



**Date:** April 13, 2021    **Time:** 1:30p to 3:00p  
**Location:** via WebEx & Teleconference

## Meeting Notes

### I. Welcome & Call to Order

Director Greenwalt (ICH) welcomed attendees, shared the meeting agenda and purpose, and provided context for the agenda's discussion items.

### II. Items for Approval

The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) presented the findings of the annual Homeless Youth Census. The End Youth Homelessness Act of 2014 requires that the District conduct an annual census of youth experiencing homelessness. The project is separate from Point in Time and is only a count of persons age 24 and under. The Department of Human Services has contracted with TCP to conduct the count since 2015.

TCP, DHS, and ICH use the data for strategic planning purposes, and the data are a powerful advocacy tool for providers and other stakeholder groups alike.

For additional information regarding the results of the 2020 Homeless Youth Census, please review the attached PowerPoint presentation. The more detailed presentation given to the ICH Youth Committee is also attached. In accordance with the [ICH By-Laws](#), the Executive Committee approved the results of the 2020 Homeless Youth Census.

### III. For Discussion

#### a. Improving the Safety Net for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI): Ervin Act Recommendations

Director Greenwalt introduced ICH's Ervin Act recommendations for Improving the Safety Net for Individuals with SMI. Since the launch of Homeward DC, the ICH team has consistently heard stakeholders' concerns about the FD-12 process. To learn more, the ICH interviewed homeless services partners about when and how the system most typically breaks down for vulnerable individuals. Based on this information, the ICH hosted follow-up conversations with interagency partners to learn more about challenges and identify potential recommendations for the multiple parts of the process including intervention, transport, evaluation, adjudication, and treatment. From these meetings, recommendations emerged in three key categories: legislative reform, hospital resource/reimbursement issues, and bed capacity. The recommendations in each of these categories were shared in the meeting and can be found in the attached ICH Report, *Creating a Stronger Safety Net for People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Mental Illness*.

Attendees agreed the current system is not working for clients, shared positive feedback and agreement with the recommendations set forth, and supported moving the recommendations forward. DBH also

supported the recommendations, and added that in addition to these reforms, quality preventive care, that reduces the need for FD-12s, is also crucial. DBH stated that they will take the lead on moving the recommendations forward.

#### **b. Veteran Update and Lessons Learned**

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the District has seen a significant decline per the District's Point-In-Time Count, as well as the monthly By Name List. This reduction can be attributed to reducing the inflow of veterans entering the system while increasing the outflow of veterans moving into housing. In the Veteran's system, reducing inflow has been achieved by the prevention and diversion that occurs at the streamlined front door of the veteran's system, as well as the regional coordination with our surrounding counties in Virginia and Maryland. The increase in outflow can be attributed to the fact that the veteran's system has resources to keep up with the inflow of veterans into the system, specifically, the quantity of Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) resources, which allows many veterans to receive a RRH resource soon after they enter the system. See the attached PowerPoint presentation for additional information.

#### **c. PEP-V Expansion, Planning for Demobilization, & Looking Ahead to Broader Singles Systems Transformation**

DHS FSA Director, Rachel Pierre, shared that the District's PEP-V program is expanding to an estimated 850 clients to utilize FEMA funding which is expected to end on September 30, 2021. When the federal funding ends, the PEP-V sites will be demobilizing and therefore DHS will be using PSH and TAH vouchers, as well as expanded RRH and Project Reconnect programs to work to move clients from PEP-V into housing. See the attached PowerPoint presentation for further details and calls to action for providers.

#### **VI. Updates and Announcements**

**Planning for the New Normal:** The ICH team has circulated a [survey](#) to stakeholders to help plan our "return to normal". The survey seeks to understand attendees' preferences for online vs. in-person meetings moving forward. Once the survey results are in, the ICH will be asking all committees and work groups to discuss the results and to start planning for the new normal.

#### **VI. Summary and Adjournment**

The meeting was then adjourned.

#### **Next Executive Committee Meeting:**

**Date:** 2/09/2021 **Time:** 1:30p to 3:00p **Location:** WebEx & Teleconference