



***Interagency Council on Homelessness***  
***ERSO Committee***



***March 29 2023***



**Convention for Recording ICH Committee Meetings:**

- ❖ Recording for purposes of complying with the open meeting act requirements
- ❖ Available for anyone who requests a copy at [ich.info@dc.gov](mailto:ich.info@dc.gov).

# Agenda Review



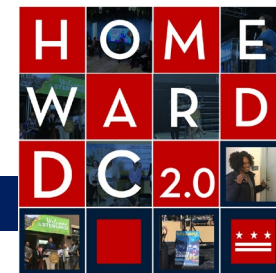
- I. **Welcome & Agenda Review (5 mins)**
  - a) Intros & Call for Announcements
  - b) Adopting Prior Meeting Notes & Managing the Listserv
- II. **Hypothermia Check-In(25 mins)**
  - a) March Alerts/Operational Shifts & Feedback from Youth Providers
  - b) Transition Plan for Overflow Sites
- III. **Updates (25 mins)**
  - a) OMS
  - b) Covid
- IV. **Discussion Items (30 Mins)**
  - a) FY23 Priorities
- V. **Announcements & Reminders (as needed)**
- VI. **Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
  - a) Next Meeting: 04/26 from 1-2:30pm

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# Intro & Call for Announcements



## ❖ Intros:

- Chat intros for attendees: name, pronouns, org, title/role
- Quick round of hellos from Co-Chairs and ICH staff with formal roles leading or supporting meeting

## ❖ Call for Partner Announcements/Reminders:

- Please “chat” any significant partner announcements, especially those changes/updates that impact the system
- We will make time on the agenda, as appropriate, or include in the notes

# Adopting Notes & Managing the Listserv



## ❖ **Adopting Prior Meeting Notes:**

- Automatically adopted unless meeting attendees flag issues
- Generally, ICH team sends out meeting notes within a week
- Please review as soon as possible and flag any errors/issues
- If we don't hear back within a week, assuming good to adopt

## ❖ **Managing the Listserv:**

- Meeting materials are only distributed to listserv members
- If you are not on the listserv, you will not receive materials
- To join the listserv, email [ich.info@dc.gov](mailto:ich.info@dc.gov)

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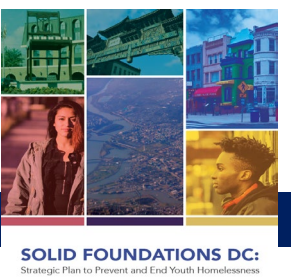
# Alert Totals as of 2/24/23

	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23 (as of 3/28)
Alerts Activated at 7 pm	13	19	20	13	13
Alerts Deactivated after 7am	5	17	12	9	11
Cold Weather Emergencies	0	5	0	2	0

- April Forecast: mild weather
  - Potential for alert weather is minimal.



# Youth Front Door Services – Safety Concerns



SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:  
Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

- ❖ Front Door Services: Drop-In Centers, Outreach, & Shelters
- ❖ Facility Safety:
  - Increase in weapons being brought to drop-in centers (knives, guns). Some young people report bringing weapons for personal safety in the neighborhood and from peers.
- ❖ Neighborhood Safety
  - Older individuals engaging with youth. Reports of harassment, drugs, and potential recruitment.
  - Ongoing drug turf war in Columbia Heights.
- ❖ Substance Use Concerns:
  - Increase in overdoses – some requiring a double dosage or more of Narcan.

# Key Question



SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:  
Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

- ❖ Are other locations/teams/programs experiencing similar safety-related issues?

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# 2022-2023 Hypothermia Season Close Out Plan

- DHS leveraging a strategic process for demobilizing Hypothermia/Temporary Overflow Shelters
- Sites will close on a rolling basis (table noted on a later slide)
- Activities
  - Jan 31: TCP sent emails to all TH programs alerting them of the hypo wind down and to flag vacancies within their programs
  - Feb 21 and ongoing: Madison House engaging women at Sherwood Recreation Center and Adams Place Day Center regarding intake and service offerings
  - Week of Feb 27: DHS conducting exit interviews with men at hypothermia sites and will continue to do so until the end of the season
- DHS & TCP monitoring occupancy reports to identify vacancies and transfer consumers accordingly, emphasizing:
  - work beds
  - senior-frail
  - transitional/bridge housing
- Additional beds have been added to some of the low-barrier shelters to create space within the system:
  - Adams Place Men's Shelter 130 →155
  - Patricia Handy Legacy 130 →155
  - Harriet Tubman 140 →165
- To prep for renovations and reduce census at PH Legacy, vacant beds at PH Legacy will come offline

# Sites Closing, including Closure Date & Impact on Beds

Location	# Of Beds and Population	Closure date
Salvation Army	40 beds for Men	March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023
Church of Epiphany	30 beds for Men	March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>70 beds for Men</b>	<b>End of March</b>
Trinidad	60 beds for Men	On or before April 14 <sup>th</sup>
Adams Place Day Center	40 beds for Women	On or before April 14 <sup>th</sup>
801 East Day Center	40 beds for Men	On or before April 14 <sup>th</sup>
Sherwood	60 beds for Women	On or before April 14 <sup>th</sup>
CCNV	67 beds for Men	On or before April 14 <sup>th</sup>
CCNV	24 beds for Women	On or before April 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>322 beds for Men</b> <b>124 beds for Women</b>	<b>End of April</b>
<b>Blair</b>	<b>72 beds for Men</b>	<b>September 30, 2023</b>

# Madison House Referrals

## Adams Place

- 11 applicants completed applications
  - 5 applicants followed up
    - 3 were accepted

## Sherwood

- 8 applicants completed applications
  - 6 applicants followed up
    - 2 were accepted
  - 2 were placed on the Waitlist

# Findings from Exit Questionnaires

## Summary Data

- Exit questionnaires distributed= 297
- Exit questionnaires completed=95
- Opted out of questionnaire=75

## Successful Referrals

- Rapid Re-housing referrals = 4
- Project Reconnect= 7
- PSH= 2
- Referred to work bed=4

## Self Reported Destinations

- Going to another low barrier shelter= 27

## Housing Plan Response

- No plan/don't know/back on the street= 32  
(other responses = looking for housing, not sure, get a tent)
- Connect with a case manager to get housing = 12
- Consumers currently working= 35

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# Outstanding Questions from Last Month

**Who is the contact person for accurate answers to questions?**

- General inbox is [migrant.services@dc.gov](mailto:migrant.services@dc.gov)

**Does OMS have live customer service to inquiries?**

- All inquiries may be addressed to [migrant.services@dc.gov](mailto:migrant.services@dc.gov)
  - OMS monitors the general inbox throughout each day to ensure prompt response to urgent communications
  - Responses to inquiries will be provided within 24 business hours
- OMS Welcome Centers, operated by a local nonprofit, provide basic information on resources for migrants that have recently arrived in the District.
  - Two churches alternate Welcome Center support, and provide support to vulnerable populations that are coming into the District's migrant services program
  - Contact [migrant.services@dc.gov](mailto:migrant.services@dc.gov) to learn which Welcome Center is open for the specific date of interest

# Outstanding Questions from Last Month (cont.)

Since 2022, how many immigrants have been housed in DC? What is the average weekly or monthly flow of families and individuals?

- The program is currently providing services to more than 304 families comprised of over 1058 individuals in temporary accommodations while they work on resettlement plans (Data as of 3/26/2023)
- Monthly flow alternates. Migrants seeking housing in the district arrive by their own means rather than state sponsored buses. Latest numbers are:

2023 Migrant Check-Ins to Temporary Lodging (Non-Migrant Bus Arrivals)		
Month	Number of Individuals	Number of Family Units
January	187	53
February	147	42
March	106	33

2023 Arrivals via state sponsored buses	
Month	Number of Individuals in Buses Arriving to the District
January	188
February	109
March	167

2023 Total Arrivals	
Month	Total Number of Individuals Arriving to the District
January	375
February	256
March	273

\*March numbers reflect the bus drop from 3/27/2023

# Outstanding Questions from Last Month (cont.)

**To avoid misinformation, how does OMS provide community outreach?**

- OMS hold monthly meetings with CBOs and other partners to share process and updates from our operation.
  - These calls coordinate support from community-based service providers throughout the district
  - CBOs may contact [migrant.services@dc.gov](mailto:migrant.services@dc.gov) if they provide services/resources and have not yet joined the group of organizations that participate in OMS' monthly CBO meetings
- OMS is also currently holding townhall meetings to create a direct space of communication with residents at the different facilities.
- OMS also coordinates with regional and federal partners through a monthly meeting.

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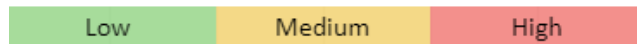
# DC Health – Key COVID-19 Metrics

**Current COVID-19 Community Level**  
District of Columbia



Limited impact on the healthcare system  
Low levels of disease severity

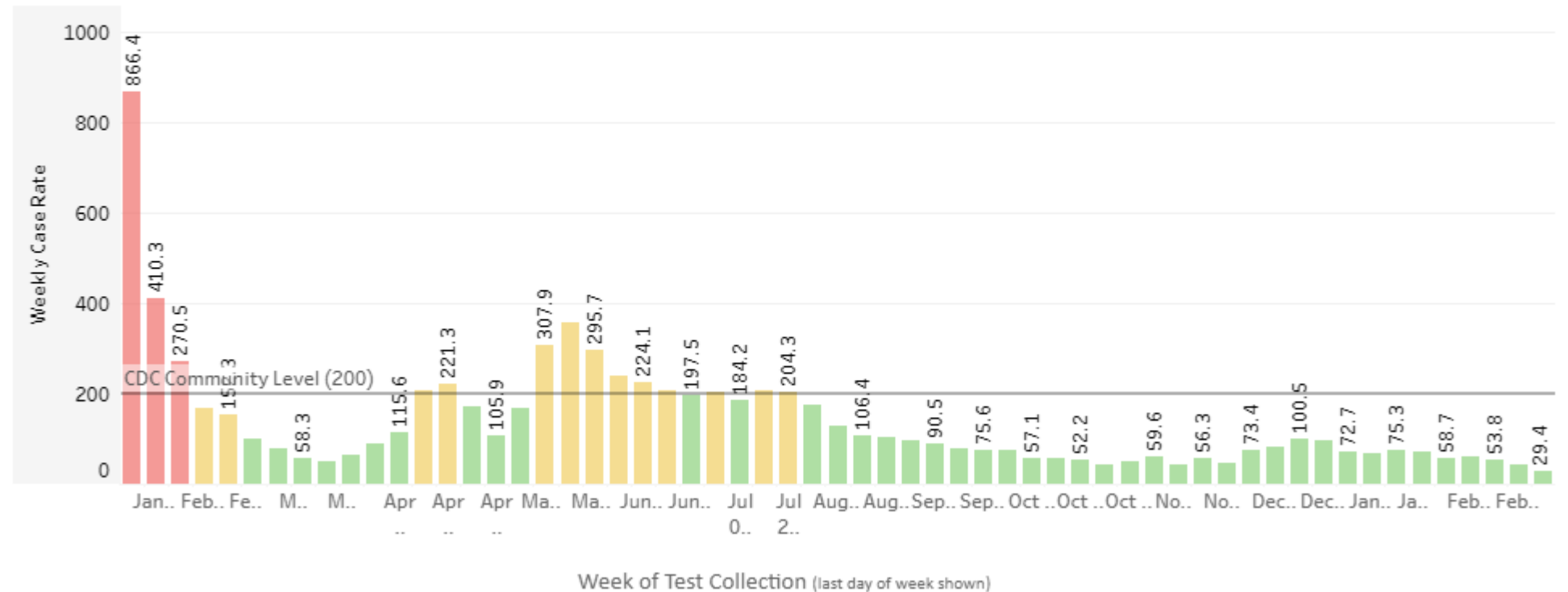
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As of 3/22/23

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**District of Columbia COVID-19 Weekly Case Rate**  
DC residents, per 100,000 population



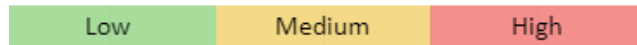
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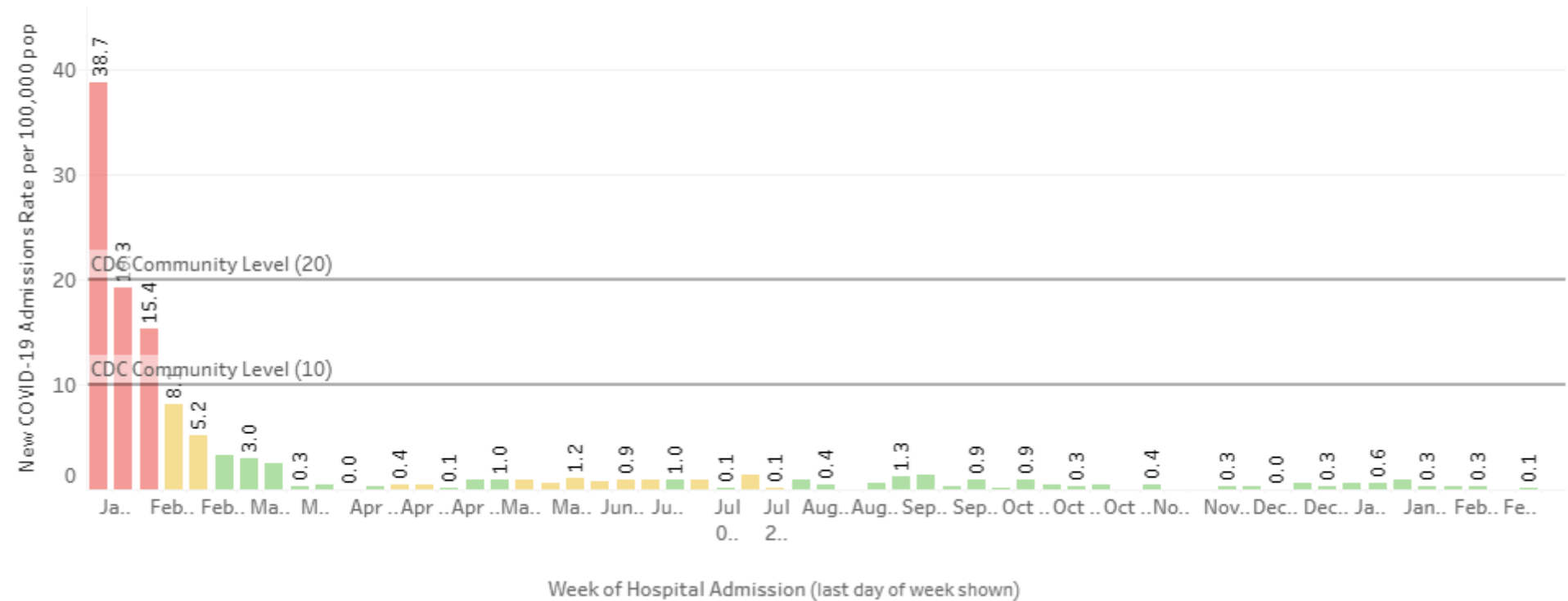
### Legend



As of 3/22/23

## New Weekly Hospital Admissions due to COVID-19

DC Residents, per 100,000 population



# COVID-19 Guidance Updates

- The mask mandate for congregate settings and short-term family shelter is still in effect.
- ISAQ is still available for anyone who has tested positive for COVID.
  - **NEW Phone Number: (202) 870-1364; Mon – Sat 8am to 10pm**
- The requirement to conduct daily COVID screening in congregate shelter and short term family housing will end April 1, 2023.
- Providers can request more COVID-19 tests [HERE](#)

# COVID-19 Guidance Updates (ctd)

- The Unity COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics will end April 1, 2023.
- Staff and residents still have convenient options to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine, booster, or test kits, including through:
  - local retailers and pharmacies;
  - [covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests) offers free at-home COVID-19 tests and [testinglocator.cdc.gov](https://www.testinglocator.cdc.gov) directs people to a local free testing location; and
  - [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) directs people to a local free vaccination site.



# Feedback on the Mask Mandate

- TCP conducted a shelter resident survey to better understand attitudes towards the mask mandate & awareness of COVID-19 resources
- They surveyed 632 shelter residents
  - Would you feel uncomfortable with coming into shelter if the mask mandate were lifted? YES-41%; NO 59%
- **Discussion Question:** Based on your experience and position, what is the comfort level with removing the mask mandate?

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# FY23 Priorities: ICH Director Recommendations



- ❖ Ideally,
  - each Committee will focus on 3 to 5 priorities/projects
  - Priorities/projects are adopted for 2 years (FY23 & FY24)
- ❖ What priorities are most important for ERSO?
  - Inclement Weather Planning: Winter & Heat Plan
  - Shelter Capacity
  - Shelter Conditions/Operations
  - Organizing Services/Supports at our Front Door (traditionally referred to as Outreach)

# FY23 Priorities: ICH Director Recommendations Continued



- ❖ Under the FY22, ERSO is also responsible for coordinating
  - Behavioral Health and
  - Substance Use related supports and services
- ❖ ICH Director proposes creating a Health Care Committee with 3 WGs to focus on pressing healthcare needs:
  - Behavioral Health x Homeless Services
  - Hospitals x Homeless Services and
  - Mortality Review
- ❖ Healthcare Committee & WGs can provide periodic updates to ERSO, but ERSO needs to be focused on our fundamental activities.

# Key Questions & Feedback



- ❖ Are there other concerns that ERSO should be reviewing?

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# Announcements & Reminders, as needed



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