



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## HOUSING SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

<b>Meeting Details</b>	<b>Date:</b> 20 March 2023	<b>Time:</b> 2 – 3:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Webex</a>
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### Meeting Notes

#### I. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

While the Housing Solutions Committee members gathered, Theresa Silla (Executive Director, ICH) facilitated an icebreaker on branding for the Committee.

To officially kick off the Housing Solutions Committee, Theresa covered slides 3 – 7 and

- introduced co-chair Shellon Fraser (NHT) and invited everyone to introduce themselves via the chat
- reviewed the recording conventions and meeting agenda, and
- covered housekeeping items, including adopting prior meeting notes and managing the listserv.

#### II. UPDATING DCHA’S ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN, ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY PLAN, AND MOVING-TO-WORK ANNUAL PLAN

The DCHA team that led this section includes:

- Jenna Cevasco (Chief of Staff, DCHA)
- Nona Eath (Senior VP of Property Management Operations),
- Hammere Gebreyes (Interim Senior VP for the Housing Choice Voucher Program), and
- Hanna Koerner (Senior Policy Advisor).

The team covered the DCHA presentation. See slides 9 – 54 for the details. The main topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Background & Approach
- Policy Overview
- Significant Amendments to the FY23 MTW Annual Plan and
- Logistics

Comments, concerns, and questions from the discussion are summarized here:

- Outreach method to the public housing waiting list, given the low response rates.
  - Clarification that outreach consisted of mailed letters and robo-texts.
- Number of Public Housing units that are vacant or unoccupied.
  - Clarification that 2000 units are unoccupied, but they are not all ready for move-in.
- Overlap between public housing, HCVP waitlists, and LRSP voucher recipients, including whether LRSP voucher holders can move on from the LRSP voucher.
  - Clarification that the immediate priority is households that do not have access to affordable housing.
- 15-day timeline for confirming interest in housing opportunities available.

- Clarification that it is 15 business days, generally 21 calendar days.
- Request from community to consider 30 days.
- Applicability of homeless preference to households connected to time-limited rental assistance (i.e., RRH vouchers).
  - Clarification that the proposal is to remove the homeless preference will so it will not be relevant moving forward.
- \$50 minimum rent. Request from the community to keep it at \$0.
- Flat rent vs. Income-based rents. Clarification that the HUD report noted the District only offered the ‘income-based’ options. DCHA proposes allowing families to choose between the two; DCHA will record the option selected.
- Approach to implementing rent reasonableness updates.
  - DCHA is working to identify a third-party vendor to validate unit-by-unit comparable prices.
  - HUD requires a unit-by-unit analysis.
- Continued Participation for residents, what measures are being taken for absences due to military service?
  - DCHA to investigate this.
- Balancing the tension between:
  - Efficiently/effectively notifying the waitlist of housing opportunities and confirming whether 1) waitlisted household is still eligible for the opportunity and 2) the available housing opportunity meets the household needs, and
  - Taking the time needed to locate, engage, and adequately support households navigate what can be a complicated process to vet their eligibility and housing needs.
- Alternatives to termination, with an emphasis on the importance of the following factors:
  - Defining what constitutes abusive/threatening language.
  - Identifying root causes of unusual incidents, including
    - bullying by DCHA partners or
    - developmental pressures that resident councils are navigating.
  - Promoting and adequately supporting de-escalation before resorting to terminations (e.g., offering formal third-party mediation services)

### III. UPDATES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REMINDERS

#### A. MEDICAID RENEWALS

Please see slide 56 on the District’s Medicaid Renewal Initiative, led by DCHF. Eligibility renewal begins April 1, 2023.

### IV. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

Theresa flagged the date of the next meeting before adjourning the meeting.

<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Date:</b> 17 April 2023	<b>Time:</b> 2 – 3:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">WebEx</a>
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#### Participant List (78 Attendees, 42 Agencies)

2027****47 7078****52 Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC) Adam Maier (Pathways to Housing)	Sean Cuddihy (DC Council) Camryn Bullock (Friendship Place) Lynn Amano (Friendship Place) Chapman Todd (Jaydot) Sharlene Castle (Jaydot)	Ishan Heru (Community Connections) Jessica Oneal (Concerned Citizen) Justin Connor (Concerned Citizen) Kate Coventry (DCFPI) KJ Robinson (Mary Elizabeth)
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<p>Christy Respress (Pathways to Housing)  Alex Cross (DHCD)  Andrea Powell (DCHA)  Christopher Murphy (DCHA)  Hammere Gebreyes (DCHA)  Hanna Koerner (DCHA)  Jenna Cevasco (DCHA)  Nona Eath (DCHA)  Lorry Bonds (DCHA)  Ann Chauvin (Woodley House)  Kecia Tinubu (Woodley House)  Anna Fogel (DHS)  Anna Gray (DHS)  Dallas Williams (DHS)  Annemarie Cuccia (Street Sense)  Ashlei Schulz (Legal Aid DC)  Ayesha Hudson (Concerned Citizen)  Brendan Haley (Everyone Home DC)  Brit Ruffin (Legal Clinic)  Bruce Finland (MED Developers)  Caitlin Cocilova (DC Council)  Kaira Smith (DC Council)</p>	<p>Charlene Flaherty (COH)  Sara Cartmill (COH)  Chloe Cohen (OCA)  Clarence Stewart (TCP)  Colleen Green (DHCD)  Danilo Pelletiere (DHCD)  Erin Wilson (DHCD)  Lesley M. Edmond (DHCD)  Valerie Piper (DHCD)  Craig London (Craig London Property)  Daisean Foster (ICH)  Donna Harris (ICH)  Eileen Rosa (ICH)  Synina Pugh (ICH)  Theresa Silla (ICH)  Daren L. Hester (Victory House)  Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (PFFC, CEWG)  Ed Villard (Private Landlord)  Greg Crawford (Access Housing)  Holly (Blue Light Advisors)  Iris Osuji (CNHED)</p>	<p>Kofi Graham (ASA Commercial Solutions)  Lara Pukatch (Miriam's Kitchen)  Leslie Steen (WHDC)  Naomi Carthens (PFFC, CEWG)  Nikila Smith (PFFC, CEWG)  Qaadir El Amin (PFFC, CEWG)  Queenie Featherstone (PFFC, CEWG)  Rachelle Ellison (PFFC, CEWG)  Reginald Black (PFFC, CEWG)  Robert Warren (PFFC, CEWG)  Nechama Masliansky (SOME)  Pamela Agava (CSH)  Shiri Yadlin (CSH)  Raquel Montenegro (Manna DC)  Ryan Samuel (1<sup>st</sup> Principle)  Sherine Banks (N Street Village)  Shellon Fraser (NHT)  Shirley Johnson (Central Union Mission)  Terence O'Shea (Community Solutions)  Tracy Cecil (Cecil Consulting Group)  Victoria Melendez (LISC)</p>
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