



Date: 9/26/18

Time: 1:00p to 2:30p

Location: One Judiciary Square (441 4 St NW), Rm 1114

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome/Introductions/Framing

II. PFFC – Downtown Public Restroom

- People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) presented their vision and plan to increase the number of public bathrooms in the commercial area of D.C. Each public bathroom would be operating 24/7 and would provide clean and safe drinking water along with a large enough space for personal items (e.g. bags, suitcases).
- PFFC has created both an information card and poster which list available restrooms in Downtown Washington, DC. These cards and posters can be ordered from PFFC for distribution.
- See proposed “Bill 22-0223, Public Restroom Facilities Installation & Promotion Act of 2017” for more information.

III. Discussion of Singles Diversion Program

- For FY19, the singles diversion program, also called “Project Reconnect”, received an \$875k budget. In an effort to use this financing efficiently, DHS will concentrate on using in-house staff at Adam’s Day Center and the new Downtown Daytime Center to assist new clients with the development of diversion plans. A ‘new client’ is currently defined as someone who has either 1) never been seen in shelter before, or 2) been absent from shelter for at least 30 days.
- DHS will be seeking a partner for this project by releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) this Friday (9/28). Project Reconnect is planned to launch in January 2019. Prior to the program launch, listening sessions will be held to determine appropriate messaging and a better understanding of what may work or not with the District’s population. The Consumer Engagement Workgroup (CEWG) will be a part of this effort to conduct listening sessions.

IV. Discussion of Downtown Daytime Service Center (DDSC)

- The current plan is to open the DDSC by the second week of November, 2018. For now, the DDSC will be open from Monday – Friday from 9am-5pm with future potential for opening the DDSC on Saturdays.
- The DDSC will be able to serve around 100 people per day. Services include: showers, laundry, lunch, snacks/refreshments, computer time, peer support specialists, recreation space, and more. Scheduled drop-offs and pick-ups via UPO are in progress.

V. Update on Construction at 801 East

- As discussed at past meetings, the Department of General Services (DGS) is working on the solicitation for the design-build firm. (DGS came to the May ERSO meeting to get initial feedback on plans for the site, which was needed for the solicitation.)
- Once the firm has been selected, we will resume discussions about design. Conversations will happen initially through ERSO, though depending on the amount of time required for the project, the committee may decide to establish a short-term task force to work with DGS and the design-build firm.
- In the meantime, construction on the campus has begun. The Dix Building was demoed, and construction of a new parking lot is underway.
- DGS is working closely with DHS staff to monitor any potential impacts to existing residents of the shelter. A letter went out to Catholic Charities and current shelter residents to provide an update. (This letter will be distributed to the ERSO stakeholders along with meeting notes.)
- A current resident of 801 expressed questions/concerns regarding current signage related to the construction (i.e., that it wasn't clear where foot traffic could proceed). DHS facilities staff indicated they would follow up with DGS.

VI. Update on Seniors and Medically Vulnerable

- Director Greenwalt indicated that she followed up on concerns discussed last month about last year's hypothermia death outside of Providence Hospital. After conversations with Providence staff and additional conversations with DHCF (who reviewed Medicaid claims data), it was confirmed that the client had not been served at the hospital and discharged prior to the incident.
- That said, discharges of medically frail individuals from hospitals and nursing homes continues to be a challenge. The ICH is working with shelters to capture additional data to better understand the nature and extent of the challenge. Once we have more information (and a specific ask for healthcare partners), Director Greenwalt will schedule a meeting with the appropriate entities.
- Additionally, ICH and DHS are continuing to look for options to increase medical respite beds in our system over the next couple of years while the new 801 E men's shelter (which will include a health clinic and additional respite beds, as well as targeted beds for senior and medically frail individuals) is under construction. The primary challenge is to identify appropriate space.

- In addition to medical respite beds, a “respite bed – lite” with medical and case management was suggested.

VII. Updates from ERSO Work Groups

- Shelter Conditions: currently working on developing a “prohibited items” list.
- Outreach: in addition to winter plan prep, the group has been focused on developing a CAHBI sustainability strategy (i.e., recommendations on how to sustain the outreach capacity in the community when our Federal CAHBI grant expires at the end of FY19).