

Ice-breaker: It is Football Season –Almost!



- ❖ Which famous football player has NOT experienced homelessness?
 - Najee Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers
 - Lamar Jackson, Baltimore Ravens
 - Knowshon Moreno, Denver Broncos
 - Michael Oher, Carolina Panthers



Interagency Council on Homelessness

ERSO Committee



August 23, 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.

Meeting Agenda



- I. **Welcome & Agenda Review (10 mins, includes 5 min icebreaker)**
 - a) Intros & Call for Announcements
 - b) Adopting Meeting Notes & Managing the Listserv
- II. **System Check-In (25 mins)**
 - a) Operational Shifts re Tornado Warning & Fast-Moving Thunderstorm (15 mins)
 - b) Other Constituents Concerns (10 mins, if needed)
- III. **Discussion Item: Winter Planning (60 mins)**
- IV. **Announcements & Reminders (as needed)**
- V. **Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
 - a) Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 1 - 2:30 pm

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
- **Callers, use *3 to raise your hands so we can see you and call on you to introduce yourself –this allows us to check that your audio works and that you can hear us.**

❖ 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

Feedback on Agenda & Housekeeping



Feedback:

...

Q&A:

- ❖ Q: ...
- ❖ A: ...

Meeting Agenda



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Planning for Extreme Weather



- ❖ What are our options for sheltering during extreme weather conditions?
 - Day Centers, Shelters, Libraries, and Recreational Centers are the designated locations for sheltering in extreme weather.
 - Where do the unhoused go when agencies and organizations decide to close?
 - ✓ Are DCPL and DPR sites available when fast-moving tornados, thunderstorms, and flash floods are forecasted?
 - ✓ If DCPL or DPR locations are available, is it appropriate to have DCPL or DPR staff remain on site?
 - ✓ Should and can the locations be staffed by DHS or outreach team members instead?

Planning for Extreme Weather Continued



- ❖ How are we communicating changes and operational shifts?

Feedback on Extreme Weather



Framing from Reggie:

- ❖ Significant communication breakdowns before and during extreme weather event.
- ❖ The decision to shutdown facilities including DCPL left people who use DCPL in daytime with nowhere to go.
- ❖ Not sure what status of transportation during that time and where else to go during shelter in place alert.
- ❖ Important to think about alternatives in emergency – for example day centers are not open Sunday mornings.

Feedback on Extreme Weather



Feedback:

- ❖ **Ms. Umi:** I was directly affected by DCPL shutdown. Police closed down DCPL very quickly and very rudely. Would still appreciate direct answer. Need better planning for closure of glass buildings (several DCPL sites) are being shutdown. Why could not go to basements? Resorted to Metro stations. Why did we follow the federal govt status? HSEMA should be part of the response and this planning.
- ❖ **Jean (DCPL):** Apologize for this treatment and experience. Not the decision maker related to closure during weather alerts, surprised and concerned.
 - **Context:** before MLK closed for renovation, used library sometimes in cold weather emergencies, DHS was on site to be with people who were staying overnight a few times.
 - **Recommend** this group strategize about what role DCPL can play and support during weather related emergencies.
- ❖ **Director Silla:** We are not decision makers in these forums, we can make recommendations and follow up based on issues raised. Important for us to understand the details. We have the power to help decision makers make better decisions in the future!

Feedback on Extreme Weather



Feedback:

- ❖ **From RK:** The point is we need to have a plan of where people can go to be safe. It doesn't have to be libraries, but we need to have a plan. It seems like we knew storms were coming so earlier in the day, this should have been figured out.
- ❖ **From JC:** Having safe places are very important. The safe places we see now are not really safe because the lack of care and compassion of agencies and staff for most vulnerable people.
- ❖ **From NM:** Consider what happens when local gov't offices ["cooling centers"] and local nonprofits all follow the federal gov't lead and close early?

Q&A:

- ❖ **Q:** In DC's emergency management plan are there designated places for unhoused people to go?
- ❖ **Q:** Is there HSEMA training for agencies?
- ❖ **Q:** What is the alternative plan if the library cannot be used?

Feedback on Extreme Weather



Feedback:

- ❖ **From JB:** Recommendation to learn from peer communities who have dealt with frequent extreme weather events like LA.
- ❖ **From Ms. Umi:** Guidance during weather alerts is for people who are housed, but we are unhoused. What happens next time when metro is closed or flooded and can not go underground?
- ❖ **From JC:** DC denied many of the homeless the right to live in tents. I am not sure how much they care about the emergency weather issues for these people.
- ❖ **From KC:** Emphasis on participation from HSEMA. If different events require different responses, then we need to know this. The more complicated the response is, the more likely people fall through the cracks. Need to have group with expertise think through scenarios.

Q&A:

- ❖ **Q:** What would have happened if the storm rolled in at 10 pm? Libraries and daytime centers are closed, where are folks supposed to go? Also, remembering closer to Jan 6, shelter staff were prepared to stay for a few nights in case they couldn't get home, i wonder if there is a parallel to non shelter spaces.

Feedback on Extreme Weather



Feedback:

- ❖ **From AN:** We tend to prepare for the next event based on the most recent event. For example, now that we have had this experience, can we build in planning for transportation and options for shelter in place, even if not specific bed capacity. Need to do an assessment for what is appropriate.

Q&A:

- ❖ **Q:** What other resources can we leverage so we minimize risk in the future?
- ❖ **Q:** Does the Mayor have an Office of Resiliency? Wondering how they are related to this and should be involved.
 - **A from ICH:** We can flag this incident to the CA and recommendations. Looks like Resilience DC is out of OCA: <https://oca.dc.gov/page/resilient-dc>
- ❖ **Q:** Is DC Armory a suggestion?
 - **A from DHS:** Potentially, but we need HSEMA engaged in these conversations and planning.
 - **A from NM:** I think we used the Armory as backup during Obama inauguration!

Feedback on Extreme Weather



Feedback:

- ❖ **From LG (CC):** A lot of new buildings, including 801 East, have a lot of glass. Should take note for planning at NY Ave.
 - **A from ICH:** Great flag. This is also related to balancing green building requirements.
- ❖ **From AW (UPO):** Churches and faith-based institutions could serve as the potential sites. They are typically structures strategically located throughout the city and capable of providing ample space etc. for respite, emergencies or whatever the need may be. Someone mentioned that love is an action word in the chat, and it is. These groups are called “to be involved and are really open to offering assistance.”

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Updating Short-Fall



	Start (Avg- Available Capacity)	Middle (Max- Available Capacity)
Men	$1294 - 1079 - 70 = 145$	$1350 - 1079 - 70 = 201$
Women	$483 - 400 - 10 = 73$	$569 - 400 - 10 = 159$

Demand for Shelter at the Start of Season:

- ❖ ICH recommends planning for the average number of shelter beds occupied last hypothermia season – 1294 beds for men and 483 beds for women.

Max Demand for Shelter (Height of Season):

- ❖ ICH recommends planning for the maximum shelter utilization during the last hypothermia season
 - 1,350 beds for men and
 - 569 beds for women.

Adjustments

- ❖ Added Emery Men's Shelter to the list of available shelter
- ❖ Reduced utilization of PEP-V beds at a reduction of 15% of placement for men and a 10% placement of women into Housing.

Evaluating Options for FY24 & Beyond



- ❖ The Shelter Capacity WG identified the following potential options for the FY24 hypothermia season:
 - Recreational Centers
 - Mission Driven Organizations
 - Hotels
 - Retail Spaces

- ❖ The City is evaluating the feasibility of these options

Let's discuss the pros and cons and plan for the potential of operating out of these options!



Planning for Locations

Shelter Types	Pro	Cons
Recreational Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily Accessible for clients and staff Easy to manage as operationally due to shelter occupancy limit of 50 persons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community push-back. Negative impact on the community
Mission Driven Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows us to build on partnerships within the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations may be small, not allowing for the target number of 50 persons being served at a particular site. Expensive
Hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for maximum capacity in one location. Wrap around services can be in one area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expensive
Retail Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open floor plans allow for flexibility in use of space. More central locations allowing for easy accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on surrounding business/community. Zoning restrictions.

Planning for Supports



	How Do We Support Clients?	How Do We Support Staff?	How Do We Support Neighbors and Surrounding Community?
Recreational Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (all) Case management: explore options for incentivizing participation and increase positive exits. Assessments for CAHP and coordination with those already matched to housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff always need support! Training, basic understanding of housing process and available programs like Project Reconnect. Workplace therapy is a nice offering! 	Get info out early and often to community and neighborhoods (all, especially rec centers, retail, hotels)!
Mission Driven Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (all) Transportation: more frequent intervals of pickups and better signage about pick up spots. 		
Hotels			
Retail Spaces			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning: need to be aware of timeline and process. Support

Feedback on Winter Plan



Q&A:

- ❖ **Q from WH:** The listing for 801 E is 302 this year, but last year it was 192. Need to clarify what we are considering
 - **A from DHS:** 192 are LBS. The larger number includes work beds.
- ❖ **Q from JR:** At Miriam's, seeing 75+ more people than usual at meal. Contemplating extending mealtime to accommodate. Concerned this will be an undercount based on increase seen.
- ❖ **Q from KA:** Surprised you are reducing your estimates, GMC is seeing a significant increase in unhoused individuals due to the end of the pandemic era supports and the number of evictions increasing.
 - **A from ICH:** Estimates include multiple factors, including consideration for how people use shelters episodically throughout the season.

Feedback on Winter Plan



Q&A:

- ❖ **Q from KC:** How is new capacity at Aston included?
 - **A from ICH:** It is included, but conservatively especially because it likely will not be online by the first day of hypothermia season. Calculation includes 50 beds at the Aston with a standard estimate of 70/30% men and women beds. ICH can redistribute table of sites and capacity as well as methodology for these calculations.
 - **FDBK from KC:** recommendation to include provider feedback in the narrative to review capacity and needs throughout the season.

- ❖ **Q:** Can you clarify what is meant by sites not being decided? Why is that the case?
 - **A:** Current estimates require about 5 rec centers (50 ppl/rec center) and at the height of the season, would estimate need of 8 sites. Based on changes in the landscape and use of rec centers as part of response to violence. We need to be realistic about how many sites may or may not be available.

Feedback on Winter Plan



- ❖ **Q from R:** Are the executives or other organizations aware of a timeline in assisting with the homeless or unhoused citizens needs?
- ❖ **Q from AW:** How can this group partner with OVSJG and efforts to reduce violence?
- ❖ **FDBK from RH:** On ONE DC Board of Directors. Based on data we have seen, first two weeks of August has been historical and on the rise.
- ❖ **Q:** To be clear, 100% of all PEP-V participants will be housed?
- ❖ **Q:** What is the timeline for PEP-V closure?
 - **A from ICH:** Can not stay in the PEPV hotels because the leases are too expensive. If we are going to stay in hotel/motels, need to find sites more reasonable.
 - **A from DHS:** Fairfield and Arboretum is already closed. Skyline is only site open with about 170 clients remaining. Working to ensure everyone is exited to permanent housing, some clients require additional medical coordination and long-term care facility.

Feedback on Winter Plan



- ❖ **Q:** Are there in updates about acquisition of non-congregate spaces beyond the Aston?
- ❖ **Q:** Is the City willing to give temporary zoning adjustments for retail locations for shelter?
- ❖ **Q:** What about warming buses? What has been the feedback on those?
- ❖ **Q:** What about vacant units in buildings?
- ❖ **Q:** Is Blair shelter closing? Where are the men going?
 - A from ICH: Blair is going to be open all Hypothermia Season. Not sure why residents are hearing that the shelter is closing in 2 weeks.
- ❖ **Q:** Are there any vacant schools that may be available?
- ❖ **Q:** Has the administration thought about changing the tax regime for hotels in exchange for lower rental prices?

Feedback on Winter Plan



- ❖ **Q:** Is there a standard or minimum spec that you have for securing a site?
 - **A from DHS:** Matrix approach to look at how many people can reasonably shelter, food distribution, storage, staffing space, proximity of bathrooms, security, etc.

Feedback:

- ❖ Recommendation from RB to get info out to the community to encourage participation!
- ❖ Case Management is key! Particularly, CAHP assessments, etc.
- ❖ Retail: No showers, no privacy.
- ❖ Hotels:
 - Howard Johnson on NY Ave NE

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