



Date: March 10, 2020 **Time:** 2:00p to 3:30p

Location: One Judiciary Square (441 4 St NW)

Meeting Participants

- **ICH Full Council Members:** this is an official quarterly meeting of the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH).
- **General Audience:** Per the Open Meetings Act, members of the public may attend and offer comments during the public comment period at the onset of the meeting, discussion is then limited to members of the full Council.

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. Public Comments

The Homeless Services Reform Act (HSRA) requires that there be an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to comment on matters relevant to the work of the ICH.

- A meeting attendee applauded *Homeward DC 2.0* and acknowledged his appreciation of the inclusion of the plan to provide leadership on creating a right to housing in the United States. Meeting attendee also expressed concerns about rumors that CCNV will be closing. **PLEASE NOTE: Both ICH Director Greenwalt and Director of CCNV, Rico Harris, clarified that CCNV is not closing and asked for help from meeting attendees in dispelling the rumor.**
- A meeting attendee provided a report out from the ICH Pre-Meeting, held prior to the Full Council meeting. He recommended that individuals experiencing homelessness should have options for a variety of jobs with training programs for sectors that allow income growth including:
 - Development and property management;
 - The homeless services community as peers;
 - Apprenticeships for skilled labor; and
 - Entrepreneurship programs.

In addition, the Pre-Meeting meeting attendees discussed:

- The importance of job training programs working to help connect individuals to housing;
- Ensuring clarity and information sharing of employment programs that exist and how individuals can access those programs; and
- The importance of accountability for employment programs.

III. Homeward DC 2.0

The Homeless Services Reform Act (HSRA) requires that the ICH develop a strategic plan every five years. Director Greenwalt provided an overview of the planning process used to develop the *Homeward DC 2.0*. The ICH Strategic Planning Committee has been supporting development of the plan since early 2019. ICH staff incorporated edits and recommendations from the January Full Council meeting and the February ICH Strategic Planning meeting. Director Greenwalt reviewed key changes and additions (see the attached PowerPoint for more information). Attendees of the meeting expressed strong support for the plan with its incorporated edits.

Kelly McShane, a Full Council member, made a motion to approve the *Homeward DC 2.0* plan for submission to Mayor Bowser. Several members seconded the motion. Using a voice vote, the plan was unanimously approved.

Director Greenwalt reviewed next steps. *Following a final copy edit and document layout, Homeward DC 2.0* will be submitted to the Executive Office of the Mayor for final approval, and the document will be available publicly once the Mayor releases it. Additional information on the plan's release will be shared with ICH stakeholders when it's available.

With regard to implementation, Director Greenwalt reminded stakeholders that it would not be possible to begin implementation of all 100+ strategies at once, and that the Executive Committee had an initial discussion on FY20-21 priorities at their February meeting. ICH committees are currently developing work plans, which will be finalized at the April Executive Committee meeting.

IV. WIOA State Plan & Next Steps

As a follow up to the September 2019 ICH full Council meeting, when ICH members reviewed the results of a study on employment and earnings among individuals and families experiencing homelessness, Director Greenwalt asked Workforce Investment Council (WIC) Director Ahnna Smith to share information on the District's new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Unified Plan, which is currently out for public comment and will soon be submitted to the Department of Labor (DOL).

As key background, WIOA was signed into law on July 22, 2014 and is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. WIOA requires the District to submit a plan to DOL that outlines a four-year workforce development strategy for the State's workforce development and adult education system (see the attached PowerPoint for more information).

Director Smith emphasized that the federal WIOA funding was just one of many sources of employment, training, and adult education funding in the District, and that the State Unified Plan focused just on the WIOA funding. The WIC is also working on a larger strategic effort that considers how to better align the various funding streams, improve access to services, and fill gaps. It is this latter effort where Directors Greenwalt and Smith see the opportunity to better align the efforts of the homeless services system and the workforce system. Director Greenwalt emphasized that it will be important for ICH stakeholders to participate in the WIC planning process as efforts move forward.

The submission deadline for comments on the State Unified Plan is 5pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. For additional information, visit: <https://dcworks.dc.gov/page/proposed-wioa-unified-state-plan-submit-your-comments>.

V. **Announcements & Updates**

a. **COVID-19 Planning**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Laura Zeilinger provided agency updates on planning regarding COVID-19. DHS is working closely with DC Health, HSEMA, and Unity Healthcare, based on CDC and HUD guidance, to develop policy decisions and plans for the homeless services system. DHS held an initial training on the basics for providers and partners on Friday, March 6. DHS hosted a follow up briefing for providers and partners at 3:00pm on Wednesday, March 11. DHS is also working with TCP to ensure providers have the supplies needed.

The best source of general information about COVID-19 for District residents is <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>. For homelessness and human services-related questions, or to get on DHS' COVID-19 distribution list, individuals can contact DHS at dhs.covid19@dc.gov. (Note, this information has been updated from what was previously shared at the meeting on 3/10.)

Mayor's FY21 Budget

The Mayor's FY21 Budget, originally scheduled for release on March 19, 2020, will be delayed until further notice. All Budget Briefings have been postponed and will be rescheduled in April or May. (Note, this information has been updated from what was previously shared at the meeting on 3/10.)

- **POSTPONED:** Fiscal Policy Institute Budget Briefing
Tuesday, March 24, 1pm-2pm
Location: DHS, 64 NYA, NoMa Conference Room
- **POSTPONED:** CNHED Budget Briefing
Thursday, March 26, 12pm-2:00pm
Location: K&L Gates Law Firm, 1601 K Street NW
- **POSTPONED:** Fair Budget Coalition Budget Briefing
Wednesday, April 1, 9:30am-11:30am

Location: Meyer Foundation, 1250 Connecticut Ave NW

b. Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings & Groundbreakings

- **POSTPONED:** 801 East Men’s Shelter (Groundbreaking)
St. Elizabeth’s Campus
Tuesday, March 24 @ 3p
- **POSTPONED:** The Brooks – Ward 3 Short-Term Family Housing (Ribbon-cutting)
3320 Idaho Ave NW
Friday, March 27 @ 10:30am
- Zoe’s Doors – 24 Hour Youth Drop-in Center (Ribbon-cutting)
900 Rhode Island Ave NE
Wednesday, April 8 @ 11:30am

c. Franklin Park Closure

Franklin Park will be closing for renovations in April. DHS and ICH have been working closely with the Downtown BID to plan for the closure, focusing on:

- Alternate locations for service provision;
- Communication to the community (consumers & providers); and
- Park signage.

For more information, contact Lindsay Curtin at Lindsay.Curtin@dc.gov.

VI. Adjournment