Interagency Council on Homelessness

Emergency Response & Shelter Operations (ERSO) Committee

03 January 2024

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.

Meeting Agenda

I. **Welcome & Agenda Review (10 mins, includes 5 min icebreaker)**
   a) Icebreaker
   b) Intros, Call for Announcements
   c) Adopting Meeting Notes & Managing the Listserv
II. **System Check-In (25 mins)**
   a) Overview
   b) Emerging Concerns and Updates
III. **Updates (30 mins)**
   a) Hypothermia Check-In
   b) Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V)
   c) Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)
IV. **Discussion: Budgets and Fiscal Constraints (30 mins)**
V. **Announcement and Reminders(if needed)**
VI. **Summary and Adjournment**
   a) Next Meeting: January 31, 2024 from 1-2:30 pm

ICE-BREAKER

- HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

- As we move into 2024, I am asking people to reflect and share what is your word or phase that is guiding you this year?

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
- Co-chairs: Tony Newman and Reginald Black
- Callers:

Feedback on Agenda Review:

- FL: …

Other Comments/Q&A:

- Q (FL): …
- A (from Agency/Org): …

SYSTEM WIDE CHECK-INS

Overview of Systemwide Check-In

Purpose:

- To understand what is top of mind for our government and community reps
- Reminder that community reps include advocates, business sector partners, constituents with lived experience, and service providers.

Background/Context:

- Allows us to document shifts in the landscape, identify trends, delegate topics to the appropriate ICH forums, or identify future discussion topics for this forum.

Limitations:

- For emerging/new concerns, we only have 15 mins, so we kindly request that each person limit their comments to 3 mins so we can hear from at least 5 participants.

New/Emerging Concerns or Updates

- To include nuances to previously flagged and outstanding concerns

- Government Reps
  - DCPL feedback regarding
    - ✓
- Community Reps
  - Advocates
  - Business Sector Partners
  - Constituents w/ Lived Experience
  - Service Providers

Notes on Systemwide Check-Ins

Feedback:

- **FL: …**

Other Comments/Q&A:

- **Q (FL): …**
- **A (from Agency/Org): …**

HYPOTHERMIA UPDATES

Overview

- December Weather and Alerts
- Planning for January Weather
- Hypothermia Capacity Review

Hypothermia sites for Men

Site Name	Address	Population	Capacity	Vacancy	Provider
801 East Day Center	2722 Martin Luther King Jr Ave. SE	Men	40	0	Catholic Charities
Federal City (1-North)	425 2nd St. NW	Men	180	66	CORE DC
Church of Epiphany	1317 G St. NW	Men	30	1	Downtown DCBID/Epiphany
KBEC-Family Life Center	4100 South Capitol St. SE	Men	40	3	KBEC Group
Salvation Army	3335 Sherman Ave. NW	Men	40	5	Coalition for the Homeless
Naylor Road- 2603	2603 Naylor Rd. SE	Men	66	n/a	KBEC Group
Emery (overflow)	1725 Lincoln Rd. NE	Men	60	0	Coalition for the Homeless
CCNV Drop-In Center (alert night only)	425 2nd St. NW	Men	134	123	CCNV

Hypothermia sites for Women

Site Name	Address	Population	Capacity	Vacancy	Provider
Eve's Place (APDC)	2210B Adams Place NE	Women	40	4	N Street Village
Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV)	425 2nd St. NW	Women	48	10	CCNV
Bradley & Associates	1809 Rhode Island Ave. NE	Women	25	15	Bradley & Associates
Harbor Lights (Salvation Army)	2100 New York Ave. NE	Women	35	n/a	N Street Village
Faith United Church of Christ	4900 10th St. NE	Women	35	35	CORE DC
Naylor Rd. -2601	2601 Naylor Rd. SE	Women	66	41	KBEC

Notes on Hypothermia Updates

Feedback:

- **FL: …**

Other Comments/Q&A:

- **Q (FL): …**
- **A (from Agency/Org): …**

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR MEDICALLY VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS (PEP-V) UPDATES

PEPV is Officially Closed!!!!!!!!!

- From its opening in 2020 to its closure on 12/31/23, Over 1200 individuals from PEPV were permanently housed!!!

- Every individual not housed at closure was offered a place to go while they continue to work toward housing.
  - 37 clients were moved from PEPV to Naylor Rd temporarily by 12/14
  - Of those 37, 13 have moved to permanent housing
  - Of the 24 remaining at Naylor Rd, 11 are scheduled to move out by 2/1

INTENSIVE CARE COORDINATION (ICC) UPDATES

INTENSIVE CARE COORDINATION TEAM (ICC) HYPOTHERMIA REPORT

- The ICC team mission is to engage DC residents through community outreach with the goal of connecting them to a Core Service Agency for Mental Health treatment and to SUD treatment.
- The ICC team has been at the Downtown Day Center for hypothermia season since 10.16.23, Monday and Thursdays 9 am- 12 pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12 pm- 2 pm. and some Thursday at 12 pm for lunch and learn.
- This data was report on 12.13.23. The area of concern is the SUD referrals. The plan is to find an approach to engage consumers at the Downtown Day Center with SUD as a group and individually and to collaborate with other service providers at the Downtown Day Center.

Connected to CSA	New/Referral	Reconnected	SUD
17	69	6	0

BUDGET & FISCAL CONSTRAINTS

Purpose, Background & Key Discussion Qxns

- **Purpose:**
  - Get feedback on what is important to you!

- **Background/Context:**
  - Due to fiscal constraints, DHS must adjust FY24 Budget
  - DHS thinking through options for reducing it's costs
  - DHS is asking providers to also reduce costs by 5 – 7%

- **Key Discussion Questions:**
  - What should DHS be considering when analyzing programs and proposing cuts?

Notes on Budget/Fiscal Constraints

Feedback:

- **FL: …**

Q&A:

- **Q: …**
- **A: …**

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome & Agenda Review (10 mins)

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III. Updates (30 mins)

IV. Discussion: Budgets and Fiscal Constraints (30 mins)

V. **Announcement and Reminders(if needed)**

a) DCPL: Job Opportunity for LICSWs ***NEW***

b) DHS: ERAP Portal Opened January 02 ***NEW***

c) DHS: Rent Reasonableness for FRSP & Career Map ***NEW***

d) HCS: Veteran Flex Funds

e) TCP: HMIS Visibility Updates & ROI Reminder ***NEW***

f) TCP: Study on Housing Insecurity in DC ***NEW***

g) TCP: Volunteer Registration for Annual Point-in-Time Count Now Open ***NEW***

VI. Summary and Adjournment

DCPL: Job Opportunity for LICSWs *NEW*

- **DCPL is looking for a contractor(s) for the following:**
  - 1-on-1 clinical drop-in services twice a week for 2 hour sessions from Jan – Sept 2024 at 3 library locations for a total of 156 hours at each library locations
  - Group art therapy or other group sessions twice a month for 2 hour sessions from Jan – Sept 2024 at 3 library locations for a total of 36 sessions at each library location
- **Info Requested:**
  - Licensure information – must be currently licensed to provide mental health services in DC
  - Resume/CV outlining experience including types of modalities currently practiced
  - Experience with crisis intervention
  - Populations served as a clinician
  - Vision for operating program in the public library setting (3 – 4 sentence summary)
  - 3 references
- **Deadline for response:** Friday, 01/05
- **DCPL Contact:** Email jean.badalamenti@dc.gov with questions and/or response.

ERAP Re-opening on 01/02/24 *NEW*

Starting 01/02 at 12 noon, District residents can apply for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) at **erap.dhs.dc.gov**

- Residents with no or limited access to technology (computer, tablet, or Smart Phone) can call the ERAP Hotline at 202-507-6666 to get support in submitting applications.
- Residents can also contact the ERAP Hotline at 202-507-6666 or email us at erap.program@dc.gov for inquiries or to follow-up on their submissions.

In the past year DHS received an influx of applications and closed the application portal in March 2023.

- To serve residents effectively and efficiently throughout the year, DHS will open the ERAP application portal on October 1, 2023, January 2, April 1, and July 1, 2024.
- **DHS will close the portal once 3,500 applications are received in each quarter.**
- Residents seeking emergency rental assistance are highly encouraged to note the above-mentioned dates and submit applications in a timely manner.
- Click here to learn more about documents needed to submit a complete application.

Rent Reasonableness for FRSP & Career Map *NEW*

- Effective January 1, 2024, all rent reasonableness determinations for Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program (FRSP) and Career Mobility Action Plan (Career MAP) will be exclusively completed through AffordableHousing.com.
- This tool, introduced by the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) for their Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Local Rent Supplement Program, compares proposed rents to those of similar unassisted units in the marketplace.

HCS: Veteran Flex Funds

Financial assistance for Veterans:

- At risk of experiencing homelessness and in need of prevention
- Experiencing homelessness to reduce barriers to housing

Information and referral forms are available on the HCS website: https://housingetc.org/flex-fund-program/

Housing Counseling Services, Inc.

VETERAN FLEX FUND PROGRAM

Housing Counseling Services' (HCS) Veteran Flex Fund Program offers financial assistance to quickly help homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk for homelessness in the District of Columbia stabilize their housing.

The Flex Fund Program can help at-risk Veterans with:

- Delinquent Rent
- Security Deposit/First Month's Rent
- Rental Application and Related Fees
- Delinquent Mortgage
- Delinquent Utilities/Utility Deposit
- Transportation Related Cost
- Child Care Costs
- Other Costs That Support Housing Stability

For more information about the Flex Fund Program or to access the Flex Fund application visit:
https://housingetc.org/flex-fund-program/

If you have questions about the Flex Fund Program contact HCS at (202) 667-7736 or for email at flexfund@housingetc.org

The Veterans Flex Fund Program is funded by Community Solutions International and administered by Housing Counseling Services.

HMIS Visibility Updates & ROI Reminder

NEW

On 10/01/23 TCP implemented critical system updates and workflow changes:

- Updated HMIS Privacy Notice, Release of Information (ROI), and Policies and Procedures
- Shift to entry/exit workflow for day centers, outreach, and singles shelter sites to understand movement throughout the system and to improve reporting on system outcomes

It is imperative that front line and case management staff are trained on the new process, sharing information about the ROI with program participants, and sending the signed document to TCP for records to be opened.

- Access the documents online: https://community-partnership.org/dc-hmis-standard-operating-procedures/
- HMIS Training: https://community-partnership.org/hmis-training/
- TCP is also working to update CAHP processes and VI-SPDAT packet.

Email hmis@community-partnership.org to submit completed ROIs and/or any questions/concerns.

Study on Housing Insecurity in DC *NEW*

- The Community Partnership would like to announce new research from the Urban Institute on housing insecurity in the District. The study was a collaboration between The Community Partnership and the Urban Institute and is among the first to attempt to define and measure the scope of housing insecurity in the District.

Goal

- The Community Partnership sought the assistance of the Urban Institute to conduct the research to better understand housing insecurity and to inform our approach in delivering resources to households in need of stabilization to prevent an experience of homelessness. The Urban Institute conducted a representative survey of District households using a comprehensive definition of housing insecurity to estimate the number of people facing different forms of insecurity.

Findings

- The research finds that 12% of the District's population – or an estimated 82,452 residents – do not have stable housing, the majority of whom are in Black and Hispanic households. Black residents make up 41% of the city's population but 68% of those facing housing insecurity, and Hispanic residents represent 7% of the city's population but 14% of the housing insecure population. In contrast, while white residents comprise 40% of District's population, only 9% of people experiencing housing insecurity are white. Additionally, the study found an estimated one in four children under the age of 17 who are accompanied by at least one adult are experiencing housing insecurity (24%) even though they make up just 15% of the population. And an estimated one in five transition age youth ages 18 to 24 are experiencing housing insecurity (12%) even though they represent 7% of the population of the District overall.

Acknowledgement

- The Community Partnership would like to thank the D.C. Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), the ICH Consumer Engagement Work Group, the ICH Youth Advisory Board, staff from the D.C. Department of Human Services, and others from our provider community who participated in focus groups that helped to shape the study.
- We invite you to read the research report and we look forward to our continued partnership in working to ensure that all District residents have safe, stable, and affordable housing!

Volunteer Registration for the 2024 DC Point-in-Time Count is Open! *NEW*

On Wednesday, January 24th, the District of Columbia will conduct its annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of persons experiencing homelessness; **we need your help to complete surveys of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness on that night. To register as a volunteer surveyor or learn more, visit: www.DCPIT.org.**

From 8PM to 2AM on January 24th, volunteer survey teams led by street outreach professionals and trained PIT Count Team Leads will canvass the city for individuals sleeping outside and will conduct a brief survey about their experiences and circumstances. All volunteers are required to attend a training on safety, engagement techniques, and using the PIT Count survey app prior to the night of the PIT Count. Volunteers must also be willing to use their own mobile device to access the survey app and complete PIT Count surveys.

To ensure the health and safety of all participants, surveyors will be provided a complete PPE kit, are required to adhere to health protocols while volunteering, and must attest to being fully vaccinated* to participate.

With your help, we can ensure the success of this project and improve the delivery of services to this vulnerable population. If you have any questions, please email: pit@community-partnership.org.

Sincerely,
DC PIT Count Coordinating Team

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