



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

NOTES

03/26 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SHELTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Issued: 9 June 2025

Purpose	Planning forum responsible for developing and evaluating the implementation of the Winter Plan and coordinating shelter-related topics.		
Details	Date: 26 March 2025	Time: 1 – 3 pm	Location: Webex Link
Attendees	22 Participants, 12 Organizations, 19 Attendees, 12 Organizations		Detailed list below meeting notes
Key	■ Areas of Concern or Risk	■ Opportunities for Improvement	■ Progress/Trends to Celebrate

I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW

As meeting participants gathered, Jill Carmichael (Senior Project Manager, ICH) opened the meeting, welcoming participants and going over recording the meeting, ICH purpose and infrastructure, and housekeeping. Theresa Silla (Executive Director, ICH) discussed the agenda and asked for feedback. Co-Chairs Anthony Newman (DHS) and Reginald Black (SYC) introduced themselves and welcomed attendees.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recording ConventionsICH & ERSO PurposeERSO InfrastructureERSO Priorities & ProjectsNominations as of 02/26Meeting AgendaIntros, Announcements, & ConcernsHousekeepingLive Notes on Welcome & Agenda Review	2-10

II. SYSTEM CHECK-IN

Three topics were discussed under system check-in: A) Hypothermia Close Out, B) Hyperthermia (Heat Plan) Prep, and C) Pre & ICH Full Council Follow-Up.

A. HYPOTHERMIA CLOSE OUT

Director Silla framed the conversation about capacity post hypothermia season, reviewing reports show in Shelter Capacity. DHS presented the close out schedule for hypothermia overflow sites.

Comments and questions are captured on slides 17-23. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- ■ Overall concerns about capacity and messaging around capacity as overflow sites close.
- ■ Concern about reports of ICE agents showing up at Low Barrier Shelters.
- ■ Clarification that the Aston is currently in the mid 80s in terms of capacity and is working to get up to 100 soon which is full capacity.
- ■ Concerns about reports that a shelter has bed bugs.
- ■ Clarification that the E St Shelter capacity is set at 190 and will slowly ramp up to that when it opens.
- ■ Clarification that low barrier shelters remain 24/7 for operations, some of the overflow shelters only operated from 7pm-7am.
- ■ Clarification that E St will be bridge housing similar to the Aston and will target specific populations including those matched to housing.
- ■ Concerns about timing of the opening of E St, closing of encampments, and lack of capacity in low barrier shelters.
- ■ Reflection to look at other housing resources in our continuum that might have vacancy and how to access them.

Next steps: Please send any feedback to ich.info@dc.gov

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hypothermia Close Out Concerns• 03/26 Shelter Capacity Review• Close out Schedule for Hypothermia Overflow• Live Notes• DHS Update• Live Notes	12-23

B. HYPERTHERMIA (HEAT PLAN) PREP

Director Silla oriented the group and HSEMA to background on the Heat Plan development in the past as well as overlapping weather related concerns. David Rinonos (HSEMA) presented 2025 Heat Plan Updates.

Comments and questions are captured on slides 30-31. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- ■ Reflection that HSEMA is working with DOH and DOEE on an air quality plan or as part of the heat plan.
- ■ Request to plan for more cool drinking water for when outreach workers and UPO run out.
- ■ Reflection that peer outreach needs to be included in the plan for cool drinking water distribution.
- ■ Flag that the group needs to pay attention to air quality and extreme weather in the summer.
- ■ Reflection that the flood plan is with DOEE and not HSEMA.

Next steps: Please send any feedback to ich.info@dc.gov

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hyperthermia (Heat Plan) Prep• Background• 2025 Updates – Next Steps• Constituent Concerns Tracked by the ICH• Live Notes	25-31

C. PRE & ICH FULL COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP

Director Silla presented concerns and follow up from ICH Pre & Full Council Meeting in March.

Comments and questions are captured on slides 34-35. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- ■ Concerns about ICE targeting shelters and ensuring that everyone knows their rights.
- ■ Concerns that clients have been using drop in centers for addresses for IDs and how IRS and ICE might work together to know where people are showing up.
- ■ DHS reflected that OMS has been engaging providers ensuring that clients know their rights and providing guidance for providers.
- ■ Request for clarification on will happen to families that previously used OMS shelters since those are closing.
- ■ Clarification on if District funded shelters can set their own rules as it relates to ICE, DHS has provided guidance and expect all shelter providers to comply.

Next steps: Please send any feedback to ich.info@dc.gov

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre & ICH Full Council Follow-Up• Live Notes	33-35


III. REVIEW OF RELEVANT STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Director Silla oriented the group to the breakout activity, which included reviewing the HWDC 2.0 and CCP objectives and strategies relevant to ERSO CMTE. Breakout 4 was not covered by a group.

Feedback and Comments are captured on slides 40-48 and 52-54. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:



HWDC 2.0 BO 1: Goal 4: Reform Front Door of System for Individuals

- **Objective 4.3.2**
 - ■ Not 100% sure about what specifically has been done on this subject, believe some efforts have been made.
 - Believe efforts should continue to be prioritized this year and in Homeward 3.0.
- **Objective 4.3.3**

-  Believe this was accomplished with Project Reconnect and has been successful.
- Believe the program should be expanded in the future so, expand for 3.0.




Goal 10: Coordinate with Upstream Systems to Track and Stem Inflow

Objective 10.6.1

-  Unclear what efforts have been made to date.
-  Deem this to be critical now and, in the future, particularly as it relates to shelter capacity, and care coordination between jurisdictions.

HWDC 2.0 BO 2: Goal 3: Continue Capital and Program Improvements to Shelter Stock


Objective 3.1.1

-  Status of the work? Complete.
-  Concerning that there is not a Ward 2 specific family facility.
-  Is this something that is still relevant? Work Plan or the Strategic Plan? Not necessarily but do want to evaluate the availability of Apartment Style Units that are underutilized and could be repurposed for Single Adults.
- If so, who should lead on it? Agency? ICH for Tracking? DHS as Lead Agencies. ICH Forums for tracking should be ERSO CMTE and Shelter Solutions.



Objective 3.2.1

-  Completed



Objective 3.2.2

-  In negotiations regarding design and funding is still in place!

Objective 3.3.1

-  Status of the work? Year-Round Capacity vs Capacity for Adult Only Families should be two separate issues. As a system, Year-Round Shelter Capacity for all the Single Adults that need it outside of hypothermia season.
-  We are increasing our co-ed capacity with Bridge Housing. It's not clear that we have enough to accommodate all adults.
- Is this something that is still relevant? Work Plan or the Strategic Plan? Very relevant. Ideally, we should be working on it this year, but given funding constraints, we likely need to work on this over time and as funding is available.
- If so, who should lead on it? Agency? ICH for Tracking? DHS and DGS as Lead Agencies. ICH Forums for tracking should be ERSO CMTE and Shelter Solutions.

Objective 3.3.2

- See notes for 3.3.1 for status of the work and relevance.
-  Healthcare CMTE needs to tackle this if DHCF and DC Health are critical partners on this front. ERSO needs to be involved to understand the need, especially Front Door Services and Shelter Solutions.
-  Flag that Respite Beds may be treated like program beds, but they should be strictly about medical conditions/triage/evaluation.

Objective 3.3.3

- See notes above from 3.3.2.
- ICH Forums for tracking should be ERSO CMTE, Front Door Services, and Shelter Solns. Shelter Solns to understand the Shelter policies that are helpful (or not) so that we can understand who cannot be successfully accommodated. FDS to understand demand – who would come in if this was available.

Objective 3.3.4

- See notes above for previous 3.3 Objectives.

- ICH Forums for tracking should be ERSO CMTE and Front Door Services.
- **Objective 3.3.5**
 - See notes above for previous 3.3 Objectives.
 - Follow up with OVSJG and TCP.

HWDC 2.0 BO 3: Goal 7: Improve Service Quality and Consistency








- **Objective 7.4.1**
 - Status: This is still a priority and may be best done in smaller segments.
 - ■ Important to note that work has been done to streamline intake for single adults.
 - ■ Should this be both a trauma informed care and culture competence/humility review?
 - ■ Look for ways to incentivize client participation/leadership in system.
 - Lead Agency: It seems like the ICH would convene this effort.

Goal 11: Continue Efforts to Expand Data Collection & Improve Data Quality

- **Objective 11.1.5**
 - ■ Status: This is still a priority. Data quality remains inconsistent and it is important to understanding systems flow.
 - Lead Agency: TCP, DHA and could DCHA also play a role?
 - Other ideas that were raised related to data entry:
 - ■ Ensure HtH is talking to HMIS (and other relevant databases).
 - ■ Can we look look at case management to client ratios and make sure that those numbers are reasonable?
 - ■ Look at systems flow —> people that are matched to housing, where are they? Why are they stuck in the process?
 - ■ Can we track case management turnover across all programs and the implications of that on our system? (PSH, RRH, Shelter)
 - ■ There is a desire for more transparency on data across system specifically on new shelter sites coming on line —> e.g. The Aston, CCNV renovations, other bridge sites. Would also be helpful to understand the source of referrals to bridge housing --> how many are coming from shelters vs. street homeless?
- **Objective 11.1.7**
 - Status: Believe think this is happening and need to confirm.

CCP BO 5: Goal 3: The Community uses prevention and diversion strategies whenever appropriate and otherwise providers immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it. Objective 3: Increase dedicated supply of shelter for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

- **Action Step 2**
 - Need met by DHS UPO Pilot program
 - ■ Work to be done: youth calling shelter hotline are sent to adult sites
- **Action Step 3**
 - Some requirements (ie TB tests) are done differently at each program and in some cases, this causes delays in getting intake, move in, etc.
 - ■ Front door providers need to work expeditiously on getting TB test so that youth matched to housing have no barriers
 - ■ Clarity needed around whether a TB screening versus a test is required for various programs. Need uniform ask around this.
- **Action Step 4**

-  There are no program rules for shelter
-  Program rules at housing programs are being aligned for TH/ETH programs have similar rules (ie curfew) so that youth are not hesitant to go to certain programs
-  Write ups for curfew are problematic
-  Language issues around translation
-  UPO pilot is in place. Data tracking currently being developed by DHS.
-  Tracking youth turned away or choose not to enter program/reason- we need to do more work around tracking these data points. DHS needs to partner with providers on this data tracking.
-  There are no current tracking systems around barred or banned youth. Need workgroup with DHS/ICH/TCP/other relevant agencies around this.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation on Annual Update • Key Questions for Review • Breakout Activity • BO 1: Regional Collaboration • Live Notes • BO 2: Improvements to Shelter Stock • Live Notes • BO 3: Improve Service and Data Quality • Live Notes • BO 4: Employment and Healthcare • BO 5: Youth and Shelters • Live Notes 	37-54

A. LESSONS LEARNED

After the breakout activity, participants gathered to report out about the experience and lessons learned.

Comments and questions are captured on slide 57. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

-  Great use of time shared by many participants.

Next steps: Please send any feedback to ich.info@dc.gov

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout Report • Lessons Learned & Next Steps • Live Notes 	55-57

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Reference Materials		
PPT	Announcements	58-69

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSH: Supportive Housing Summit 2025 • DC Council: Budget Oversight *NEW* • DCPL: Hygiene Kits • DHCD: Housing Production Trust Fund Advisory Board *NEW* • DHCD: Needs Assessment Public Hearings *NEW* • DHS: NY Ave Men's Shelter ReDesign *NEW* • HCS: Housing Resiliency in Times of Change *NEW* • NCFTH: Housing NOW National Day of Action! *NEW* • Transportation Planning Board: Access for All Advisory Committee *NEW* 	
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VI. SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT

Jill adjourned the meeting and reminded everyone that there would not be meetings in April due to the Mayor's Budget and Budget Oversight Hearings.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the Mayor's Proposed Budget • March Committee & Workgroup Meetings • Live Notes 	70-72

Next Meeting	Date: TBD	Time: 1 – 2:30 pm	Location: Webex Link
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Participant List (22 Participants, 12 Panelist Organizations, 19 Attendees, 12 Organizations)		
Panelists Anthony Newman (DHS) BELINDA FADLELMOLA (HUD) Brandon Ruiz (DHCF) Candyce J. Coates (TCP) Christian Howard (DHS) David Rinonos (HSEMA) Dominique Vinson (DHS) Jill Carmichael (ICH) Kalifia Thomas (COH) Kate Coventry (DCFPI) Krysta Aguilar (DHS) Michelle Maccado (DHS) Reginald Black (SYC) Robert Warren (PFFC)	Sakina Thompson (DMHHS) Samantha LeBlanc (TCP) Sheila Clark (DHS) Ted Joseph (DHS) Theresa Silla (ICH) Tyrell McQueen (TCP) William Kuennen (DHS) Sierra Barnedo (SMYAL) Attendees Abby Sypek (Everyone Home) Allison McGill (Lazarus) Andy Wassenich (MK) Blair Copeland (Cath Char) Brendan Haley (Everyone Home)	Dervin Brown (UPO) Gina Rendina (Cath Char) Hassan Hand (Concerned Citizen) Imani Grant (Everyone Home) Nikila Smith (SS Vendor) Roxanne Murray (Echelon) Russell McDowell (N St) D Jones (SWBID) Taylor (GMC) Vanessa A. Jones (FP) Wesley Thomas (MK) Zach Savarese (FP) Charleen Smith (Concerned Citizen) Rico Harris (CCNV)