

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting DetailsDate: 14 February 2023Time: 1:30 – 3 PMLocation: Webex

### **Meeting Notes**

#### I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

ICH Director Theresa Silla and Daisean Foster, Graphic Designer (ICH) facilitated an icebreaker on the development of the new ICH logo. Meeting attendees provided feedback in the chat and via WebEx poll.

Director Silla recognized co-chairs Christy Respress (Pathways to Housing) and Laura Zeilinger (DHS Director) and reminded Committee members that the meeting would be recorded. She also introduced Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services, Wayne Turnage, who is joining the Committee regarding encampments.

Director Silla also covered other housekeeping items, including that, barring any objections from Committee members, the previous meeting's notes are approved.

### **II. ENCAMPMENTS**

Director Silla introduced this topic and Deputy Mayor Turnage shared remarks on the status of encampments, specifically the closure at McPherson Square. Notes from the remarks of DM Turnage and the Executive Committee co-chairs are included below.

Detailed notes from community response and discussion were recorded directly in the PPT slides in red text – see slides 10-13.

#### Notes on Remarks from DM Turnage:

- **Context for Timing:** DMHHS was approached by NPS much earlier in 2022. As the encampment at McPherson grew, and there were three deaths, the concern for the safety of encampment residents also grew. NPS conducted a review and confirmed the decision to close.
- **Housing**: Several individuals have moved into permanent housing, but the work needs to continue. Note that there is a larger need to address a backlog of vouchers.
- **Strategic Planning Role of ICH:** What role does ICH play? ICH operates like a think tank. It may be appropriate for the ICH to play a role in the strategic planning process for homelessness regarding encampments.
- Complexity of the Issue: Encampments are a complicated problem that requires attentiveness to varying perspectives and positions, including perspectives not to disrupt or close encampments, respond to residents in neighborhoods with encampments, and and address health and safety concerns to close encampments.

#### **Comments from Executive Committee co-chairs:**

• DHS Director Laura Zeilinger – Underscored that this is complex, but DHS is not wavering in commitment to house individuals. Public safety decisions are made at the city level, not the ICH. So, the question of what the role of the ICH is related to encampments is important.

• Christy Respress (Pathways) – ICH has worked hard to make a transparent and community-driven process, so it is important to continue that when integrating encampment topics.

#### III. CLIENT-CENTERED STRATEGIC PLANNING

#### A. NYA REDEVELOPMENT/REDESIGN

There was not sufficient agenda time to cover this topic. Please see PPT slides 15-27 for initial information.

#### B. PFFC INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT WOMEN WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

Reginald Black (PFFC, ICH Full Council Member) introduced this topic. Rachelle Ellison (PFFC) shared her experience and introduced fellow women with lived experience participating in this initiative. Please see slides 29-31 for details.

#### C. PARTNERING WITH THE DISTRICT'S POVERTY COMMISSION

Gordon Fletcher (DOES) briefly introduced himself and the proposed partnership with the ICH. Due to meeting time, Gordon could not cover the full presentation but will coordinate with ICH for a future meeting. Please see PPT slides 33-39 for initial information.

### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

Director Silla briefly reviewed two reminders, including:

- **Performance and Budget Oversight Hearings:** Director Silla (ICH) reviewed the upcoming performance and budget oversight hearings for relevant agencies, including the ICH and DHS. Please see slide 41 in the PPT.
- **ICH Hiring Veteran Project Manager**: ICH also announced the process of hiring a Veteran Project Manager as a contract position. Details are available on slide 42 in the PPT.

Community partners also highlighted the following announcements:

- **SOME Dining Services:** Reminder that SOME's Emergency Services have moved to adjoining buildings while the Dining Room building is renovated. www.some.org/renovation. Thank you to DHS and UPO staff for your support!
- **DHS Ethel PSH Opening**: On Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor with DHS, and key partners cut the ribbon on "The Ethel", a 100-person PSH building that will soon be a spectacular new home for residents to exit homelessness.

#### V. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

Director Silla noted that the next ICH Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 14, 2023.

Next Meeting Date: 14 March 2023 Time: 1:30 – 3 PM Location: Webex

## Participant List (73 attendees, 32 Organizations)

Ami Angell (h3 Project)
Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)
Adam Maier (Pathways to Housing)
Adam Rocap (Miriam's Kitchen)
Alan Karnofsky (DOES)

Gina Rupert (EOM) Gordon-Andrew Fletcher (DOES) Theresa Silla (ICH) Ishan Heru (Community Connections) Jean Badalamenti (DCPL)

Nechama Masliansky (SOME) Qaadir El-Amin (PFFC) Queenie Featherstone (PFFC) Rachel Pierre (DHS) Rachelle Ellison (PFFC) Reginald Black (PFFC) Alfonso A. Padron (Concerned Citizen)

Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities)

Ami Angell (h3 Project)

Andrea Scallon (Miriam's Kitchen)

Annemarie Cuccia (Street Sense

Media)

Arlen Herrell (DOES)

Belinda Fadlelmola (DC HUD)

Blaine Stum (DC Council)

Caitlin Cocilova (DC Council)

Calvin Jennings (DOES)

Catherine Crosland (Unity Health

Care)

Chandra Dawson (Friendship Place)

Christina Cole (PFFC)

Christy Respress (Pathways to

Housing)

Ciana Creighton (DMHHS)

Daisean Foster (ICH)

Donna Harris (ICH)

Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al

Saud (PFFC)

Eileen Rosa (ICH)

Eric Schneider (TCP)

Jean-Louis Ikambana (Friendship Place)

Jean-Michel Giraud (Friendship Place)

Jennifer Olney (GWCF)

Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen)

Jill Carmichael (NCC)

Jorge Membreño (ICH)

June Crenshaw (Wanda Alston)

Karen Cunningham (Everyone Home

DC)

Kate Coventry (DCFPI)

Kecia Tinubu (Woodley House)

Kelly Andreae (GMC)

Kelly Sweeney McShane (COH)

Laura Zeilinger (DHS)

Lynn Amano (Friendship Place)

Madeleine Solan (DHS)

Marie Morilus Black (MBI)

Mary Terrell (DOES)

Michael Watts (DOES)

Ms. Naomi (PFFC)

Nikila Smith (PFFC)

Robert Warren (PFFC)
Sabrina Burrell (DHS)

Sakina Thompson (DMHHS)

Samantha Nolet (TCP)

Sarah Flinspach (TCP)

Unknown (Street Sense Media)

Synina Pugh (ICH)

Tom Fredericksen (TCP)

Umi (Consumer)

Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic)

Will Schick (Street Sense Media)

Wayne Turnage (DMHHS)

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