



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: 29 November 2023	Time: 1 – 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.

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

- an icebreaker
- the meeting agenda
- introductions and housekeeping conventions.

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

II. SYSTEMWIDE CHECK-IN

The Systemwide Check-In consisted of 1) Constituent Check-In and 2) Hypothermia Check-In.

A. CONSTITUTENT CHECK-IN

Synina introduced the purpose of the check-in acknowledging the cold weather activation on 11/28 and invited constituents to share key concerns and challenges. See slides 9 – 12 for details.

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 10 - 11. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Follow up on consumer request for hypothermia alert announcements at DCPL and DPR locations. DCPL confirmed some sites have started to make announcements and distribute comfort items.
- Request for comfort items, specifically blankets and hand warmers to distributed by UPO and made available at DCPL locations.
- Flag for coordination with DOC on discharge issues, specifically transportation requests for individuals released during non-business hours.
- Concern about individuals' wellbeing during extreme weather and coordination with DBH.

B. HYPOTHERMIA CHECK-IN

Quin Grier (DHS) covered hypothermia season updates including a high-level report out from the first month of the season. Please see slides 14 – 22 for details of her presentation.

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 23 – 24. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Flag from UPO that accessibility at shelters is a challenge. Specifically, finding locations with the bed availability and that appropriately meet the need (i.e. lower bunk beds, accessible bathrooms, etc.) is difficult.
- Clarification on operation status of hypothermia shelters (7 pm – 7 am) versus low barrier shelters (24/7).
- Discussion on the threshold for how alerts are called and activation of warming buses.

III. DISCUSSION: COLD WEATHER & WINTER STORM PLANNING

Synina framed the discussion on cold weather planning focused on operational shifts and communications. Please see slides 26 – 30 for the details of her presentation.

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 28. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Consumer and provider recommendations for warming bus locations, including K street, State Dept, Starburst Plaza, Eastern Market, Good Hope Road, Columbia Heights and Georgia Ave between New Hampshire and Missouri Ave.
- Flag from DCPL that Southeast Library will be closing soon for renovations and the interim location will not be the same size so there is a potential need in that area.
- Request for warming bus utilization data from 2022 – 2023 hypothermia season.
- Discussion on how DHS will work with outreach teams to assess locations.

Due to limited remaining meeting time the group was unable to explore and discuss communications strategies.

IV. UPDATES

Tony Newman (Co-Chair of ERSO and Rachael Pierre -FSA Administrator) shared updates on the Aston and PEP-V sites. Please see slides 32 - 39 for the details of the presentation.

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 40. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Clarification that the delay in the opening of the Aston, a new non-congregate shelter for individuals, is due to construction.
- Questions on the transfer and housing exit plans, including medical respite needs, for clients who are still residing at PEP-V.
- Feedback highlighting successes and lessons learned from the PEP-V programs over the last few years.
- Concerns on ability of congregate shelter to support clients to move through the housing process.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Due to limited time, Synina reminded participants to review this section upon distribution of the slide deck, which includes information about the following announcements/reminders:

- DBH: DC Stabilization Center
- PFFC: 11th Annual Memorial & Vigil

VI. SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT

Synina and Co-chairs Reggie Black (PFFC) and Tony Newman (DHS) thanked the group for their participation and feedback. Synina adjourned the meeting with a reminder that the December meeting will be rescheduled for 01/03.

Next Meeting	Date: 03 January 2024	Time: 1 – 2:30 PM	Location: Webex
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Participant List (64 Attendees, 26 Organizations)		
Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)	Elisabeth Young (TCP)	Novella Brown-White (UPO)
Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities)	Emil Pauling (DHS)	Qaadir El Amin (PFFC/CEWG)
Ami Angell (The h3 Project)	Ilana Marmon (VA)	Queenie Featherstone (PFFC/CEWG)
Andy Wassenich (Miriam's Kitchen)	Jacqueline Williams (DOC)	Quin Grier (DHS)
Anna Gray (DHS)	Jean Badalamenti (DCPL)	Rachel Pierre (DHS)
Anthony Newman (DHS)	Jill Carmichael (ICH)	Rachelle Ellison (PFFC/CEWG)
Antwan Washington (UPO)	Joshua Drumming (Legal Clinic)	Ray Walker (Community Connections)
Belinda Fadlelmola (HUD - DC)	Kate Coventry (DCFPI)	Reggie Black (PFFC/CEWG)
Betty Gentle (SOME)	Kelly Andreae (GMC)	Richard Ayodele (DHS)
Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities)	Krysta Aguilar (DHS)	Rico Harris (CCNV)
Candyce Coates (TCP)	Larry Gooch (Catholic Charities)	Robert Warren (PFFC/CEWG)
Carla Branham (DHS)	Leslie-Ann Byam (DBH)	Russell McDowell (N Street Village)
Catherine Crosland (Unity)	Leticia Dyer (DHS)	Sari Frankel (DBH)
Cornell Kinard (DHS)	Lindsay Curtin (DHS)	Synina Pugh (ICH)
Cpt. Jon Dorrrough (MPD)	Liza Poris (Friendship Place)	Tais Davis Friendship Place
Daisean Foster (ICH)	Luline Almonacy (UPO)	Ted Joseph (DHS)
Dallas Williams (DHS)	Mary Bridget (Catholic Charities)	Theresa Silla (ICH)
Danny McCoy (HSEMA)	Ms. Naomi (PFFC/CEWG)	Tyrell McQueen (TCP)
Dervin Brown (UPO)	Ms. Umi (CEWG)	Veronica Fabani (Catholic Charities)
Dr. Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (CEWG)	Nechama Masliansky (SOME)	Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic)
Eileen Rosa (ICH)	Nicole Daley Renard (DHS)	William Kuennen (DHS)
	Nikila Smith (CEWG)	