jakia Carroll (PFFC/CEWG)	Richard Bebout (DBH)
Alexis Green (Concerned Citizen)	Jill Carmichael (ICH)	Rico Harris (CCNV)
Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities)	Joshua Drumming (Legal Clinic)	Robert Saunders (DGS)
Anil T. Mangla (DC Health)	Kaira Smith (DC Council)	

<p>Anna Gray (DHS)  Anthony Newman (DHS)  Betty Gentle (SOME)  Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities)  Bonnie McIntyre (DHS)  Brendan Haley (Everyone Home DC)  Carla Branham (DHS)  Charles Hopkins (VSC)  Chris Pitocchelli (Friendship Place)  Cliff Rogers (Covenant House)  Clu Cohen (DHS)  Cpt. Jon Dorrrough (MPD)  Daisean Foster (ICH)  Danielle Meadors (DGS)  Danny McCoy (HSEMA)  Dervin Brown (UPO)  Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (PFFC/CEWG)  Eileen Rosa (ICH)</p>	<p>Kalifia Thomas (COH)  Kate Coventry (DCFPI)  Kelly Andreae (GMC)  Krysta Aguilar (DHS)  Lindsay Curtin (DHS)  Luline Almonacy (UPO)  Lynn Amano (Friendship Place)  Marissa Oden (Friendship Place)  Mary Bridget Klinkenbergh (Catholic Charities)  Melanie Minges (MPD)  Micaela Deming (DCCADV)  Michael Ferrell (DCCFH)  Ms. Naomi (PFFC/CEWG)  Novella Brown White (UPO)  Osei Headley (DGS)  Pam Mendelson (Anne Frank House)  Qaadir El Amin (PFFC/CEWG)  Quin Grier (DHS)</p>	<p>Robert Warren (PFFC/CEWG)  Ronnie Stanley (Central Union Mission)  Roxanne Murray (Echelon)  Russell McDowell (N Street Village)  Ruthie Dann (CSC)  Samantha Nolet (TCP)  Sangita Joshi (N Street Village)  Sara Beckwith (DC Health)  Sari Frankel (DBH)  Synina Pugh (ICH)  Ted Joseph (DHS)  Theresa Silla (ICH)  Tiffany Tyler (DHS)  Tyrell McQueen (TCP)  Veronica Fabani (Catholic Charities)  Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic)  William Kuennen (DHS)</p>
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