

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

Housing Solutions Committee Meeting Summary

Date: Monday, February 24, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development Office, Room 318

Meeting Participants:

Table with 2 columns listing meeting participants and their affiliations. Left column includes Polly Donaldson, Chapman Todd, Danilo Pelletiere, Andrea Wise, Erin Wilson, Reuben Forman, Anna Fogel, Robert Warren, Reginald Black, Adam Maier, Bruce Finland, and Lara Pukatch. Right column includes Tracy Cecil, Kate Coventry, Julia Moran Morton, Sara Cartmill, Melissa Millar, Sara Malala, Hammere Gebreyes, Larry Handerhan, Dallas Williams, Kris Sutton, and Jillian Fox.

Agenda:

- 1. D.C. Government Agency Updates
2. Discussion of the Housing Solutions Committee's 2020 Work Plan Items from the draft Homeward 2.0 Plan

Meeting Summary:

1. DC Government Agency Updates

DHCD:

- In midst of budget preparation; had three budget engagement forums with District residents in last week
• Interagency group meeting next week to discuss PSH proposal, which entails use of resources from DCHA, DHS, DBH, and other agencies
• Oversight hearing was February 10; also had public hearing at the end of January; 23 public witnesses attended
• Council Budget hearing in early April
• Expecting Mayor's budget announcement in mid-March
• Development Finance Division working on evaluating proposals from the Fall 2019 RFP
• Will share updated PSH pipeline report electronically

DHS:

- Upcoming meeting with DCHA where they hope to take greater steps forward in coordinating processes and orientation that will permit greater transparency with developers
- Shifting focus to lease-up and compliance process
- Anna Fogel working on Voucher Utilization and Landlord Engagement program; will hopefully have updates on landlord engagement group at March Housing Solutions meeting
- Family Rehousing and Stabilization (FRSP) task force [has final report](#); met with stakeholders that included customers, providers, landlords, advocates, and government representatives
- Co-sponsoring budget briefing with DC Fiscal Policy Institute March 24 at 1 pm
- Council Budget hearing March 31

DCHA:

- Ongoing conversation for best ways to utilize local funding;
- Addressing challenges of two live bills: B23-0509, the “Local Rent Application Voucher Amendment Act of 2019” and B23-0528, the “Rental Housing Source of Income Amendment Act of 2019”
- Also exploring expanding the use of LSRP to pay security deposits and fees; however, the issue is it does not come with its own pot of money; the question is how can we make sure we have funds available for expenses like this?
- Council Performance oversight next Wednesday, March 5 ; budget hearing is scheduled for March 30

2. Discussion of the Housing Solution Committee (HSC)’s 2020 Work Plan Items

For the 2020 Work Plan, the Objectives listed below are proposed for inclusion in the Housing Solutions Committee’s work.

Objective 1.2: Identify and Address Process Barriers

1.2.1 Convene expert task force to process-map the PSH/Affordable housing development process to identify redundancies, inefficiencies, and barriers that add time, unnecessary complexity, and cost to projects; issue report on recommendations to ICH Executive Committee.

Committee Discussion - No updated report out from the District Government work group yet. Housing Solutions Committee will wait for recommendation to come back; The District Government team believe it would benefit from input from non-government agency stakeholders once it is further developed.

Objective 1.3: Identify Strategies to Address “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) Challenges

1.3.1. Work with Office of Planning to identify changes to existing laws and procedures that allow residents to block or substantially slow the development of affordable and supportive housing projects in their neighborhoods that otherwise comply with threshold requirements

Committee Discussion - ICH Consumer Engagement Group and Housing Solutions Committee will share ownership of a NIMBY challenges Work Group ownership. Details to be discussed as progress on the approval of Homeward 2.0 progresses.

Objective 2.3: Identify Strategies to Expedite Paperwork Completion and Review

2.3.2 Review and update common expectations and standard protocol for DCHA review of voucher applications, including timeliness standards (# of days to turn around) and communication guidelines (who should be included on communication about the application).

Committee Discussion - District Government work group (referenced in 1.2.1 discussion above) also covering this area; same status, which is that Housing Solutions Committee will wait for recommendation to come back; The District Government team believe it would benefit from input from non-government agency stakeholders once it is further developed.

Objective 2.4: Identify Strategies to Expedite Inspections and Reduce Number of Failed Inspections

2.4.1 Review and update common expectations for completion of housing inspections, including timeliness standards and communication guidelines.

2.4.2 Improve training for PSH case managers, RRH case managers, and housing navigators on housing inspection process so they may help identify items during unit viewing and coordinate with landlord to make repairs prior to inspection.

Committee Discussion - not quite sure what to do with these two objectives, should probably get recommendation out of the District government inter-agency work group.

2.4.3 Explore options to incentivize landlords to complete repair of minor items identified during inspections to secure units and expedite lease-up process.

Committee Discussion - ICH Landlord Engagement Work Group may accept ownership of this component; may be broader than what their group focuses on, but Anna will

consult with members of that Work Group and report back to the Housing Solutions Committee.

Objective 9.2: Increase Housing Options for Individuals with Highest Levels of Need

9.2.1 Increase supply of site-based PSH. (As referenced in the 2.0 plan, the ICH recommends a 65/35 split of new investments between scattered-site and site-based PSH for individuals.)

9.2.2 Develop a more intensive model of site-based PSH to ensure individuals with the most extensive barriers receive the support needed. Review supportive services contracting models; determine how to pay for additional services needed in more intensive models (e.g., on site nursing, medication management).

Committee Discussion - Create a Standing Work Group to address these objectives; include Objective 10.3.1 within the scope of this Work Group.

Objective 10.3: Support DBH to Develop a Housing Strategy for Persons with Severe Mental Illness.

10.3.1 Work with DBH to develop a broader housing strategy for individuals with severe mental illness, assessing the type and quantity of different housing models needed, the performance of existing programs, and the opportunity to better align programs and services with the homeless services system.

Committee Discussion - Create a Standing Work Group to address these objectives; include Objectives 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 within the scope of this Work Group.

Other Comments

- Note that non-PSH housing is missing component from Homeward 2.0; should be raised at ICH Strategic Planning meeting
- DHS convening internally to discuss lessons learned from Hill East; have heard from number of folks interested in participating in a conversation
- Vocalized frustration around government follow-through on voucher amounts

Action Items

1. Include update from the Landlord Engagement Work Group for next Housing Solutions Committee meeting; look for resolution on this Work Group taking on Objective 2.4.3 (Point Person - Anna Vogel)
2. Include update from the District Government Inter-agency Task Force for next Housing Solutions Committee meeting, to include report back on Objectives noted within Homeward 2.0 which this Task Force is addressing. (Point Persons - Danilo Pelletiere, Kris Sutton)
3. Work with Consumer Engagement Committee to establish framework for combined work on the “NIMBY” issue, Objective 1.3 (Point Persons – Chapman Todd, Reggie Black).
4. Discuss structure of the proposed PSH Work Group (to focus on Objective 9.2.1, 9.2.2, and 10.3.1), and report back to next Housing Solutions Committee meeting. (Point persons – Jillian Fox, Polly Donaldson, Chapman Todd)

Next Meeting - TBD