



Interagency Council on Homelessness

ERSO Committee



November 29, 2023



Convention for Recording ICH Committee & Full Council Meetings:

- ❖ Recording for purposes of complying with the Open Meeting Act requirements
- ❖ Available for anyone who requests a copy at ich.info@dc.gov.

ICE BREAKER- NFL Pick for Division Champions



| AFC | NFC |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Baltimore Ravens | Philadelphia Eagles |
| Kansas City Chief | San Francisco 49ers |
| Jacksonville Jaguars | Detroit Lions |
| Miami Dolphins | Atlanta Falcons |
| Pittsburg Steelers | Dalla Cowboys |
| Cleveland Browns | Minnesota Vikings |
| Indianapolis Colts | Seattle Seahawks |

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. **Systemwide Check-In (25 mins)**
 - a) Constituents Check-In (10 mins)
 - b) Hypothermia Check-In (15 mins)
- III. **Discussion: Cold Weather & Winter Storm Planning (25 mins)**
 - a) Operational Shifts: Approach for Weekday vs Weekend/Holiday, Warming Buses & Sites,
 - b) Communications
- IV. **Updates (25 mins)**
 - a) Aston (10 mins)
 - b) PEP-V Update (15 mins)
- V. **Announcements & Reminders (as needed)**
- VI. **Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
 - a) Next Meeting: January 3, 2024 @1pm

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
- Use *6 to unmute and introduce yourself
- 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

Notes on Welcome & Agenda Review



Introductions:

- ❖ **ICH Lead:** Synina Pugh and Theresa Silla
- ❖ **Co-chairs:** Reginald Black and Anthony Newman
- ❖ **Callers:** *86 – Ms. Umi, *95 – Dr. Mayaalla

Agenda Review:

- ❖ **Feedback:** ...

Other Comments/Q&A:

- ❖ **Q:** ...

A: ...

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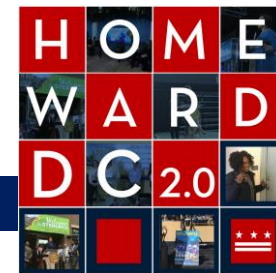
Community Concerns: Goal & Resources



- ❖ **Purpose: Opportunity to identify**
 - what is top of mind for the community
 - system barriers, challenges, gaps, trends

- ❖ **Resources to support Check-In:**
 - Responding to Shifts in the Landscape
 - Community Concerns from Last Hypo Season (November)

Constituent Check-Ins



Advocates & Lived Experience Representatives:

- ❖ **Ms. Umi:** Follow up on request for announcements at DCPL locations and for resource/site flyer available at DCPL. Request for translation of signs and flyers. ← DHS will take the lead on this!
- ❖ Request for hand warmers to be distributed by UPO and available at DCPL in addition to the blankets currently distributed.
- ❖ **RB:** Connected with DOC, flagging discharge issues/capacity needs from DC Jail. Releases are happening at unorthodox time to make space for new intakes, so need to understand what is possible for shelter transportation. Likely impacting shelter capacity and turnaways seen at particular sites.
 - **Dr. Mayaalla:** Can DOC/DC Jail call UPO to request transportation to available shelters?
- ❖ **RW:** Concerned about people's well being during extreme weather. Want to ensure coordination between outreach and DBH.
- ❖ **QEA:** Emphasizing importance of communications and coordination between libraries, rec centers.

Constituent Check-Ins



Provider Representatives:

❖ DC Gov Partners:

➤ DCPL Updates:

- ✓ 1) Shelter van made a stop at Shaw Library 11/28 to see if anyone needed transport. Is this possible on other alert nights or other locations? – **A from UPO:** Yes, we have instructed our drivers to check in at libraries, Metro stations and even local businesses like 7-eleven etc. We do not have a specific time when we will check in at library locations, but we do make a concerted effort to check in with these locations throughout the city especially when the alert is on and when a cold weather emergency is declared.
- ✓ 2) Most libraries made announcements yesterday evening and can plan to do that for future alerts. Do make the flyer available along with DCPL created flyers such as transportation flyers, etc.
- ✓ 3) giving out blankets at ~15 locations. Worked with DHS to distribute and working to secure additional blankets. Would like to distribute hand warmers, but do not currently have them. Putting together winter care kits starting next week that do include hand warmers. ← feedback from Ms. Umi on items that are most helpful: hand warmers, wool socks, blankets. Do not spend money on toiletry or additional items like shower kits because not able to use them outside and end up throwing them out.

❖ Outreach: ...

❖ Day Centers: ...

❖ Low Barrier Shelters & Hypothermia Sites: ...

❖ Transportation: ...

Resource: Last Hypo Season Concerns



Purpose:

- ❖ Looking to confirm what is resolved and outstanding!
- ❖ Flag: these are our assumptions.

Outstanding Concerns?

- ❖ Accessibility:
 - Preference for cots and lower bunks flagged every year, including last year.
 - Concerned for this year because we are not in DPR Rec Centers, which allowed for a significant expansion of ADA-accessible locations and features.
- ❖ Respiratory Illness (particular concern was related to COVID densities)
 - Tracking concerns & response in Proposed ICH Health Care Committee. Email ich.info@dc.gov to participate.
- ❖ Young adults sleeping in the awning of Covenant House.

Resolved Concerns?

- ❖ Consistency of operation hours across overflow sites
 - Assuming not an issue this year because it was the DPR sites that operated a different schedule from the standard 7 pm – 7 am.
- ❖ Cleaning between overflow and Day Center operations at 801 and Adam's Place.
 - Assuming not an issue this year because have been operating overflow locations all year and this has not been flagged as an issue since last November.

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DC Department of Human Services

Hypothermia Start of the FY 2023-2024 ERSO

Hypothermia Basics

- Key Points for the Season
- Current Capacity at Hypothermia Sites: Women & Men
- Basics of Hypothermia, if needed
 - What?
 - Why?
 - When?

Key Points for the Season

Alerts:

- The first alert was activated November 1st
- 7 hypo alerts have been activated at 7pm
- 6 hypo alerts were deactivated after 7am
- 1 cold weather emergency has been activated at 7pm

Sites & Transportation:

- Some sites opened on November 1st
- Hypothermia sites will come online in phases
- UPO operates 24/7 during the season

Holiday Schedule: 24/7 operations

- Thanksgiving (Done)
- Christmas and New Year's Day (planning underway, to be confirmed)

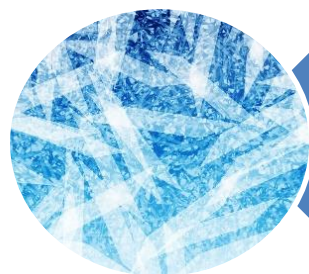
Current Capacity at Hypothermia Sites (Women)

| <i>Site Name</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Population</i> | <i>Capacity</i> | <i>Occupancy</i> | <i>Provider</i> |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Eve's Place (APDC) | 2210B Adams Place NE | Women | 40 | 31 | N Street Village |
| Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) | 425 2 nd St. NW | Women | 48 | n/a | CCNV |
| Bradley & Associates | 1809 Rhode Island Ave. NE | Women | 25 | n/a | Bradley & Associates |
| Harbor Lights (Salvation Army) | 2100 New York Ave. NE | Women | 35 | 19 | N Street Village |
| Faith United Church of Christ | 4900 10 th St. NE | Women | 35 | n/a | CORE DC |
| Naylor Rd. -2601 | 2601 Naylor Rd. SE | Women | 66 | 11 | KBEC |

Current Capacity for Hypothermia sites (Men)

| <i>Site Name</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Population</i> | <i>Capacity</i> | <i>Occupancy</i> | <i>Provider</i> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 801 East Day Center | 2722 Martin Luther King Jr Ave. SE | Men | 40 | 40 | Catholic Charities |
| Federal City (1-North) | 425 2 nd St. NW | Men | 180 | n/a | CORE DC |
| Church of Epiphany | 1317 G St. NW | Men | 30 | 30 | Downtown DCBID/Epiphany |
| KBEC-Family Life Center | 4100 South Capitol St. SE | Men | 40 | 18 | KBEC Group |
| Salvation Army | 3335 Sherman Ave. NW | Men | 40 | 37 | Coalition for the Homeless |
| Naylor Road- 2603 | 2603 Naylor Rd. SE | Men | 66 | 27 | KBEC Group |
| Emery (overflow) | 1725 Lincoln Rd. NE | Men | 40 | 40 | Coalition for the Homeless |
| CCNV Drop-In Center | 425 2 nd St. NW | Men | 134 (alert night only) | n/a | CCNV |

What is Hypothermia Season



The season is from November 1st through March 31st



A hypothermia alert is activated when the temperature plus windchill is forecasted to be 32 degrees or below OR when the temperature is forecasted to be 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and the chance of precipitation is 50% or greater.



During the season two different alerts can be activated “hypothermia alert” or “Cold Weather Emergency.”

Why Hypothermia Season in the District

The District of Columbia is one of only three jurisdictions that provide a legal right to shelter in hypothermic weather conditions

The HSRA mandates each year District residents experiencing homelessness will be protected from cold weather injury

The District is committed to ensuring it has effective strategies in place to protect residents experiencing homelessness from cold weather injury.

Strategies for hypothermia planning include:

1. Collaborating with ICH on the District's Winter Plan
2. Securing shelter for homeless individuals for the season
3. Collaborating with partners and other District agencies like, TCP, DC HSEMA, NWS, UPO, OSSE,

Types of Alerts

Hypothermia Alert

- Is activated when the temperature plus windchill is forecasted to be 32 degrees or below **OR** when the temperature is forecasted to be 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and the chance of precipitation is 50% or greater.

Cold Weather Emergency

- is activated when the temperature plus windchill reaches 15 degrees or below.

Total Alerts from November 2022-April 2023

| Month-Year | Hypo alerts @ 7pm | Hypo alerts after 7am | Cold Weather Emergencies |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| November 2022 | 13 | 5 | 0 |
| December 2022 | 19 | 17 | 5 |
| January 2023 | 20 | 12 | 0 |
| February 2023 | 13 | 9 | 2 |
| March 2023 | 14 | 12 | 0 |
| April 2023 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Notes on Hypothermia Check-In



Feedback/Q&A:

- ❖ **AW (UPO):** Accessibility is still a challenge. We often receive calls late night or early in the morning and accessibility is an issue. Trying to find facilities that have availability and are able to meet the needs of the individual (i.e. lower bunk beds, accessible bathrooms, etc.). Would like to see some more options available and designated spaces for special needs.
- ❖ **WH:** For the men's facilities there is capacity but only at the two KBEC sites. Curious if those are both accessible.
 - **A from ICH:** One of the KBEC locations is apt-style.
- ❖ **AS (Everyone Home DC):** What's the legal requirement for ADA accessible beds/locations?
 - **A from ICH:** The ADA and District of Columbia policy require that people with disabilities have equal access to all city services, activities, and benefits. In other words, people with disabilities must have an equal opportunity to participate in the programs and services offered through the city. Key questions are: What is the demand for the accessible locations? How many of our units are accessible? and How do we manage the inventory so that supply meets demand?

Notes on Hypothermia Check-In



Feedback/Q&A:

- ❖ **RW:** Concern about 7pm – 7am hours at hypothermia locations. PFFC has advocated for day centers and expanded hours because
 - **A from ICH:** LBS still operate at 24/7. Sites brought online for hypothermia season are the only sites operating 7pm – 7am.
- ❖ **RH (CCNV):** As alert night only site for CCNV Drop-In Center we have been staying open until the alert is deactivated. Want to confirm this is the correct operations.
 - **A from DHS:** this is correct, please continue with those operations!
- ❖ **Ms. Umi:** Why did Sunday or last night qualify for warming buses? Are wind chill taken into account?
 - **A from DHS:** If 40 degrees or below with 50% chance of precipitation (rain) the hypothermia alert will be activated or 32 degrees and no precipitation. Regarding warming buses – they will be deployed if expect Cold Weather Emergency for extended period of time. When work with NWS: get overnight low and windchill. DHS meets with NWS before hypothermia season each year and improvements to modeling and forecasting so have those opportunities to engage!
 - **A from ICH:** Sounds like we should be taking into account wind gusts moving forward. Interested in future modeling!

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Cold Weather Planning



Purpose:

- ❖ To discuss the parameters for deploying warming buses when a cold weather alert is activated

Background/Context

- ❖ The winter plan states that if a cold weather emergency is activated, overflow locations will operate 24 hours, and warming sites and buses will activate.
- ❖ Shift in the landscape – Sobering/stabilization center is now open. Opportunity to coordinate services/supports. Interested in the feedback so we can follow up and coordinate with DBH at ICH BHxHS WG meeting.

Key Discussion Questions

- ❖ When?
 - Projected extended cold weather snap vs. short duration of time (24 hours or less)
 - Weekdays (including after-hours considerations) vs Weekends (especially Sundays) vs Holidays
- ❖ Where?
 - At shelters (to expand capacity at shelters, hypo locations) vs. Neighboring encampment locations (concentrated areas of unsheltered individuals) vs Substance Use Hotspots

Resource

- ❖ ICH recommendation for potential locations
- ❖ Based on utilization data from last year and shifts in the landscape (what is relevant for this year)

Identifying Potential Warming Bus Locations



High Utilization Locations Recommended for this Season

Eastern Market -Deployed during heating and cooling season

Columbia Heights Plaza - Deployed during cooling season

Starburst Plaza - Deployed during heating and cooling season

21st & E Street NW – Deployed during heating and cooling season

Immediate reactions? ...

Recommendations for other locations? ...

Parameters?....

Do we need anything else (in addition to buses)?

Notes on Cold Weather Planning



Feedback

- ❖ **JB (DCPL):** Eastern Market is important. The Southeast Library will be closing for renovation on January 4. This will not be a location people can access for the next several years. There will be a small interim location, in Arthur Capper, but it will not accommodate many people.
- ❖ **Ms. Umi:**
 - Location Recommendations: Individuals formerly at McPherson are now staying by K Street. by State Dept (used well during summer cooling buses), Starburst Plaza, Eastern Market, Good Hope Road, Columbia Heights.
 - Need to debrief about previous hypo shelters – thankful for the option but need some monitoring and supportive engagement by outreach. Also need an options for when buses are closed/end. People have had bad experiences at 1313 DDSC and do not want to go back there.
- ❖ **RB:** Request for utilization numbers from last year. Location Considerations:
 - Need to understand movement when encampments are closed. Can likely inform update locations.
 - Why is mid-Georgia Ave between New Hampshire and Missouri Ave not being considered? There are a lot of people who are unsheltered there. North of Columbia Heights and Petworth. Need to discuss how to provide services in Ward 4 and those neighborhoods are concerned.
 - **A from DHS:** Do have a good sense of encampments and proximity to other resources. We do consider Georgia Ave and other locations, but part of consideration is proximity to other resources. Will continue to solicit feedback and input from ERSO and outreach to determine new locations.
 - **A from ICH:** Can also monitor this through Front Door Services WG.

Communications



Purpose:

- ❖ To ensure our communication strategies are working well

Background/Context

- ❖ Preparing for rapid changes in weather
- ❖ Alerts and weather conditions (Winter Storms) not forecasted/predicted 3 – 5 days in advance

Key Questions

- ❖ What is working well that we need to maintain?
- ❖ What are the gaps/challenges that we need to address?

Notes on Communication Concerns



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ASTON & PEP-V UPDATES

Notes on Aston Update



DHS Status Update:

- ❖ The opening process is delayed. We were striving to open this winter, but now likely delayed until Spring 2024 due to several reasons.
- ❖ The delay is not related to the lawsuit. It is due to construction delays.

Q&A

- ❖ Q: ...
- ❖ A: ...

PEP-V Closure Milestones

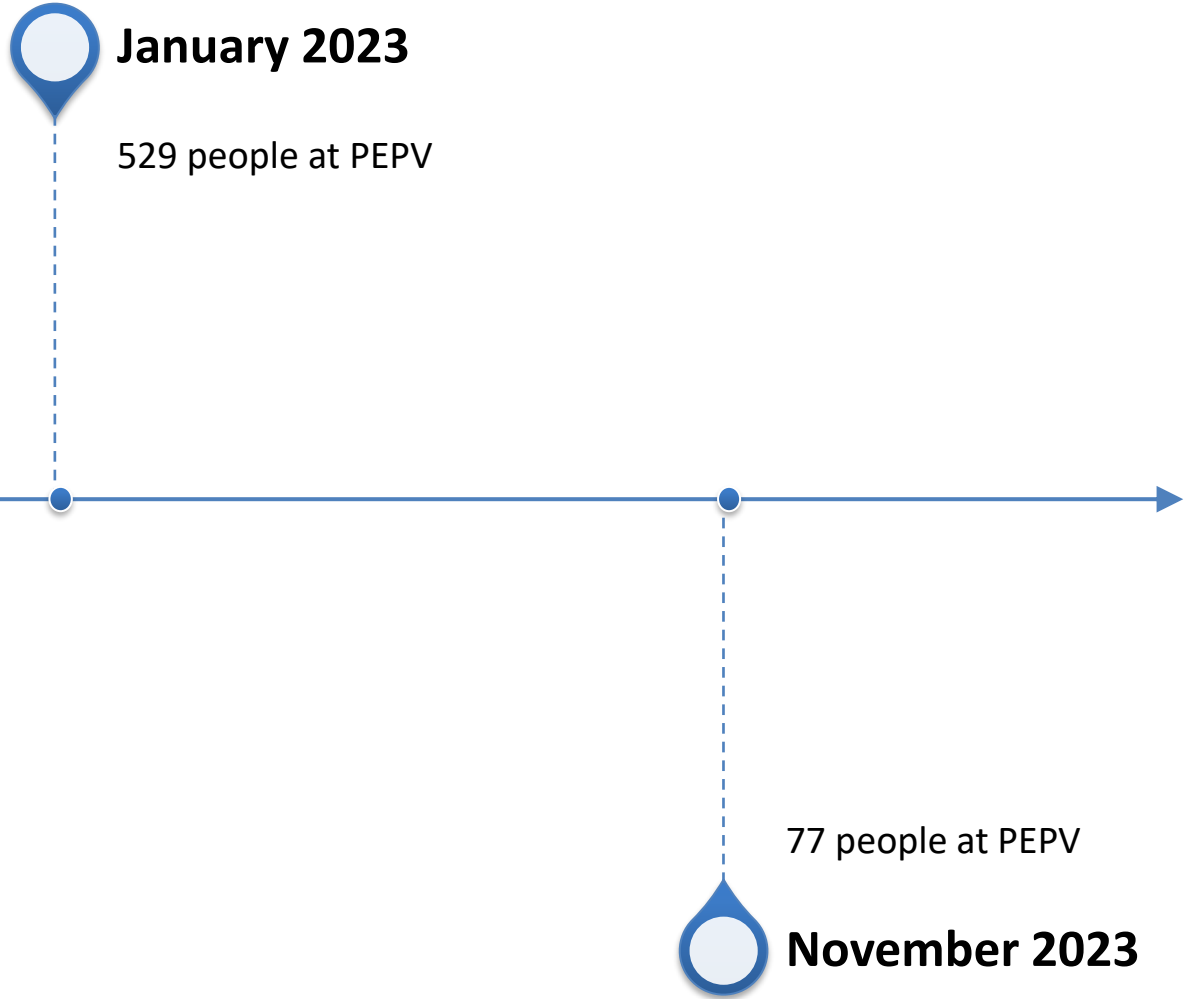
| DATE | MILESTONE | STATUS |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| May 10 | Close Fairfield Site <i>(April 30th: All Fairfield residents out of building)</i> | Complete |
| Aug 15 | Close Arboretum Site <i>(July 30: All Arboretum residents out of building)</i> | Complete |
| Dec 30 | Close Skyline Site <i>(Proposed Dec 15th: All Skyline residents out of building)</i> | In progress... |

Individuals Permanently Housed From PEPV

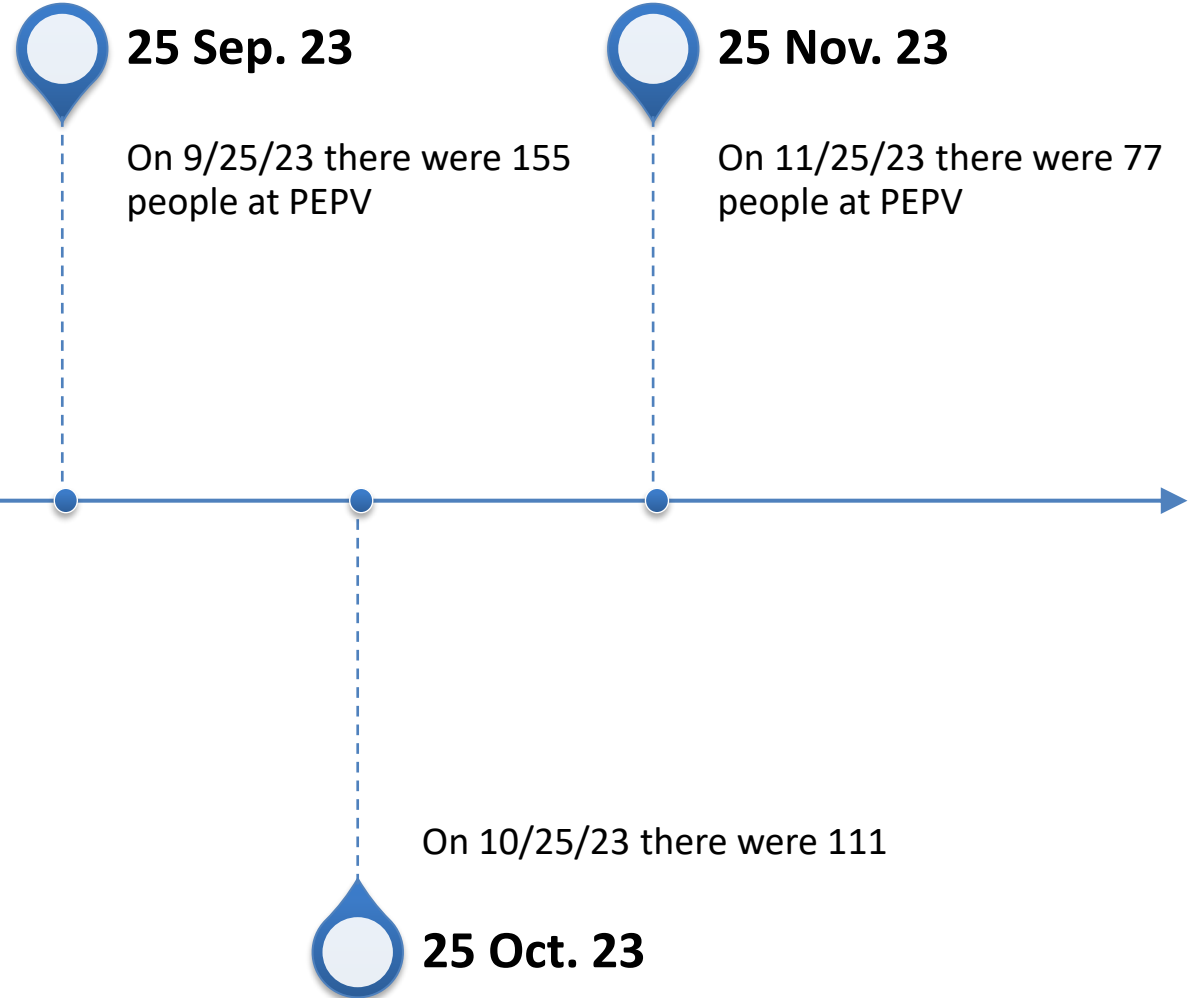
From 2020 to
Present: 1185

From 1/2023
to Present:
297

PEP-V Demobilization 9 Month Look Back



PEP-V Demobilization 90 Day Look Back



PEP-V Current as of 11/28/23

| Exit Stage | Skyline |
|--|-----------|
| Short Term Respite (Moving to 801 East Respite/ Medical Wing) | 6 |
| High Level of Care (Awaiting NF, ALF, CRF placement/moving to 801 East Medical Wing) | 18 |
| Bridge Clients | 53 |
| Total | 77 |

Demobilization Communication

| Types of Communication | Dates |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Townhalls | 9/8, 10/18, 11/13, 11/15, and 11/30 |
| Formal Notices via Letter Campaign | 7/5, 9/15, 10/18, 11/15, and 11/30 |
| Closure Notice and Next Steps Posted on Every Door | 11/15 |

Notes on PEP-V Update



Feedback/Q&A:

- ❖ **Q from KA (GMC):** Are there bridge housing openings that can take on the 53 clients?
 - **A from DHS:** Likely will not have 53 Bridge housing slots, working to find additional slots or move to Naylor Rd where we have apt style units in our system. The key is that regardless of where the clients end up in the process, we do not stop tracking them as a PEPV client and their housing placement plan.
 - ❖ **Q from Dr. Mayaalla:** Are individuals looking for apartments and doing housing search? Do people have support to do this? Will their case managers change?
 - **A from DHS:** Absolutely. This is part of the process in case management and facilitating housing placement at exit.
 - ❖ **Q from Ms. Naomi:** How was the 3,100 unused Housing vouchers resolved?
 - ❖ **Q from KC (DCFPI):** Is the 801E medical wing and the respite beds the same ?
 - **A from DHS:** Yes, they are the same.
 - ❖ **Q from WH (Legal Clinic):** Agree that PEP-V has been a huge success and everyone should be proud of its effects. My concern is that as well that PEPV has operated, the hope was that it would be a very small number of people that would have to be placed back into shelter. It has become very difficult in congregate settings to move through the housing process. Very concerned that they are being moved at this critical point in their housing process. Hope consideration is made for other options or non congregate to reduce the number of people who need to be placed into shelter.
 - ❖ **Q from Ms. Umi:** Echo Wes' comments. This is disappointing. Really hope that individuals' health is not set back. What about medical respite for women?
 - **A from ICH:** Need to clarify that not all people currently at PEPV are medically frail. There was a point where also accepting people who were matched to housing and not medically frail.
 - ❖ **Q from Ms. Umi:** What about medical respite for women?
 - **A from DHS:** 801 medical wing was always intended to be co-ed so can accommodate women with high medical needs.
- Dr. Mayaalla:** There are places for older adults that accept vouchers and Medicaid, senior living configurations. Hope that is an option being explored for PEP-V.

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 - a) DBH: DC Stabilization Center ***NEW***
 - b) PFFC: 11th Annual Memorial & Vigil ***NEW***
- VI. Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)

DBH: DC Stabilization Center *NEW*



The [DC Stabilization Center \(DCSC\)](#) is now open 24/7!

Location:

- ❖ 35 K Street NE, Washington, DC 20001

Program Details:

- ❖ 18 years and older
- ❖ Services are free of charge - no insurance or residency requirements
- ❖ Specialized medical facility that centers patient safety, practices empathy and harm reduction approaches for individuals experiencing SUD crises.

DC's First Stabilization Center
Location: 35 K Street NE | Hours of Operation: Walk-in available 24-7

What is it?
The Stabilization Center provides emergency crisis intervention, typically lasting 24-72 hours, for those experiencing substance use disorder. Services are provided to those who are 18 years and older and are free of charge with no insurance or residency requirements necessary.

The DC Stabilization Center offers:

Specialty care:

- Patients receive an individualized treatment plan based on an initial observation
- The center offers approved medication (buprenorphine) on the spot which, when combined with counseling, is effective in the treatment of opioid use disorders and can help some people sustain recovery

Empathetic care:

- Peer specialists trained in cultural competency work one-on-one with patients to navigate their recovery and refer them to appropriate long-term treatment options
- No one is ever turned away from services and services are provided in English and Spanish to support a wider group of individuals
- A team of on-site multidisciplinary care providers such as nurse practitioners, registered nurses, certified peers, recovery coaches, and patient care technicians will link the patient to resources that can help sustain their health after discharge, such as housing assistance, help with filling out paperwork, or help with reinstating insurance

A safe space and environment to recover:

- The facility features recliners or patient beds in a comfortable, quiet, private setting to begin the stabilization process
- Patients can lock personal items in a secure locker during the intake process
- Patients are closely monitored by medical professionals and staff throughout the course of the stabilization process, including medical screenings and observations

Pathway to long-term recovery:

- Patients receive referrals and placements into long-term treatment options
- Individuals are connected to ongoing substance use disorder treatment at one of the 29 DBH-certified provider locations across DC in all eight wards

What are the benefits of the stabilization center?

- Provides relief for hospital emergency rooms and emergency psychiatric centers
- Offers a cost-effective and time-effective alternative to ER visits for intoxication
- Individuals who receive care at the Stabilization Center can get connected to long-term care and other resources and programs that support recovery
- Gets people the "right care, right now" and prevents escalation to other harmful or dangerous behaviors
- Increases the chance that the intoxicated individual will be open to receiving care

FACT: In 2022, DC Fire and EMS made 3,800 transports to the hospital with individuals that were experiencing acute intoxication.

Learn more about DC's Stabilization Center at dcstabilizationcenter.com or by calling (202) 839-3500

COMMUNITY BRIDGES | DBH | DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES | GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR


PFFC: 11th Annual Memorial & Vigil *NEW*




Background: People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) is hosting the 11th Annual Memorial & Vigil in honor of the people who passed away while experiencing homelessness.

Details:

- ❖ Wednesday, 12/20 at 4 pm
- ❖ Luther Place Memorial Church – 1226 Vermont Ave NW



People for Fairness Coalition
Invites you to the
11th Annual Memorial & Vigil
In honor of our neighbors
who passed away
without the dignity of a home.



Opening Service and Candlelight Procession
4:00 Luther Place Memorial Church
Wednesday December 20th, 2023.
1226 Vermont Ave NW

Lunch and Memorial Service
Remembering our brothers & sisters
who died without the dignity of a home.
Church of The Epiphany
11:45 Thursday December 21st, 2023.
1317 G Street NW

Questions?
Contact
Rachelle Ellison
email: rachelleellison74@gmail.com
Phone: (202) 597-3236

To donate
www.pffcdc.org/donate

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