

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



**Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)**

**Housing Solutions Committee  
Meeting Summary**

**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** Conference Call

**Meeting Participants:**

Polly Donaldson, DHCD, Co-Chair Chapman Todd, Jaydot, Co-Chair Lindsay Curtin, ICH Sarah Malala, Jaydot Dexter Price, TCP Sara Cartmill, Community of Hope Anna Fogel, DHS Reginald Black, People for Fairness Aoife Maher Christian Howard, DHS Colleen Connor, Housing Up Danilo Pelletiere, DHCD Jillian Fox, CSH Emily Near, Legal Aid Erin Wilson, DHCD Frances Matovu, Community Connections Lara Pukatch, Miriam's Kitchen	Melissa Millar, Community of Hope Blaise Rastello, Gilbane Nechama Masliansky, SOME Rachel Rintelmann, Legal Aid Reuben Forman, DHCD Robert Warren, People for Fairness Sabiha Zainulbhai, CNHED Shellon Fraser, CSH Sarrah Mohamed, William C Smith Co. Tajuana Smith Tracy Cecil, Dantes Partners Hammere Gebreyes, DCHA Ishan Heru, Community Connections Kris Sutton, DHS Holly Dennison Chase, LIIF Kate Coventry, DCFPI
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**Agenda:**

1. D.C. Government Agency and Budget Updates
2. Updates on Committee Task Groups

**Meeting Summary:**

**1. DC Government Agency Updates**

DHS

- Focused on winter planning with the approaching hypothermia season
- DC Landlord Engagement Project (PPT included with meeting summary)
  - New landlord leasing packet is being finalized
    - Universal across homelessness service system
    - Targeted trainings for providers in September and October
    - Outreaching landlords via quarterly landlord call / mass email to all landlords in system

- Central Unit Repository: central place for landlords to list units, specifically for units available to persons exiting homelessness
  - Allows for unit advertisement and tracking, landlord verification, landlord feedback and complaints, unit inspection and lease up process
  - Two options for platform, w/ DCHousingSearch.org or .NET platform
- Landlord Communication
  - February 2020 landlord survey
  - 1:1 follow-up, mass emails w/ updates on resources and government operations during public health emergency
  - Upcoming quarterly landlord meeting (*note – after this Housing Solutions meeting, the date was moved and is now October 1, not September 29; PPT being distributed with meeting summary has been adjusted to reflect the new date*)

#### DHCD

- All outreach messaging focused on available rent assistance for District residents
  - Listed on [coronavirus.dc.gov/rent](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/rent)
  - Believe fewer residents are accessing due to eviction moratorium
  - Will work on sharing flyers regarding programs for landlord distribution as well as adding informative flyers to [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov)
- Two principal rental assistance programs ERAP and COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)
  - CHAP funded by CARES Act, three ERAP providers selected to help implement
    - Because CHAP is federally funded, extends to broader income than ERAP which is primarily for 30% AMI or under
  - Can access applications for ERAP and CHAP via DHS online portal
  - Tenants can access ERAP and CHAP, not mutually exclusive
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) pays rent arrears and offers rental assistance for District residents; intended for naturally occurring, smaller affordable housing developments
- Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2020 established tenant repayment plan, which requires landlords and housing providers to establish payment plans (that follows guidelines) for eligible tenants
- Internal DHCD team looking into eviction prevention tools, expected to make recommendations once eviction moratorium is lifted
  - Tenants receiving illegal notices can call Office of the Tenant Advocate and/or call Attorney General's office

#### DCHA

- Working to ensure safety of residents and staff while also continuing to provide essential services
- Public housing operations: on-site staff addressing emergency work orders, cleaning and sanitizing properties

- Public safety team: continuing work in collaboration with MPD
- HCVP: continued operations to include inspections, lease-ups and especially interim recertifications so that households whose incomes have been impacted by the public health emergency can get their rents adjusted
- DCHA HQ has been closed to the public (except for document drop off in the lobby); extensive work to create a Customer Solutions Center where public can come and receive services; this week by appointment only, DCHA will begin to see clients in Service Center

## **2. Updates on Committee Task Groups**

- Developer Special Project Team: Currently in planning and information gathering phase, working on process mapping tool to share with developers; once tool complete will seek feedback and recommendations; will have more updates at October meeting

**Next meeting:** Monday, October 19 at 2 PM