



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & SHELTER OPERATIONS (ERSO) COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: January 31, 2024	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 – 5 including:

- Icebreaker
- Meeting Agenda
- Intro & Call for Announcements and
- Adopting Notes & Managing the Listserv

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

II. PARTNER UPDATE: HSEMA INITIATIVES ON EDI AND DAFN

Rosemary McDonnell (HSEMA) and Shawna Parks (HSEMA) presented on HSEMA Disability, Access, and Functional Needs (DAFN) and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) programs.

The presentation provided an overview of the EDI program, focusing on mayoral priorities, the necessity of the program and the intentions and impacts of having HSEMA, incorporate this initiative into their framework. The second portion of the presentation provided the mission of the DAFN program, with a focus on eight goals, that protect the needs of individuals with disabilities and other access and functional needs before, during and after a disaster. The eight goals were derived from a lawsuit that was settled in December of 2023.

Please see slides 7-17 for details of the presentation.

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

- Concerns were highlighted from the community about accessibility issues in homeless services.
- Concerns were expressed in reference to staff being reluctant to serve persons with mobility challenges.
- Requests were made for clarity of the parties participating in the lawsuit.
- Members inquired if recommendations from the lawsuit impact shelter redesign and shelter service operations.

III. SYSTEMWIDE CHECK-IN

Synina introduced the purpose of the check-in and invited constituents to share concerns and updates that are top of mind. See slides 20-21 for details.

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 22-23. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Flag from a youth provider, on outreach at Union Station. The provider encountered a family at Union Station with significant language barriers. The provider noted frustration, on the appropriate course of action in directing the family to best resources.
- Clarity is needed for outreach teams and shelter providers when they encounter this situation. Is OMS or Virginia Williams the path they should follow, particular when they encounter similar situations after hours, of VWFRC and OMS offices have closed.
- Numerous issues of food access, fire drills and ADA concerns were flagged at Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter

III. UPDATES

This section of the meeting included updates on Hypothermia.

A. HYPOTHERMIA UPDATES

Quin Grier (DHS) covered hypothermia season updates. Please see slides 24-29 for details of his presentation.

- General updates have been provided on the season to date.
- Data comparing FY23 vs. FY24 hypothermia alerts and cold weather emergencies were presented.
- A brief overview of the Districts response during the Cold Weather emergency in regard to homeless services.

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are captured on slide 30. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Appreciation was given by DHS to all partnering agencies and providers who assisted during the cold weather emergency.
- Feedback was provided on warming buses and the lack of safety measures on the buses.
- Request for DBH presence during deployment of warming bus operations.

IV. DISCUSSION ON ANNUAL PRIORITIES & CALENDAR

Director Silla framed the discussion by covering the purpose and background on Annual Priorities & Calendar, then presented on Annual Priorities. Please see slides 31-56 for details of the presentation.

Highlights from the discussion are the following:

- The work of ERSO Committee and meeting the legislative mandates, of developing the winter plan, developing, and implementing the framework for performance management.
- Supporting engagements of adjacent systems that impact the varying dynamic populations within the homeless service system.
- Reviewing work led by work groups that support ERSO.
- Developing projects that lead to transformation within the system, via Front Door Service and Shelter Solutions.
- Developing process that improves delivery services and operations.

- Addressing gaps in shelter capacity reporting.
- Developing projects to expand shelter capacity.

Due to limited remaining meeting time the group was unable to fully discuss the options for consideration. ICH invited Committee members to send additional feedback by email to ich.info@dc.gov by 02/15 to compile and be reviewed by the ICH team.

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:

- DSLBD: The Dream Pitch Project
- DSLBD: The Aspire Incubator Program
- MWCOG: Regional Fair Housing Plan
- Study on Housing Insecurity in DC

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 next meeting is scheduled for 01/31.

Next Meeting	Date: 28, February 2024	Time: 1 – 2:30 PM	Location: Webex
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Participant List (62 Participants, 30 Organizations)

240****28 (Concerned Citizen)	Eileen Rosa (ICH)	Neah Evering (DC Council)
240****50 (Concerned Citizen)	Ilana Marmon (VA)	Nicole Daley Renard (DHS)
Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)	Jakia Carroll (PFFC/CEWG)	Nikila Smith (CEWG)
Aisha Greene (Sasha Bruce)	Jean Badalamenti (DCPL)	Nikki Price (DHS)
Aldo Hurtado (LAYC)	Jennifer Joyce (DHCF)	Novella Brown-White (UPO)
Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities)	Jill Carmichael (ICH)	Rachelle Ellison (PFFC/CEWG)
Anna Gray (DHS)	Joshua Drumming (Legal Clinic)	Ray Walker (Community Connections)
Annemarie Cuccia (Street Sense)	Kalifia Thomas (COH)	Rebecca Kellett (GMC)
Annette Lee (DBH)	Kani Shorter (DPR)	Reginald Black (PFFC/CEWG)
Anthony Newman (DHS)	Kelly Andreae (GMC)	Rico Harris (CCNV)
Antwan Washington (UPO)	Kevin Bauer (Covenant House)	Robert Warren (PFFC/CEWG)
Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities)	Krysta Aguilar (DHS)	Russell McDowell (N Street Village)
Bonnie McIntyre (DHS)	LaJuan Brooks (Legal Clinic)	Samantha LeBlanc (TCP)
Brandon Gaymon (DHS)	Lauren Markovich (TCP)	Sari Frankel (DBH)
Candyce J. Coates (TCP)	Tamika Weldon (DHS)	Synina Pugh (ICH)
Catherine Crosland (Unity Health Care)	Lynn Amano (Friendship Place)	Ted Joseph (DHS)
Chibundo Egwuatu (DCCADV)	Marissa Oden (Friendship Place)	Theresa Silla (ICH)
Cpt. Jon Dorrough (MPD)	Marquita Smith (DHS)	Timothy Durant (DCPS)
Cybele Yadiberet (Healthy Babies)	Mary Bridget (Catholic Charities)	Tyrell McQueen (TCP)
Daisean Foster (ICH)	Michael Ferrell (DCCFH)	Umi Oelemoso (CEWG)
Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (CEWG)	Ms. Naomi (PFFC/CEWG)	William Kuennen (DHS)