

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

**Housing Solutions Committee
Meeting Summary**

Date: Monday, January 25, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Conference Call

Meeting Participants:

Polly Donaldson, DHCD, Co-chair	Richard Livingstone, DHCD
Chapman Todd, Jaydot, Co-chair	Melissa Millar, Community of Hope
Kristy Greenwalt, CH	Blaise Rastello, Gilbane
Lindsay Curtin, ICH	Nechama Masliansky, SOME
Sarah Malala, Jaydot	Robert Warren, People for Fairness
Dexter Price, TCP	Shellon Fraser, CSH
Sara Cartmill, Community of Hope	Sarra Mohamed, William C Smith Co.
Anna Fogel, DHS	Tracy Cecil, Dantes Partners
Reginald Black, People for Fairness	Hammere Gebreyes, DCHA
Colleen Connor, Housing Up	Ishan Heru, Community Connections
Danilo Pelletiere, DHCD	Holly Dennison Chase, LIIF
Emily Near, Legal Aid	Lara Pukatch, Miriam's Kitchen
Erin Wilson, DHCD	Mary Ann Floto, United Way
Adam Maier, Pathways	Rachel Rintelmann, Legal Aid
Aaron Ford, ICH	Waldon Adams, Pathways to Housing
Dallas Williams, DHS	Lynn Amano, Friendship Place
Andrea Wise, DHCD	Abbey Sypek, Everyone Home
Brit Ruffin, Legal Clinic for the Homeless	Bruce Finland, MED Developers
Baron Bell, Consultant	Scott Bruton, CNHED
Lyn Williams, Wanda Alston Foundation	Jennifer McLaughlin, Advocate

Agenda:

1. D.C. Government Agency Updates (DHCD, DCHA, DHS)
2. Report out on PEP-V "Sprint"
3. Updates on Committee Task Groups
4. Committee Co-Chair Selection

Meeting Summary:

1. DC Government Agency Updates

DHCD

- Mayor Bowser has formed a Rental Strike Force coalition, composed of tenants, housing providers and other stakeholders; will examine housing rental market for

- both immediate needs in wake of COVID as well as broader rental housing market; details of strike force composition will be detailed in Mayor's Order coming later this week; will have meetings open to the public; will draft recommendations for District government actions
- The December Federal Relief Plan allocated \$200M dollars to the District; received "state" share of relief funds; DHCD, DHS, DMPED working to comply with Treasury Department guidelines; the funding will continue to serve District residents; funds can be used to cover past arrears and payments moving forward; priority on 50% AMI and below; both tenants and housing providers can apply
 - Continuing to receive and review applications for ERAP and CHAP
 - Hoping to use relief funds for new program focused on energy assistance / energy bill arrears
 - Current rental relief resources listed on <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/rent>
 - The Biden Administration has submitted several new relief plans, one of which includes a provision that would fund conversion of certain commercial real estate into housing for homeless individuals and families; important to advocate for the District receiving a "state" share; DHCD will continue to track this and report out in future Committee meetings
 - A new Federal policy change has fixed the level of the 4% Tax Credit, which means that additional equity is now available for all projects utilizing 4% credits; this reduces the amount of gap funding DHCD needs to put into projects. The increased tax credit equity should have a substantial impact on the District's ability to accelerate the schedule on pending projects in the pipeline, and also provides an opportunity to perhaps move other projects forward from the wait list. DHCD staff is currently analyzing the pipeline to determine potential next steps.
 - Will have fuller update on potential funding and Section 108 status at February Housing Solutions Committee meeting
 - The Mayor's budget is due to be submitted last week in March; the DHCD oversight hearing at the end of March, and the agency's budget hearing is currently scheduled for May 4

DCHA

- DCHA recently met with representatives of The Way Home Campaign to identify and address delays in the lease-up process; this conversation is continuing.
- Will address outstanding questions from the December Housing Solutions Committee meeting in a separate follow up document

DHS

- Will address outstanding questions from the December Housing Solutions Committee meeting in a separate follow up document

2. Report out on PEP-V “Sprint”

- Since December 1
 - 41 clients have moved out of PEP-V with a PSH/TAH voucher
 - DCHA has approved 154 PEP-V client applications
 - 103 people are currently searching for a unit
 - Clients selecting units and leasing up each day
 - DHS Housing Navigation team is showing units to clients each day and have hosted 6 Meet and Lease events at PEP-V sites over last month; over 20 people selected units at last week’s Meet and Lease events and are currently filling out lease up paperwork
 - DHS and DCHA are currently reviewing outcomes from the last two months and looking at how they can create long lasting changes to speed up the lease up process
 - Question - how many of 154 placements involved 2020 resources
 - Request for greater transparency around this review; ask for more concrete actions steps on how to address and escalate questions around issues that have delayed the lease-up process

3. Updates on Committee Task Groups

- PSH Production Task Group held kick off call after the December Housing Solutions Committee meetings; there have been two focus groups of developers in January; the co-chairs working on finalizing recommendations with the goal of presenting at the February Housing Solutions Committee meeting

4. Committee Co-Chair Selections

- Chapman will be transitioning out as the Committee Co-chair; will assist with the transition to the incoming Co-chair
- Reginald Black (People for Fairness) and Shellon Fraser (CSH) are candidates for the open Co-chair seat; email sent out from after meeting with link for Housing Solutions Committee stakeholders to cast their vote. Result will be sent out by ICH email.

Next meeting: Monday, February 22, 2021 at 2 PM (this has been pushed back a week from the regular schedule due to the Federal holiday on the previous Monday).