GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: 18 July 2022	Time: 2 – 3:30 PM	Location: Webex

Meeting Notes

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

ICH Director, Theresa Silla, welcomed participants (listed in the table below) as they logged into the Webex. Director Silla also started recording the meeting and shared her screen showing the meeting's agenda and PowerPoint slides. Co-chairs Christy Respress (Pathways) and Laura Zeilinger (Director of DHS) introduced themselves, called the meeting to order, and began with an agenda review.

II. CRITICAL SYSTEM LEVEL UPDATES

A. MEDICAID BENEFIT LAUNCH

Dena Hasan (DHS) covered updates on the Medicaid benefit launch. See PPT slides for details.

Concerns/Recommendations/Feedback
- **Staffing incentives:** Clarification that incentives are covered by local funding (not eligible for Medicaid reimbursements) and include retention bonuses for current staff who have been with providers for more than a year.
- **Amenity fees:** Similar clarification that fees are covered by local funding (not eligible for Medicaid reimbursements) and are covered as an acceptable reimbursement or paid to the landlord directly. Question about why landlords are charging amenity fees and whether it's consistent with Fairness in Renting Emergency Amendment Act of 2021. The impetus for covering amenity fees were discussed: newer housing development in the District build in and charge for standard amenities across all their tenants, so ensuring that clients have access to the newer units across the District likely means covering these fees.
- **Reinvesting Savings Realized by Billing Medicaid:** Questions about savings anticipated by billing Medicaid and call for updates on how savings would be re-invested into housing. ICH clarified that savings should not be assumed given that 1) the new Medicaid Rates are much higher than pre-Medicaid launch rates and 2) the District significantly expanded PSH resources in FY22 absorbing anticipated savings. Recommendation to write up FAQ around assumptions and expectations that played out differently in implementation and rollout.

B. TRACKING FY22 SINGLE ADULT SYSTEM RESOURCES

Rachel Pierre (DHS) reviewed the updated voucher tracker that identifies progress in the following
- assigning and housing Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) and FY22 LRSP vouchers and
- average length of time at each major milestone of the voucher program including client eligibility documentation, client application review and approval, unit identification, inspection, and unit lease-up.

See PPT slides for details.

C. FRSP SCOPE OF WORK

Maddie Solan (DHS), Deputy Admin for Strategy and Performance at FSA, provided details on the updated scope of work of the FRSP program. See PPT slides for details.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback
- **Income:** Discussion re tracking increases in income and availability of data that is easily available or already collected that shows what has been achieved. Providers do already collect data on income, and DHS is working on ways to leverage information to assess dynamically across a families' duration in the program.
- **Option to Opt-Out of Case Management:** Flagged as an area of interest to advocates. DHS noted that this is a new policy change that has not yet taken effect. DHS is working out details on the process for opting out of case management while maintaining a provider point of contact for families to help them navigate relocation requests, rental cost changes, and general program supports. DHS is also working to define what metrics are needed to track this policy update.

III. PLANNING INITIATIVES UNDERWAY

A. PLANNING FOR RECOVERY FUNDS

Director Silla covered this update. Please see PPT slides for details.

The link to the DRAFT Allocation plan is available on the DHCD website here:
- https://dhcd.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dhcd/publication/attachments/HOME-ARP%20Allocation%20Plan%20draft%207-07%20Public%20Comment.pdf

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback
- **Funding made available under HOME ARP** (total, including admin set aside, $16.465M), to expand non-congregate shelter options for single adults experiencing homelessness;
- **Funding made available under State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (SLFRF, $31M), available for realizing the other interventions recommended by the Housing Solutions Committee.
- **Potential for collaboration** with Mayor's new housing task force and racial equity work underway to expand home ownership, with the intention of advancing goal 12 (to establish housing as a human right) under Homeward DC 2.0.

B. HMIS PLANNING PROCESS

Director Silla reviewed the HMIS planning and review process in detail. Please see PPT slides for details.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback
- **Engaging Funders**: Recommendation from Jose Lucio of TCP engage philanthropy and private funders and non-HMIS participating partners in the planning process to improve HMIS participation.
- **Engaging people with lived experience**: questions from Consumer Engagement WG (CEWG) and SHY Youth Action Board (YAB) meetings representatives on how consumers can engage and support this process. Confirmation that ICH staff will present and obtain feedback from upcoming CEWG and SHY YAB meetings.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. LGBTQ+ SHELTER OPENING

Jose Lucio covered this update on behalf of TCP. See PPT for details.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback
- **Acknowledging Partners**: TCP recognized Coalition for the Homeless for their contribution and partnership as building owner and operations provider. Director Silla flagged that this is the second shelter in the Single Adult System that is experimenting with a split in provider operating facility versus provider offering services. The new 801 East facility is the first.
- **Program vs. Building Name**: The new program's name is Living Life Alternative. The building itself will have a different name based on LGBTQ+ community feedback and partnership with the Mayor's Office on LGBTQ Affairs.
- **Target population**: while clients do not have to identify as LGBTQ+ to access and stay in the shelter, programming and services will be focused on identifying and supporting the LGBTQ+ identifying individuals.
- **Low Barrier Operations**: including program policies related to
    - **24/7 Hour Operations:** Intakes available 24/7 for beds, which mirrors COVID operation across all District low barrier shelter (LBS) operations, except that this would be standard for this facility and not a COVID-specific change in operations.
    - **Bed Reservations**: Clarification that operator will have the ability to hold beds for clients if individuals want to continue staying there. Note that this is also a feature of low barrier shelter (LBS) operations and that this feature pre-dates COVID.
    - **Intake**: Goal is for the facility to operate as a temporary shelter or specialized bed program, with a low-barrier front door/intake process, meaning that individuals can walk up and get a bed if available, which requires coordination with UPO for shelter placements and transportation.
    - **Referrals**: TCP and DHS thinking through program rules, policies, and procedures, including considerations related to initial referrals from other parts of the system: individuals currently accessing shelter resources or unsheltered individuals known to our outreach teams.
    - **Census Reporting**: Shelter will be included as part of the hourly census conducted nightly and other reports (e.g. weekly occupancy reports), once the facility starts serving clients in early August.
    - **COVID Vaccination or Testing Requirements**: Confirmation that the facility will operate similar to LBS facilities in that there are no requirements to be vaccinated or tested. The shelter will not deny services based on vax and testing status and will provide PPE and access to testing events like efforts at all other LBS sites and will be partnering with Unity Health Care to do so.
    - **Handicap Accessibility**: TCP confirmed the site is handicap accessible.
    - **Security**: flagged as a concern in two distinct ways. One as a smaller facility serving only 27 – 40 individuals with an opportunity to experiment with the delivery of security services. Two as a facility that is serving a vulnerable population in a context where beds are in demand. Representatives with lived experience have flagged that people trying to enter who do not identify as LGBTQ or if there are no beds available and safety with the location of the building. TCP made note of the concern and has flagged this for security planning.

B. HUD COC SUPPLEMENTAL NOFO

Jose Lucio reviewed this update on behalf of TCP. See PPT for details.

The following is the link to the solicitation from HUD:
- https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/Unsheltered-and-Rural-Homelessness-NOFO-FR-6500.pdf

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback:
- **Supporting HMIS Planning and Establishing Peer-to-Peer Engagements Programs in HMIS**: Question on how some of these available funds may be able to support HMIS and the possibility for peer-to-peer engagements

or roles. TCP noted that this would likely not be part of this NOFO for unsheltered persons but could address this through regular CoC NOFO and HMIS/Planning grant.

- **Process for Community Input in Prioritizing Proposed Projects**: Project options that can be funded include transitional housing, permanent housing (rapid re-housing or PSH), joint TH-RRH projects, etc. TCP will meet with DHS and ICH to put together a general recommendation and get feedback, leveraging existing ICH Committee meetings to gather feedback from the community.

IV. PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

While there were no specific community announcements or updates, community members did raise the following questions at the conclusion of the meeting since they were not related to specific agenda items:

- **Status update on Pat Handy Legacy**. Reggie Black (CEWG, PFFC) flagged this topic. DHS/ICH acknowledged the flag and are looking into it. ERSO Committee was identified as the appropriate forum for updates.

- **Service Needs of Migrants arriving in DC from Texas and Arizona.** Kate Coventry (DCFPI) flagged this concerns based on recent media coverage
  - Director Zeilinger responded to confirm that DHS is working with HSEMA in partnering with United Way and other NGOs to respond to the need and volume by trying to meet people when they arrive whenever possible.
  - Note that most people coming to the District are not intending DC as their destination so partner organizations are working to reconnect them accordingly. DHS also confirmed that a program was opened in Rockville in Montgomery County to host people while they are reconnected.
  - Marie Morilus Black (MBI) expressed thanks for DHS' work in supporting migrants under some very unexpected and difficult circumstances.
  - Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen) provided the following link in the chat for people to make donations to the mutual aid groups supporting migrants at https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-migrants-being-bused-to-dc-from-tx-az

- **Youth Specific Inventory.** Also flagged by Kate Coventry (DCFPI) based on an article in the Washington Post that indicated that youth beds at Casa Ruby were closed. Question from the community for DHS to clarify and provide an update on process for transferring clients to other programs.
  - Rachel Pierre (DHS) confirmed that the DHS grant agreement with Casa Ruby closed last summer, before the start of FY22, and was replaced by a new program Shine, which is administered by Covenant House Washington (CHW).
  - Shine is at full capacity. Now that it has been operating for a full year, it may make sense to survey youth in program to better understand satisfaction with services.

V. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

Director Silla closed out the meeting and reminded meeting attendees that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 11, 2022.

Please flag concerns or questions re proposed annual calendar and the Executive Committee meeting cadence to Director Silla (Theresa.silla@dc.gov or ICH.info@dc.gov).

Next Meeting	Date: 11 October, 2022	Time: 1:30 – 4 PM	Location: Webex

Participant List	
Theresa Silla (ICH)	Laura Zeilinger (DHS)
Eileen Rosa (ICH)	Christy Respress (Pathways to Housing)
Aaron White (DBH)	Richard Bebout (DBH)
Belinda Fadlelmola (HUD)	Jennifer Olney (PTEH)
Jean-Louis Ikambana (Friendship Place)	Qaadir El-Amin (PFFC, CEWG)
Nechama Masliansky (SOME)	Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic)
Amy Hirst (DASH)	Karen Cunningham (Everyone Home DC)
Annemarie Cuccia (Street Sense)	Ami Angell (h3 Project)
Jacqueline Lippman (Jaydot)	Andrea Bernard-Barnola (LAYC)
Robert Warren (PFFC, CEWG)	Elisabeth Young (TCP)
Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen)	Katalin Peter (AOBA)
Kate Coventry (DCFPI)	Ishan Heru (Community Connections)
Kecia Tinubu (Woodley House)	Marie Morilus Black (MBI)
Leon A. Samuels, Jr. (DOES)	Eric J. Jones (AOBA)
Rachel Pierre (DHS)	Jill Carmichael (National Community Church)
Madeleine Solan (DHS)	Jennifer Joyce (DHCF)
Seema Sandhu (DCCADV)	Anna Fogel (DHS)
Jean-Michel Giraud (Friendship Place)	Lauren Puryear (Covenant House)
Nadia Malik (Miriam's Kitchen)	Catherine Crosland (Unity Health Care)
Reginald Black (PFFC, CEWG)	Lynn Amano (Friendship Place)
CMONEY DA GREATEST (PFFC, CEWG)	Dr.Unique Morris-Hughes (DOES)
Dena Hasan (DHS)	Jose Lucio (TCP)