



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



***12 March 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](mailto:ich.info@dc.gov).

# Opening Remarks & Welcome



Moment of Silence



Recognition & Thanks



Welcome

# Welcome to DC Gov Representatives



<b>City Administrator, Chair</b>	<b>DC Housing Authority</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services</b>	<b>Department of Corrections</b>
<b>Interagency Council on Homelessness</b>	<b>Department of Employment Services</b>
<b>Department of Human Services</b>	<b>Office of the State Superintendent of Education</b>
<b>Department of Behavioral Health</b>	<b>Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency</b>
<b>Child and Family Services Agency</b>	<b>Department of General Services</b>
<b>Department of Housing and Community Development</b>	<b>DC Metropolitan Police</b>
<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>Office of LGBTQ Affairs</b>

# Welcome to Community Representatives



## Providers

**Amanda Chesney, Catholic Charities (2025)**

**Angela Jones Hackley, Covenant House Greater Washington (2025)**

**Kelly Sweeney McShane, Community of Hope (2025)**

**Adam Rocap, Miriam's Kitchen (2026)**

**Christy Respress, Pathways to Housing (2026)**

**Lynn Amano, Friendship Place (2026)**

**Nikila Smith, Street Sense (2026)**

**Roxanne Murray, Echelon Community Services (2026)**

# Welcome Continued



## Lived Experience

**Qaadir El-Amin, People for Fairness Coalition (2025)**

**Reginald Black, People for Fairness Coalition (2025)**

**Daniel Rico, Sasha Bruce Youthwork (2026)**

**Rico Harris, Community for Creative Non-Violence (2026)**

## Advocates

**Karen Cunningham, Everyone Home DC (2025)**

**Kate Coventry, DC Fiscal Policy Institute (2025)**

**Deborah Jones, Housing Up (2026)**

**Rachelle Ellison, People for Fairness Coalition (2026)**

# Welcome Continued



## Business/Private

**Catherine Crosland, Unity Healthcare (2025)**

**Shellon Fraser, National Housing Trust (2025)**

**Tobie Smith, Street Health DC (2026)**

**Tonia Wellons, Great Washington Community Foundation (2026)**

## Collaborative Applicant

**Sue Marshall, The Community Partnership to End Homelessness**

## Non-Voting Seats

**Chairman, DC Council, Phil Mendelson**

**Councilmember, DC Council Committee on Housing, Robert C. White, Jr.**

# Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Agenda Review (15 mins)**
- II. Public Comments (20 mins)**
  - a) Opportunity for 5 Public Comments (3 mins each)
- III. Discussion: ICH Budget Engagements & Report (50 mins)**
  - a) Intro to Legislation, Timeline, & Format
  - b) Request for Agency Support
  - c) Request for Community Feedback & Guidance
- IV. Announcements & Reminders (as needed)**
- V. Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
  - a) Next ICH Full Council Mtg: June 11 from 3 – 4:30 pm



# Notes on Welcome & Agenda Review



Thank you to Full Council Member, Ms. Nikila Smith, who read a poem on motherhood.

- ❖ **NS (Street Sense):** I picked this poem because I am a mother and married, an image that is often not seen because I am homeless.

## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

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

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# Notes on Public Comments



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **Ms. Umi:** We need to clarify what affordable housing is. We are insulated because we are surrounded by the federal government. Affordable for them is different than the school teacher, the butcher, the dry cleaner operator. Not everyone works at the GS 5. I want to impress upon you to ask: “affordable for whom”. People who have multiple jobs still can not pay their rent.
- ❖ **Ms. Jakia:** After years of dealing with agencies, I hope to see more solutions. Standing here today represents generations of the same cycles. Communities that look like me are suffering. Want to start looking at the value of people in the work you do. Saying nice things is not enough. We need solutions and actions in place, not just campaigning to say these things. For children to be removed and to be kept in poverty, is traumatic. Hope we can work together this year to do better for our families and communities because we do deserve it.

# Notes on Public Comments



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **Eric Sheptock:** HSRA was created in 2005 and first ICH meeting was 2006. That is when I began advocating.
  - There is a lot not working at DCHA. I have my keys, but there are all kinds of issues to get there besides the fact it took 18 months. I have been in my place for three years and it has never been inspected even though I am in a new building. Reported decrease in income that has not been updated in my paperwork, after two years. We need to fix that system at DCHA so things happen more quickly.
  - I was here in 2008 with economic downturn, we have seen homeless trends going up and down. Federal funding from COVID was cut off, brace yourself for impact.

# Notes on Public Comments



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **Queenie Featherstone:** I represent Street Sense and PFFC. On landlords – This year I will be housed for two years. Reggie, Robert, Qaadir, CMONEY helped me move in. When I moved in the unit, the toilet, refrigerator, garbage disposal were dry rotted, had holes in it, were orange/brown. If I did not advocate for myself 2-3 weeks moving into my unit, they would have made me keep the unit. How can DHS, DCHA, landlord put someone in a place like that? When I told the landlord, I was told I complain too much. They did replace the stove, but if I did not advocate for myself it would not be fixed. Now I am afraid the response will be to move or get out. My camera is broken, but I have pictures to show the conditions.

# Notes on Public Comments



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **R. Guzman:** Sometimes being homeless, you are a victim of attacks. They see us as a threat. I got beat up three times in my ten years of being homeless. I am protected person based on experience of DV. Moms with children should not be allowed to be homeless. Having children packed in horrible conditions is bad for us. There are supposed to be emergency hotels to be safe and background checks. For children, not having home, food is a stress and for families who are trying to make income. It is embarrassing for me to be in shelter for ten years. Nobody should be homeless. Shared pictures of time. Husband took my two daughters. The thing I am promoting is to not allow moms with children in shelter anymore, I think they have more priority. If you can help me. (sp? – entertainer, -- wife?)

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# Legislated Mandate



- ❖ The ICH is legislatively mandated at [DC Code § 4–752.02\(c\)](#) to comment on the Mayor’s Proposed Budget.

*“The Mayor shall, upon release of the proposed annual budget each year, make available to all Interagency Council members the District’s proposed budget breakdown of each agency’s appropriations for services within the Continuum of Care. The Interagency Council shall give comments to the Mayor regarding the proposed budget.”*



# Timeline



- ❖ Last year, the District Council's Committee on Housing requested these comments be made available before the District Council Budget Mark-Up
- ❖ Anticipating a similar request for this year, the ICH is focusing April meetings on budget engagements.
- ❖ Council Mark-Up is tentatively scheduled for 04/23 and 04/25 so ICH is aiming to schedule all budget engagements and compile all comments by 04/19.

# Format, including Roles & Responsibilities



- ❖ Agency members – present the details of the proposed budget
  - Flag: these will not be memorialized in the report
- ❖ Community members – have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments
  - Flag: Q&A and Comments will be captured for the report
- ❖ Priority order for sorting Q&A and Comments:
  - Programs dedicated to housing people experiencing homelessness or preventing the experience of homelessness
  - Programs dedicated to supporting people experiencing homelessness
  - Programs adjacent to homeless services, except ERAP – community has indicated that ERAP related comments should be prioritized.



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **Shawn Hilgendorf (Councilmember Robert White):** Sharing additional context on request for earlier report:
  - From the time the Mayor releases her proposed budget, the Council CMTE on Housing has about a month to complete a budget report (~100 pages) with all the changes to present to the Full Council. April 9<sup>th</sup> is the last budget hearing so do have to . Appreciate the effort and adjustments next year to get comments reflected in our work.

# Request for Agency Support

#	Date	Time	Proposed Budget Presentations
1	04/02	1:00 – 2:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Level Setting &amp; Cross-Cutting Resources</li> <li>ICH Members: OCA, DMHHS, &amp; DOES</li> </ul>
2	04/04	1:00 – 2:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Special Populations</li> <li>ICH Members: MOLGBTQA, MPD, and DOC</li> </ul>
3	04/09	1:30 – 3 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Young Adults</li> <li>ICH Member: CFSA, DCPS*, DYRS*, &amp; OSSE</li> </ul> <p>*Flag: DCPS and DYRS are members of the Youth Committee per ICH Bylaws</p>
4	04/11	10:30 – 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Emergency Response &amp; Shelter Operations</li> <li>ICH Members: DHS (Capital Budget), DGS &amp; HSEMA</li> </ul>
5	04/15	2 – 3:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Housing Solutions</li> <li>ICH Members: DCHA, DHS, &amp; DHCD</li> </ul>
6	04/17	3:30 – 5 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Health Care Resources</li> <li>ICH Members: DBH &amp; DC Health</li> </ul>

# Request for Community Support



- ❖ How should Member Agencies focus their budget presentations?
- ❖ What essential programs or investments would you like them to highlight in their budget presentations to ensure a robust discussion?

# Level Setting & Cross Cutting Resources



- ❖ Presentations by OCA, DMHHS, & DOES
- ❖ Potential Key Questions:
  - What is driving the fiscal constraints?
  - Are these constraints disproportionately impacting homeless services?
  - Will there be mid-year cuts to the FY24 budgets?

# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **Q (AC):** The dates moved significantly up. What sort of feedback can we expect to be given back to Council by 04/05? I am looking at the timeline for the ERSO specific hearing on 04/11 which is a large portion of the budget. Is there consideration to move these sessions up.
  - **A (TS, ICH):** We will do immediate follow up, including the PPT slides and live notes from the meeting. You can also expect notes from the first meeting on level setting and cross-cutting resources.
  - **SH (CM):** To put your comments into effect, the further in advance the better.
  - **TS (ICH):** Trying to make consideration for the schedule of agency hearing budgets.
  - **Director Zeilinger (DHS):** You will get information in advance of the session and have budget roadshows in addition to the ICH. There will be lots of opportunity for questions and feedback.



# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **ICH:** What do you want to understand most about the capital and shelter budget (ERSO)?
  - **AC (Catholic Charities):** Concerned about the level of resources to house single adults. I am afraid if what this budget will do to the influx of resources. As an agency administering shelter for singles, want to ensure there are exit pathways.
  - **RB (PFFC):** The exits from shelter, we have heard the challenges to get people into units. We have units and landlords ready to go but there are still hold ups. How will cuts affect availability of resources? How are cuts going to affect our exits and why are we taking so long even with landlords and units ready to go?
  - **CR (Pathways):** These are very short sessions, lead with the cuts so we know right away and specifically including mid-year and any cuts carrying forward. Also, agency positions – if they are swept, what is the impact?



# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **KSM (COH):** My ask is that if there is a reduction, how many people will not be served/is impacted. One way to reduce impact of cuts is to increase caseloads, but worry that an increase will impact progress we have made on hiring. In the past we have been asked to do more with less money.
- ❖ **Dr. C (Unity):** At the intersection of health care and homelessness, we have been advocating for more medical respite which plays a vital lifesaving role. Think DHS has been wonderful in the interest for this service, but worried it id not in your wheelhouse and now worried that DC Health (?) agency is taking out of portfolio.
  - **TS (ICH):** DHCF is not a Full Council member, but will reach out to the DM for coordination.

# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **RB (PFFC):** With these fiscal constraints, what is the exact source? What is funding what? For example, if there is a reduction in funds, what program does that affect? What does it mean when employee positions are swept? If there is a concern about revenue being down, need to understand what revenue is funding what so can see the specific connections.
  - **TS (ICH):** Director Reed (OBPM) will be joining at the 04/02 session so will hopefully address the foundational questions you are asking.
- ❖ **NS (Street Sense):** I went to the Mayor's Budget forum. Don't believe the govt should be getting raises but we are seeing cuts. The age for retirement went up. The budget should be for the people.

# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback:

- ❖ **KC (Everyone Home DC):** For the overview presentation, also curious to understand - Are there other revenue generators? Ways to improve the budget outlook?

# Focus on Special Populations



- ❖ Presentations by MOLGBTQA, MPD, and DOC
- ❖ Potential Key Questions:
  - Are there housing resources dedicated to special populations or familiar faces?
  - Is there an opportunity to target those resources to homeless and/or at-risk constituents that you serve?
  - If so, can we leverage the Coordinated Assessment & Housing Placement (CAHP) system?

# Focus on Young Adults



- ❖ Presentations by CFSA, DCPS, DYRS, & OSSE
- ❖ Potential Key Questions:
  - Are there housing resources dedicated to special populations or familiar faces?
  - Is there an opportunity to target those resources to homeless and/or at-risk constituents that you serve?
  - If so, can we leverage the Coordinated Assessment & Housing Placement (CAHP) system?

# Focus on Emergency Response & Shelter Operations



- ❖ Presentations by DHS (Capital Budget), DGS & HSEMA
- ❖ Potential Key Questions:
  - How will 24/7 operations of Low Barrier Shelters be impacted?
  - How will the provision of warming/cooling buses be impacted?
  - How will plans for redevelopment/renovations for temporary housing (including low barrier shelters) be impacted?

# Focus on Housing Solutions



- ❖ Presentations by DCHA, DHCD, & DHS (Housing Programs)
- ❖ Potential Key Questions:
  - What are the priorities for DCHA? Are there opportunities for prioritizing homeless or at-risk individuals and families?
  - How will the Housing Production Trust Fund be impacted?
  - Will there be cuts to the FY24 allocation of housing resources dedicated to homeless services including RRH, PSH, and/or TAH?



# Focus on Health Care Resources



- ❖ Presentations by DBH and DC Health
- ❖ Potential Key Questions:
  - Are there housing resources dedicated to special populations or familiar faces?
  - Is there an opportunity to target those resources to homeless and/or at-risk constituents that you serve?
  - If so, can we leverage the Coordinated Assessment & Housing Placement (CAHP) system?



# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback Re: Special Popns

- ❖ **QEA (PFFC):** For the diversion program, trying to understand if it will remain.
- ❖ **RE (PFFC):** I know the new crime bill was signed yesterday, how many resources were taken from homeless or human needs program? I know this will take a lot of money.

# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback Re: Young Adults

- ❖ **RE (PFFC):** I know some youth involved with DYRS and some have not had good experiences. Are there other programs/resources for youth to get them engaged so that they do not resort to crime?

# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback Re: ERSO

- ❖ **AC (CC):** It would be helpful to talk about pathways to exit ES while talking about shelter itself. I wonder where Project Reconnect funding hits and is covered in the budget engagement sessions. If housing solutions are not invested, people will stay in the system longer. Whose job is it to figure out the implementation
  - **TS (ICH):** Envisioned Project Reconnect would be covered under Housing Solutions and Shelter/CM would be covered under ERSO. Open to dividing that presentation in the way that makes most sense.
  - **Director Zeilinger (DHS):** If the first presentation from DHS is the capital budget, there will be a lot of remaining questions especially because the DHS budget hearing is 04/05. I know there are questions for youth programs. Can cover this the way that makes the most sense
  - **TS (ICH):** As we share materials and information on ICH budget engagement sessions, we need to share the Council budget hearing schedule as soon as that is available and confirmed. Expect community members to be tracking those other opportunities for engaging with the budget. There are likely opportunities to advertise the DHS roadshow, partner with DCFPI. If there are other agencies who hold additional engagements
- ❖ **CR (Pathways):** OMS is one area as we welcome people to the community. At the DDSC, seeing an increase with no additional funding for translation. Want to make sure we have culturally appropriate resources.
- ❖ **QEA (PFFC):** Is there consideration for more wheelchair accessible shelter?

# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback Re: Housing Solutions

- ❖ **Dr. C (Unity):** In Goal 9 of HWDC 2.0, the concept of PSH Plus (site-based housing for medically vulnerable individuals) is mentioned. Is there consideration for investment in this type of resource?
  - **TS (ICH):** This is a reminder for the considerations
- ❖ **KSM (COH):** Reinforcing concerns about DCHA. Are there resources to improve efficiency? Less staff would certainly impact progress.
  - **Director Pettigrew (DCHA):** From infrastructure standpoint, we do have money to support and will have changes coming down the line in the months. Feel good about where we are going. I am putting together a Recovery Plan for about three years. Little by little. I hear and understand your frustration, but we will get better every day.
  - **TS (ICH):** We have never had a homeless preference for the housing waitlist. Is there consideration there and for at risk?
  - **Director Pettigrew (DCHA):** This is the first housing authority that aware of that does not have a homeless preference. Understanding the context. I think we do need the preference. Working with HUD. The goal is always to house more people.

# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback Re: Housing Solutions

- ❖ **RE (PFFC):** People do exist who no longer need services, but still need the housing. What is the status and availability for “moving on vouchers”? Also know it does not work with LRSP, but what are the opportunities?
  - **Director Pettigrew (DCHA):** Saw your testimony at POH. We need to clean things up and get things right and will work to get an answer to you.
  - **RH (CCNV):** Clarity on when, who and how the preference was removed?
- ❖ **RB (PFFC):** I attended the memorial for those who passed while experiencing homelessness. CM Robert White said we have the resources to serve individuals but the system is broken. Where is it broken? What are the resources to fix that? I am concerned about that comment.



## Comments/Questions/Feedback Re: Housing Solutions

- ❖ **AC (CC):** Adding to the call for efficiencies between DCHA and DHS. At the memorial last year, 77 individuals died in 2022 while matched to housing. Every part of the process takes so long. Need to take a look at each step of the process. Last year we talked about potential to increase the number of inspections/inspectors. What is the status? People are dying and counting on DCHA.
- **Director Pettigrew (DCHA):** Coordinated effort with DHS and have met with that team. We are bringing on more inspectors. We are starting to do landlord townhalls to run rent reasonableness on the front end. April 1<sup>st</sup> staff are coming to the office. Email system is not working, things are being missed. Need people to be able to come see us and be accessible to improve the process.



# Notes on Budget Engagement & Reports



## Comments/Questions/Feedback Re: Housing Solutions

- ❖ **SF (NHT):** Need to think more about and leverage public/private partnerships in times like this.

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# Announcements & Reminders



- **QEA (PFFC):** 03/30 at 12 pm at Malcolm X Park is Peace Day.
- **KC (DCFPI):** DCFPI engagement session is open and will feature DHS. Will send info through ICH!
  - ✓ Afternoon of 03/27
  - ✓ Will also cover TANF, service centers, etc.

