



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

BRIEF

09/10 FULL COUNCIL & PRE-MEETING

Issue Date: 09 September 2024

PURPOSE

To brief attendees on the Pre- and Full Council Meeting format and topics.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

ICH Overview – The Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) is the strategic planning and governing board of the District’s homeless services Continuum of Care (CoC).

Pre-Meeting Overview: Opportunity to hear what is top-of-mind for the general public, especially Community Representatives and people with lived experience. The City Administrator and ICH Director will facilitate a discussion on DCPL Behavioral Guidelines and Seasonal Planning, given their relationship to considerations in the FY25 Winter Plan.

Full Council Meeting Overview – Meeting with limited public comments (total time: 15 mins; 5 individuals max at 3 minutes per public comment). Proposed discussion topics for ICH Full Council members ONLY. The focus is the FY25 Winter Plan. There is limited time for issues outside the scope of the Winter Plan.

OVERVIEW OF LOGISTICS

- Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024
- Time:
 - 1 – 2:30 pm: Pre-Meeting with the City Administrator
 - 2:30 – 3 pm: Transition between meetings
 - 3 – 4:30 pm: Full Council Meeting chaired by the City Administrator
- Location & Room:
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001)
 - 5th Floor Event Space
- Seating:
 - ICH Full Council Members &
 - General/Public Audience

AGENDA DETAILS

PRE-MEETING AGENDA DETAILS

- **1:00 – 1:05 Opening & Welcome (5 mins)**
- **1:05 – 1:25 Introductions to Purpose & People (20 mins)**
 - Featured Guests: City Administrator, Deputy Mayor, & DCPL Director
 - ICH Full Council Members in attendance: Agency Directors & Community Representatives
- **1:25 – 1:45 Systemwide Check-In (20 mins)**
 - To better understand top-of-mind concerns
 - For Full Council Community Representatives and constituents with lived experience
- **1:45 – 2:05 DCPL Behavioral Guidelines (20 mins)**
 - To address critical questions posed by constituents:
 - What are the guidelines? Why is DCPL enforcing them now? Who is enforcing them?
 - Who makes these decisions? Are there opportunities for adjustments or involvement?
- **2:05 – 2:25 Seasonal Planning Check-In (20 mins)**
 - Recognize root causes and shared concerns between the seasons
 - Debrief on the Heat Plan, Hurricane/Tropical Storm Season, Air Quality & Flooding Risks
- **2:25 – 2:30 Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**

FULL COUNCIL AGENDA DETAILS

- **3:00 – 3:10 Opening & Welcome (10 mins)**
 - Moment of Silence
 - Roll Call to Confirm Quorum
- **3:10 – 3:30 Public Comments (20 mins)**
 - 3 minutes per person allows up to 5 public comments with time for transitions
 - Including a report on DCPL Behavioral Guidelines and highlights from the pre-meeting
- **3:30 – 3:50 Systemwide Check-In (20 mins)**
 - For concerns outside the scope of the Winter Plan, including:
 - Seasonal Planning
 - Migrant Services
 - Coordination with Late-Night Department of Corrections (DOC) Releases
 - Clarifying the Budget for Families: Exits to FRSP and Proposed Shetler Locations
- **3:50 – 4:25 FY25 Winter Plan Adoption (35 mins)**
 - For concerns within the scope of the Plan, including:
 - Outstanding Components & Plan for Review/Approval
 - Warming Buses, including parallels with Heat Plan and Cooling Buses
 - Options for Expanded Outreach & Behavioral Health Supports
 - Other Critical Concerns for Tracking Across ICH Forums During Hypothermia Season
- **4:25 – 4:30 Announcements & Reminders (as needed)**
- **4:25 – 4:30 Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**

DCPL BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES

In August, DC Public Libraries (DCPL) shared updates on new signage and enforcement of behavior guidelines at all library branches. ICH constituents noted specific concerns and questions about the impact of on people experiencing homelessness, especially with regard to seasonal planning and shelter capacity. The table below summarizes concerns and questions raised by constituents in ICH meeting forums, primarily the 08/21 Behavioral Health WG and 08/23 Consumer Engagement WG.

The DCPL Behavioral Guidelines were adopted in July 2020. They can be found online [here](#), with plans to update the guidelines over the next fiscal year informed by public and constituent engagement.

Community Concerns Voiced At ICH Forums	
Concern	Questions & Details
Level Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to share behavior guidelines and enforcement policies/protocols History or context of updates to guidelines or enforcement activities
Enforcing Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the public right-of-way, at the front of MLK: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People always stand under the overhang in inclement weather; how will policies apply, especially in inclement weather? People wait under the overhang for meals served across the street and for the UPO van. Will this change? When will people be asked to move from outside of the library? When are they standing, sitting, or lying down? Related to soliciting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the no soliciting be enforced? Specifically, how will it affect vendors such as Street Sense? Penalties & Personnel involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the penalties for violating rules? Will this only be enforced by Library Security, or will MPD be involved? When will MPD be involved? Where will unattended items be stored for 5 days, and how do people access them? Who will throw away unattended items?
Decision-Making Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where are the decisions being made? Who is involved? How can peers be involved in creating policies? When and where can the community speak to the policies? Interest in providing feedback directly to decision-makers advancing the implementation of the guidelines.
Considering Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for expanding services and supports, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer outreach and case management Behavioral health services and supports Best practices for supporting clients relying on DCPL services

SEASONAL PLANNING

Constituent concerns around the Heat Plan are very similar to concerns about the Winter Plan. As such, the 09/10 ICH Full Council meeting is an opportunity to discuss the approach to budgeting and planning to address root causes and some of the common concerns, especially:

- Year-round shelter for single and young adults and
- Comprehensive planning for inclement weather until we have year-round shelter available, including
 - Budgeting for interventions like warming/cooling buses,
 - Standard roles and responsibilities, especially related to planning and communication.

Summary of Constituent Concerns Related to Seasonal Planning	
Common Areas of Concern	
Root Cause	Availability of year-round shelter for single adults, including youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During hypothermia season, significant expansion of the supply of low-barrier beds • During hyperthermia season, significant contraction of the supply of low-barrier beds
Behavioral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of DBH in supporting unsheltered individuals ill-prepared for the weather • Prevention efforts underway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordination with Courts/MPD to minimize discharges of vulnerable individuals • Opportunities for coordination when outreach efforts encounter vulnerable individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Efforts to compel individuals to come in & coordinate transport with MPD/OUC ○ Support to UPO as they encounter vulnerable individuals ○ Concern about the availability of CRT, especially from 2 – 6 am ○ Request to pilot a DBH/hotline partnership with DBH riding along with UPO
Busses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooling for Summer vs Warming for Winter • Budget, locations, and staffing support (vs. special attention and outreach) • Delivery of comfort items, including food and water, to mobilized buses
Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipating or standardizing communication materials, • Creating materials in advance, and • Translating materials into the appropriate languages.
Food Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particularly for Single and young adults
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding and evaluating the impacts of exposure to inclement weather • Working with Hospitals implementing CMS requirements for tracking housing instability
Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to standardize • HSEMA has expertise in coordinating agencies and writing inclement weather plans • ICH can focus on supporting the planning process, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check-ins at ICH forums during implementation ○ Debrief and analysis post-implementation ○ Reviewing and approving plans by the Full Council
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kits for distribution at key locations, including DCPL • Cooling for Summer, including swimwear to access spray parks, vs. Warming for Winter

Summary of Constituent Concerns Related to Seasonal Planning	
Distinct Areas of Concern	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking and Cooling/Misting Supports • No Winter Equivalent
Other Overlapping Inclement Weather-Related Concerns	
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly overlapping with the heat season • Potential for evaluating risks and mitigation strategies in partnership with DOEE given the prevalence of respiratory illnesses amongst people experiencing homelessness
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likelihood of extreme and extended weather events seasonally
Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for evaluating flood related risks and exploring practical mitigation strategies in partnership with DOEE given the feedback from CEWG

WINTER PLAN

The ICH is advancing the Draft FY25 Winter Plan¹ for Full Council review and adoption following approval by consensus at the 08/28 ERSO CMTE with the following considerations:

- Outstanding Winter Plan Updates on Overflow Locations & Transportation Schedule
- Areas for Consideration & Discussion at Full Council
- Critical concerns to be tracked by ICH Forums during hypothermia season

OUTSTANDING WINTER PLAN UPDATES

- Overflow locations for single adults were confirmed and are now included in the Draft Winter Plan.
- Transportation schedule: now that overflow locations have been established, the transportation schedule is under development. Schedule updates will include routes specific to young adults.
- Reorganization to focus the Winter Plan on the details most pertinent to FY25 and move historical and process-related information that is contextual to the appendices

PROCESS FOR UPDATING THE PLAN

Given the outstanding updates to be included in the plan and to ensure transparency, the ICH will evaluate changes and engage in the following approach for updating the plan:

- **Shift in Operations:** leverage monthly ERSO Committee meetings rather than the Executive CMTE or Full Council to avoid delaying edits to reflect what is happening in practice.
- **Updates to the Organization of the Plan to Support Clarity:** Since these updates will not include content or material changes, approval by the Committee or Full Council is unnecessary.

The ICH will ensure all relevant forums stay abreast of critical updates and post updates to the ICH Website.

¹ The Draft FY25 Winter Plan was distributed to the ICH Full Council and ICH forums on 09/06, including tracked changes. Full Council meeting materials are linked on the event page on the ICH website: <https://ich.dc.gov/event/ich-full-council-20>.

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION & DISCUSSION AT FULL COUNCIL

WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE WINTER PLAN

- Warming Buses: Budget implications, request for additional/specific locations and staffing.
- Options for Expanded Outreach and Behavioral Health Supports/Services, especially from 2 – 6 am

BEYOND THE CONTEXT OF THE WINTER PLAN

- Migrant Services, including budget allocation and services for single adults and families.
- Coordination with DOC late-night releases for specialized beds or higher levels of support
- Sufficient funding for the Family System:
 - FRSP funding to serve all families experiencing homelessness in FY25
 - Capital dollars to renovate/maintain family shelter locations planned for FY25

CONCERNS TO BE TRACKED BY ICH FORUMS DURING HYPOTHERMIA SEASON

- Demand for shelter to be tracked via Shetler Capacity and the relevant subpopulation WG:
 - Projections for families, especially the impact of families exiting FRSP during FY25
 - Utilization & Forecast for singles, including young adults
 - Updated Homeless Youth Census questions on shelter needs and preferences
- Coordination with UPO and Shelter Providers via Shelter Capacity WG around:
 - ADA Bed Census and late-night access
 - Turnaway policies/protocols for improved/successful pickup of clients
- Improved service delivery and connections for single and young adults via Shetler Solutions and Front Door Services WGs
 - Case Management,
 - Safety/Security,
 - Escalation and Complaints/Grievances, and
 - Quality – Training, Capacity Building, and Performance
- Communications via Shelter Capacity, Shelter Solutions, and CEWG WGs
 - To facilitate flow to specialized beds and temporary housing for single adults and youth
 - To standardize and create materials in advance for translation into the appropriate language.

ACTION (CONSENSUS OR VOTE) TO ADOPT

To formally adopt the FY25 Winter Plan, a quorum of ICH Full Council members must be present and available to vote if consensus cannot be achieved.

According to the ICH Bylaws, a quorum in this sense is defined as:

- One-third of the appointed representatives of member agencies (6 of 16),
- One-third of appointed representatives of providers of homeless services (3 of 8), and
- One-third of the lived experience, advocate, and representatives of business sector entities (4 of 12).