



***Interagency Council on Homelessness***  
***Full Council Meeting***



***27 June, 2023***



**Convention for Recording ICH 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](mailto:ich.info@dc.gov).

# Meeting Agenda



- I. **Opening & Recognition of Service During COVID (15 mins)**
  - a) Call to Order & Moment of Silence (5 mins)
  - b) Certificates of Recognition (10 mins)
- II. **Public Comments (20 mins)**
  - a) Raffle to identify 8 individuals for public comments (2 mins)
  - b) Report out from pre-meeting station on Concerns (2 mins)
  - c) Public Comments (16 mins, 2 mins per person = 8 public comments total)
- III. **Discussion Items (50 mins)**
  - a) Planning for Fiscal Constraints (25 mins)
  - b) New Opportunities Funded in FY24 (25 mins)
- IV. **Public Comments Continued (*time permitting*)**
- V. **Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**

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# Call to Order & Moment of Silence



An opportunity to

- ❖ Recognize the lives lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, including ICH Member Waldon Adams,
- ❖ Reflect on the tremendous challenges we have overcome over the last 3 years, and
- ❖ Set our intentions for a meeting that honors the importance and urgency of our work.

# Certificates of Recognition



*Presented in recognition of vital service to Washingtonians experiencing or at risk of homelessness during the District's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*We are grateful for – and DC Proud of – your dedicated and indefatigable service, and for keeping our city healthy, vibrant, safe, and strong.*

*You have the sincerest thanks of Mayor Muriel Bowser!*

# Recipients: Community Representatives



Provider	Advocate	Lived Experience	Private Sector
<b>Members (Current &amp; In Process)</b>			
Amanda S Chesney	Adam Rocap	Aaron White	Catherine Crosland
Christy Respress	Debby Shore	Qaadir El-Amin	Shellon Fraser
Ishan Heru	Karen Cunningham	Reginald Black	Tonia Wellons
Jean-Michel Giraud	Kate Coventry		
Kelly S McShane			
Kenyatta T Brunson			
Koube Ngaaje			
<b>Prior Members (2020 – 2023)</b>			
Alicia Horton	Ramina Davidson	Ricco Harris	Chapman Todd
Jorge Membreño		Waldon Adams –in Memoriam	Ellen Jones
Michael Ferrell			Jill Carmichael
Stribling Schroeder			Natalie Avery
<b>Continuum of Care Representative</b>			
Sue Marshall			

# Meeting Agenda



- I. Opening & Recognition of Service During COVID (15 mins)
- II. Public Comments (20 mins)
  - a) **Raffle for 8 public comment slots (2 mins)**
  - b) Report out: pre-meeting Comments & Concerns station (2 mins)
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- III. Discussion Items (50 mins)
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# Raffle Outcomes



- ❖ There were less than 8 raffle submissions, so everyone interested in providing public comment was accommodated.
  
- ❖ The following individuals signed up for the public comment portion of the ICH Full Council Meeting:
  - Cynthia Newborn,
  - Jamas Shabaz,
  - Robert Warren,
  - Luther Lacy,
  - Rachelle Ellison,
  - Nikilia Smith, and
  - Andrew Anderson

# Report Out: Pre-Meeting Concern Station



## Key Discussion Questions Posed

1. Do you need help with a situation specific to you or another client?
2. Do you have a general comment or concern to share with us?
3. We are most concerned about planning for fiscal constraints and new opportunities funded in FY24. Are there other planning areas we should be prioritizing?

# Report Out: Pre-Meeting Concern Station



## Summary of Feedback Received

- ❖ **Quin Grier (DHS) shared key themes:**
  - Improve relations with consumers eager to connect
  - Need to increase eviction prevention and resources in shelters like job opportunities and housing services (including case managers)
  - Prioritize staff support: benefits, pay, and training.

# Public Comments Guidelines



Due to limited time and to accommodate as many public comments as possible

- ❖ Comments are limited to 2 mins per person &
- ❖ Comments will not be addressed directly during the Public Comments period.

Thank you in advance for your understanding!

# Public Comments



- ❖ **Nikila Smith:** Grief can come in so many forms. Once you enter it is hard to exit. I am trying hard to stay connected. This grief had me forgetting. Grief is a piece of me that will pass on when I die.
- ❖ **Rachelle Ellison:** 17 consecutive years I was homeless, I was invisible. I am grateful to be in a room.
  - Pathways stepped into my life and within 9 days I was stable and housed. In 2014, I got clean and sober! I always knew I wanted to give back. I am certified and about to graduate with a bachelor's degree.
  - We need the same resources in place for people that I had coming up. I need a moving on voucher and create a pathway for people to graduate case management when they do not need it anymore.
- ❖ **Andrew Anderson:** Proposal for NCS is exciting!
  - As an outreach worker, want to make sure people are aware of the resources and opportunity. In particular, concerned for people returning from incarceration. Message is to stop with encampment evictions and focus on housing. When talking with people in encampments, let them know listening.
  - NCS proposal should include opportunities for employment and drug treatment. Bring this new NCS to fruition so that more people can get services and housing!
- ❖ **Luther Lacy:** Member of PFFC.
  - Ongoing work to establish coalition for Universal Right to Housing. Need Black/African American men to be involved in reimagining of public housing.
  - Training and employment opportunities at programs and properties. Restart programs in DCPS.
  - Give back real meaning to what family units could and should look like.

# Public Comments



- ❖ **Cynthia Mewborn:**
  - Elderly, mentally ill, should not be left to die on the streets. We are a nation under God. This type of lack of care is ungodly.
  - “Veterans who serve our nation should never be homeless. I served with love, but what I experienced was nothing but hatred and violence.”
  - Are we not human? We are responsible. “If we do not take action, we are responsible.” It seems that dogs are more important than human beings.
  - We need to work harder. Need to move forward as a whole. Let us stop leaving chronically homeless people on the streets for 20, 30 years.
- ❖ **James Shabazz:** Long term effects of legislation impacting family unification. Devastating effect in Black communities.
  - Public housing is an opportunity to homeownership and entrepreneurship.
  - Reestablishing the teaching of trades for school aged youth and adults in DCPS. The first schools closed down were trade schools.
  - We need more open meetings like this! More conducive to the democratic process, not via raffle.
- ❖ **Robert Warren:** Sharing gratitude!

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# Planning for Fiscal Constraints



## Roadmap for Discussion

1. Framing (Chair, 5 mins)
2. Spotlight on Connecting Clients to Mainstream Resources (ICH & DCHA, 5 mins)
3. Key discussion questions, including pre-meeting feedback station report out (ICH members & guests, 15 mins)



# Framing



## **Kevin Donahue (City Administrator, Executive Office of the Mayor)**

- ❖ We have the opportunity for more flexibility.
- ❖ Have to balance the budget with consideration to projected economy. Every three months, adjust based on revenue.
  - Example: look at vacant properties downtown and adjusted down sales and property taxes.
- ❖ About 75% of the District's budget is consumed by healthcare, education, housing, and requirements like paying down debt.
- ❖ Opportunity and a mandate to create a more just city:
  - We can not spend our way to better performance and outcomes.
  - Accountability.
  - Consumer and resident voice leading the work.

## **Theresa Silla (Executive Director, Interagency Council on Homelessness)**

- ❖ Need to leverage HMIS and CAHP systems to coordinate with mainstream resources.



## Hammer Gebreyes (DCHA):

- ❖ Public Housing:
  - Updating policies and information to outreach and update resident information.
  - Working to expand and establish project-based housing waitlist to select as many properties interested in.
- ❖ Voucher Programs:
  - Working with HUD to update federal voucher program procedures.
  - Outreach focusing on individuals based on time and date submitted. Need to spread the word on the opportunity to update information.
- ❖ Apprenticeship Training: Uplifting public comments. DCHA values this effort and wants to bring to public housing.

# Connecting Clients to Mainstream Resources



## Partnership with DCHA

- ❖ DCHA updated public housing waitlist management policies and is working to fill vacant public housing units ASAP.
- ❖ Based on concerns flagged by representatives of lived experience, DCHA worked with ICH, DHS, and TCP to organize additional data-driven outreach.
- ❖ Leveraging a data-sharing agreement, DCHA identified an overlap between the public housing waitlist and people experiencing homelessness, including:
  - 124 unaccompanied individuals experiencing homelessness and
  - 332 families experiencing homelessness or enrolled in Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)
- ❖ Since then, DCHA has identified that 1,000+ federal vouchers will become available over the next few months.

# Key Discussion Questions



1. What does “fiscal constraint” mean to you?
2. Do you agree that we should prioritize connecting clients to mainstream resources?
3. What else should we be doing in response to fiscal constraints? How should we respond as a system?

# Report out: Pre-Meeting Feedback Station



- ❖ **Krysta Aguilar (DHS)** shared key themes:
  - Impact of systems on individuals.
  - Accountability.
  - Continued collaboration between DCHA and DHS.
  - Ability to port vouchers out of the District.
  - Creation of pipeline to other housing types.

# General Discussion



- ❖ DBH has been working on data sharing and coordination and do plan to continue!
- ❖ **Q: Where to submit questions/comments?**
  - Email [ich.info@dc.gov](mailto:ich.info@dc.gov)

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# New Opportunities Funded in FY24



## Roadmap for Discussion

1. Framing (Chair, 5 mins)
2. Spotlight on Non-Congregate Shelter (ICH & DHS, 5 mins)
3. Key discussion questions, including pre-meeting feedback station report out (ICH members & guests, 15 mins)



# Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS)



- ❖ Leveraging HOME ARP and State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, the District plans to purchase two NCS facilities.
- ❖ Target populations for NCS include households who are:
  1. Medically vulnerable,
  2. Matched to housing and need housing navigation services, and/or
  3. Cannot be appropriately served in the existing congregate and non-congregate shelter options.

# Framing Remarks



## Rachel Pierre (Interim Director, DHS)

- ❖ **NCS Shelter Update:**
  - Status: First of two sites is identified
  - Location: the Aston in Foggy Bottom.
  - Timeline: Estimated by October 2023.
  - Status: Awaiting Council approval.
  
- ❖ **Also, another new opportunity funded in FY24 to spotlight**
  - Initiative: Peer Case Management Institute
  - Purpose: DHS developing a for constituents with lived experience to become resident monitors and case managers.
  - Status: Co-designing initiative with consumers at ICH forums and TCP.

# Key Discussion Questions



1. What are the most important lessons from piloting PEPV and Bridge Housing to adopt?
2. We will not have enough NCS for everyone, so we target three populations. Are you in agreement with these groups? Who else should we be targeting?
3. We have identified locations but face community pushback. What are the most significant concerns we must plan for and address?
4. Is there another newly funded program we should highlight and plan for?

# Report out: Pre-Meeting Feedback Station



- ❖ **Reginald Black (PFFC, CEWG and ERSO co-chair)**
  - Highly congregate settings are not conducive to recovery from homelessness and immediate triage.
  - NCS are opportunity for more traditional home setting.

# General Discussion



- ❖ **Q: Will there be inclusion for people with behavioral health concerns that have deterred or not able to be served in congregate shelter?**
- ❖ **Q: DHS was successful in getting 1115 for housing supportive services. Wondering how that resource will be used for this effort. A:**
- ❖ **FDBK: With limited resources, consideration to not duplicate with existing Bridge Housing.**
- ❖ **FDBK: Dr. Crosland encouraging short term medical respite, medium respite. Opportunity for cost savings from hospital system**
- ❖ **Q: Are there plans for more site-based PSH with these types of supports in place? Best qualities of a PEP-V for an elderly and aging population.**
- ❖ **FDBK: Appreciate hard work happening!**
- ❖ **Q: The key reasons people do not want to go to shelter are related to program rules and things like curfews. How are consumers with lived experience included in designing NCS?**

# General Discussion



- ❖ **Q (Reggie): How is money from HUD used to help individuals?**
- ❖ **FDBK (Ishan Heru):** Recommend inviting MCOs to the table.
- ❖ **FDBK & Q (Amanda Chesney):** Lessons learned from PEP-V. Good example of how providers with clear roles can be successful.
  - **How is this going to be defined according to the HSRA? Lots of questions on entry, length of stay, etc. criteria.**
  - **How do we refer in? First come, first served would likely not work or be fair. Where are these questions being worked out?**
    - ✓ A: 06/28 ERSO CMTE will include NCS discussion as well as additional ICH forums.
    - ✓ Email [ich.info@dc.gov](mailto:ich.info@dc.gov) to join meeting listserv!
- ❖ **Q: With the property in limbo, what can community members, voters, etc. do to help get it approved?**
- ❖ **FDBK (Reggie):** Criteria for PEP-V included chronic status. Recommend incorporating this to NCS target population or prioritization criteria.
- ❖ **Q: What is the capacity of this building?** A: At capacity the Aston can hold 190 residents. 10 floors about 10 units each. 2 people per unit with the exception of some ADA units and some spaces needed for offices. Requires scale up process.

# General Discussion



- ❖ **CM White:**
  - **Resident/Advocacy:** Council is receiving a lot of feedback. Important that anyone supporting this project email all CM offices.
  - **Govt:** This program sets model for future sites.
- ❖ **CA:** There is some misinformation about the site. Aim to be as responsive as possible. Need to implement as optimally as possible.
- ❖ **ICH:** Leveraging CAHP to identify individuals.

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# Public Comments (*time permitting*)



- ❖ **FDBK (Qaadir El-Amin):** We are missing presence of Councilmembers at encampments.

# Summary & Adjournment



- ❖ **CA:** Thank to those who shared testimony. Looking forward to being a continued partner in this space!

