



Government of the District of Columbia  
Interagency Council on Homelessness

ERSO MEETING

**Date:** January 23, 2019

**Time:** 1:00p to 2:30p

**Location:** Phone Call

**Meeting Participants**

Nechama Maslinsky, SOME  
Scott McNeilly, WLCH  
Frank, HopeOne Source  
Synina Pugh, DHS  
Amanda Chesney, CC  
Bill Kuennen, DHS  
Ruth Walker, UPO

Michael Ferrell, COH  
Nechama Maslinsky, SOME  
Kristy Greenwalt, ICH  
Jill Carmichael, NCC  
LaToya Young, DCCADV  
Lindsay Curtin, ICH  
Erika Ransom, UPO

**Meeting Notes**

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

**II. Approval of Minutes From Prior Meeting & Agenda Review**

- Review of new agenda format
- Approval of notes from November 2018 meeting

**III. Information Items**

- **DHS Updates**
  - Hypothermia- 53% of nights have had an alert or cold weather emergency called. As of 6 a.m. on 1/21 we had close to 1700 individuals access shelter overnight, nearly 100 more than the previous week during the snowstorm. Malcolm X is open and fully operational. Salvation Army is converting to a men's only Hypothermia alert night shelter on 2/1. With Malcolm X available to aid in women's capacity and the need for more men's bed in the area where Sacred Heart once supported, this was decided to be the most impactful decision.
  - UPO updates- Shelter Hotline is still not seeing as many family calls that we normally have for this time of year, similar to November. Total calls for the month of December was 10,278 which is a slight increase from last month's 8,747 total number of calls. This is not too far off from FY18 and FY 17 numbers. Clients are starting to call for transportation to the Malcolm X Rec, especially from Union Station. We increased outreach/safety checks in this area. It appears that there are a lot of new people entering the shelter system. Our call times are much longer as the dispatchers are having to explain the shelter system, transportation, and how to access other resources.
  - Downtown Day Services Center- Construction completion is anticipated for the first week of February with a ribbon cutting with the mayor occurring the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Food Stamps- Due to the partial shutdown of the Federal Government, all states and the District of Columbia are giving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

benefits, otherwise known as Food Stamps, early for the month of February 2019. If your SNAP case is in the process of being approved, recertified, or if you have a med certification report or interim contact due, be sure to get all of the required information to us as soon as possible for processing. There is no impact to other District cash assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); General Assistance for Children (GC); Interim Disability Assistance (IDA), etc. INDIVIDUALS CAN VISIT THIS PAGE FOR ONGOING UPDATES. <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/important-information-snap-recipients-about-your-february-benefits>

- 2019 Workplan and Calendar- see attached. Let Jill know if you have questions.
- Hospital/Discharge Conversation Update- Follow UP call with Hospital Association, DHS, and shelter providers. In bringing the groups together there seems to be a large systems gap. Consumers are being discharged from the hospital because they no longer meet criteria to be in the hospital and there is a lack of beds. Problem is it assumes someone has a home to go to or can get a home health aid; instead consumers are getting discharged to a shelter or the street. Moving forward the group will assist with training for hospitals in understanding the capacity of low barrier shelters and respite beds. An additional next step is looking at reasonable accommodation forms and how to fill the gap of those that need respite. Updates will continue as the group moves forward.
- Work Group Updates
  - Capacity- continues to see improvements in meeting the shelter needs of women.
  - Conditions- Facility side- increase of work orders- specifically in plumbing. A lot of those having to do with flushing inappropriate items, such as laundry items. Asking for providers to get the word out to people. Harriet Tubman is anticipating a finish date of mid March. Communication side- working on prohibited items draft from consumer workgroup and will bring up to ERSO for a vote. Accessibility concerns for mobility assistance at Low Barrier Shelters. Trying to figure out the problem and bring solutions.
  - Outreach- Grant from Petsmart idea- is continually being worked on as details formalize it will be brought to ERSO. A survey has been created for the process for FD12- attached.
- **Announcements and Reminders**
  - Next Meeting Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm