



# *Interagency Council on Homelessness*

## *ERSO Committee*



*01 December 2021*

# Meeting Agenda



- I. **Welcome & Call to Order (5 mins)**
  - a) Introductions & Agenda Review
  - b) Call for Partner Announcements/Updates
- II. **Discussion Items (65 mins)**
  - a) ICH Staff Transitions & Impact on ERSO Committee/Workgroups (10 mins)
  - b) Process for Calling Hypo Alerts (15 mins)
  - c) Reviewing Hypo Operations (40 mins)
- III. **ICH Governance and Government Updates (5 mins)**
  - a) PEPV Intake
  - b) Bridge Housing
  - c) ICH Full Council Nominations
- IV. **Partner Announcements/Updates (5 mins)**
  - a) Vaccine Resistance Presentation
  - b) Winter Hours for DowntownDC Weekend Homeless Services Program
- v. **Summary and Adjournment (5 mins)**
  - a) Next Meeting: TBD (based on poll results)

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# ICH Staffing Update



## Transitions:

- ❖ Lindsay Curtin has new role at DMHHS & Kimberly Waller joining Biden Admin
- ❖ 3 new FTEs to hire and onboard

## Impact: ICH is short-staffed as of Nov 2021

- ❖ Prioritizing support to Committees & specific FY22 priorities
  - **Executive:** overall planning & managing Full Council Nomination process
  - **ERSO:** overall planning & monitoring Winter Plan implementation
  - **Housing Solutions:** overall planning & expediting lease-up (particularly for singles)
  - **Strategic Planning:** overall planning & expanding PSH capacity (particularly for singles)
  - **Youth:** CAHP administration & developing Solid Foundations 2.0
- ❖ Limited support for workgroups:
  - Until ICH is fully staffed up, will not support Executive & ERSO WGs
  - ICH staff to attend subsystem mtgs under Strategic Planning: Veteran, Singles & Family

# Impact on ERSO Committee & Workgroups







- ❖ Generally, cancel December meetings for ERSO (both committee and workgroups)
  - Hypo operations are demanding on members
  - Likelihood of weather alert date of meeting
- ❖ However, several pressing needs warrant attention:
  - Reviewing hypothermia operations
  - Operating a front door that supports housing exits
  - Health care for our most vulnerable clients

# Operating a Front Door that Expedites Housing Placements



Data pulled for 11/09 Executive Committee Meeting on Nov 8, 2021

## Tracking Voucher Timelines (Units: Number of Days)

Voucher Type	PSH Assignment to DCHA App Submission	DCHA App Submission to Approval	DCHA App Approval to Lease-Up	Total Time: Assignment to Lease-Up
FY20 PSH-I	113  4%	75  56%	103  35%	290  28%
FY21 PSH-I	108	33	67	208
FY22 EHV	14	14	39	67
FY22 PSH-I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FY22 EHV/PSH Avg	14	14	39	67

# Health Care for the Most Vulnerable



- ❖ Discharges from Hospitals
- ❖ Connections to EPD services and supports
- ❖ Medication management
- ❖ Addressing overdoses:
  - Narcan standing orders and distribution at shelters, day centers and outreach teams
  - Coordination with DBH care management teams

# December Meeting Poll



- ❖ Cancel December meeting
- ❖ Meet on Dec 22 for 1 hour max.
  - Focus on hypothermia operations
- ❖ Meet on Dec 22 for 1 ½ hrs.
  - Agenda to include hypothermia operations, expediting housing & health care for the most vulnerable.



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# Approach for Discussing the Topic



- ❖ What is at stake and how does the system respond to alerts to address what is at stake?
- ❖ What is the process described in the Winter Plan?
- ❖ How does the process play out in practice?
- ❖ How do we reconcile process and practice?
- ❖ What else do we need to do to address what is at stake?



# What's at Stake? What's the Response?



- ❖ **Lives!** Especially unsheltered individuals
- ❖ **Family system response:** 24/7 hotline operations during hypothermia season, not dependent on alerts
- ❖ **Single system response:**
  - In the past, critical UPO services (on-demand transport, safety/welfare checks, and delivery of comfort items) limited to hypo alerts, but this hypo season, available outside of schedule transport hours, regardless of alert status.
  - In the past, LBS were not open during the day unless there is a hypo alert. LBS are now operating 24/7, regardless of alert status
- ❖ **Youth system response:** no changes to operations during hypothermia season or in response to alerts. Just launched shelter census to track capacity.



# What's at Stake? What's the Response?



## Discussion Questions:

- ❖ If our response does not change as a result of alert status, how much time and energy do we want to expend debating the protocol/process of calling alerts?
- ❖ Why are people more vulnerable even though we are offering critical services regardless of alert status?
- ❖ Did we adequately investigate why 7 people died last winter season?
- ❖ What strategies/actions should we be testing to protect unsheltered individuals?



# Process in Winter Plan vs Practice on the Ground

- ❖ **Process described in Winter Plan:**
  - DHS, HSEMA and NWS consult before 7 am and 3 pm
  - DHS and HSEMA monitor NWS published forecasts
  - Alerts called when either HSEMA reports or the NWS published forecasts meet criteria for hypo alerts
  
- ❖ **Practice on the Ground:**
  - DHS, HSEMA and NWS consult before 7 am and 3 pm
  - If DHS is notified that the published forecast meets criteria for hypo alerts, DHS consults with HSEMA and NWS to confirm the forecast and determine whether an alert is necessary
  
- ❖ **Discussion Questions:**
  - Is the practice on the ground unreasonable?
  - Do we need a transmittal to acknowledge that the published forecast meets the criteria for hypo alerts but consultation w/ NWS confirms there is no danger of hypothermic conditions?



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# What should we be reviewing?



- ❖ Shelter sites, bed availability & vacancies
  - Usually reviewed by Shelter Capacity WG
  - Including info today because shelter capacity was cancelled for this month, but will meet in future months

## ❖ Other suggestions?

What info do we need to understand as a committee to understand how hypothermia operations are playing out?



# What questions should we be asking?



- ❖ Wins to celebrate?
- ❖ Challenges/gaps to brainstorm and address?
- ❖ COVID concerns to track and respond to?
- ❖ **Other suggestions?**

## Who should we be asking these questions?

- ❖ Outreach, including UPO
- ❖ Day Centers
- ❖ Shelters
- ❖ **Other suggestions?**





# Shelter Sites, Bed Availability & Vacancies



Shelter Census Data from 11/28 (a hypo alert night)

Men	Bed Availability	Men Served	Vacancies
801 East (CC)	315	286	29
Adams Place Shelter (CC)	125	125	0
New York Avenue HAC (CC)	225	225	0
CCNV-Drop in Center Federal City (CCNV)	67	65	2
Pat Handy Legacy (CC)	118	117	1
Adams Place Day Center	30	30	0
Langdon Recreation Center	60	18	42

Women	Bed Availability	Women Served	Vacancies
Harriet Tubman/Building 9 (CC)	145	137	8
Saint Josephine Bakhita Women's Shelter (CC)	20	5	15
Patricia Handy Shelter (N Street Village)	132	126	6
CCNV-2 South (CCNV)	24	17	7
Sherwood Rec Center (CC)	60	14	46

# Breakout Discussions



- ❖ Approach: 20 mins discussion, 10 mins report out
  - **Day Centers** facilitated by Reggie Black
  - **Outreach** facilitated by Theresa Silla
  - **Shelter** facilitated by Bill Kuennen
- ❖ Key Questions:
  - Wins to celebrate?
  - Challenges/gaps to brainstorm and address?
  - COVID concerns to track and respond to?

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# Updates

- Census: **532**
- In the month of November: **78 intakes**
- Projection over the next Month: **60 new intakes**
- Improvements:
  - Intakes now schedule 5 days/week (up from 2 days/week)
  - Coordination between intake team and providers to confirm client interest and facilitate placement
  - Transparency with clients: sharing agreement outlining program rules and why PEPV is beneficial via [PEP-V Voluntary Site Agreement UPDATED 10.4.21.docx](#)

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# Bridge Housing

- Valley Place and Girard are both open and ready for intakes.
- Clients would need to be matched to a Housing voucher/subsidy.
- Currently targeting Harriet Tubman and New York Ave shelter to assist with capacity for hypothermia season
- Capacity:
  - Valley Place: ~ 50
  - Girard Place: ~40-45

\*Capacity is dependent on how many couples are placed

# Bridge Housing

**Overview:** FSA Singles, in partnership with ICH and TCP, will utilize Valley Place apartment style housing as a bridge housing option for individuals currently living in encampments or in shelter who are matched to a PSH voucher but have not yet leased-up.

**Eligible clients:** Clients who are matched to a PSH voucher but have not yet leased up. Sheltered clients will be prioritized.

**Timeline:** Launch November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022 (with option to extend if successful)

**Program length:** 90 days

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# ICH Full Council Call for Nomination



- ❖ Vacant and expiring seats:
  - Provider Seats: 4
  - Advocate Seats: 2
  - Consumers with Lived Expertise Seats: 3
  - Private Sector/Philanthropic Seats: 2

**\*Reminder: no term limits; current members may opt to submit their name for consideration to serve another term**

❖ Nominations due January 11, 2022

❖ Online form: <https://forms.gle/9Vn3bNZkPiMxCuVaA>

# ICH Full Council: Community Representatives



Term expiration dates for current representatives: 2022 or 2023

## Service Providers

- ❖ Michael Ferrell, Coalition for the Homeless (2022)
- ❖ Kelly Sweeney McShane, Community of Hope (2022)
- ❖ Jorge Membreno, SMYAL (2022)
- ❖ Christy Respress, Pathways to Housing (2023)
- ❖ Koube Ngaaje, DASH (2023)
- ❖ Ishan Heru, Community Connections (2023)
- ❖ Jean-Michel Giraud, Friendship Place (2023)
- ❖ Vacant

## Advocates

- ❖ Kate Coventry, DC Fiscal Policy Institute (2022)
- ❖ Adam Rocap, Miriam's Kitchen (2023)
- ❖ Debby Shore, Sasha Bruce Youthworks (2023)
- ❖ Vacant

## Constituent Representatives

- ❖ Qaadir El-Amin (2022)
- ❖ Reginald Black (2022)
- ❖ Aaron White (2023)
- ❖ Vacant

## Private Sector/Philanthropy

- ❖ Chapman Todd, Development Consultant (2022)
- ❖ Catherine Crosland, Unity HealthCare (2022)
- ❖ Tonia Wellons, Greater Washington Community Foundation (2023)
- ❖ Jill Carmichael, National Community Church (2023)

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# Vaccine Resistance: 12/03 AU Capstone Presentation



- ❖ Key questions explored:
  1. To what extent have staff of DC's homeless services providers been vaccinated?
  2. What steps have been taken to encourage vaccination among hesitant staff? What has been most helpful? Are there Best Practices nationally to learn from? What are elements of cultural competency to be considered when making vaccination policies?
  3. Are the providers fully staffed? Are they able to comply with their contracts [and safely provide case management]?
- ❖ Capstone project for American University, Dept of Health Studies seniors under the guidance of Dr. Melissa Hawkins
- ❖ Scheduled for Friday 12/03 from 12 – 12:30 pm. Virtual meeting link: <https://american.zoom.us/my/melissahawkins>

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# DowntownDC Weekend Homeless Services Program



- ❖ Program:
  - Food, personal hygiene products and more
  - 800 block of Vermont Avenue NW, across from McPherson Square
  - on Saturday and Sunday.
- ❖ Winter hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
  - Effective Friday, November 20, 2021, through Saturday, March 5, 2022,
- ❖ Normal hours of 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
  - Resume on Saturday, March 5, 2022.

