

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness
Emergency Response and Shelter Operations

Date: January 24, 2018
Time: 1 – 2:30 PM
Location: One Judiciary Square (441 4th Street NW). Room number is 1114

Present: Kimberly Waller (ICH), Erika Ransom (UPO), Ruth Walker (UPO), Abby Sypek (CHGM), Sarah Roenfeldt (COH), Sean Read (FP), Jill Carmichael (NCC), Theresa Silla (ICH), Scott McNeilly (WLCH), Maggie Kilbride (HopeOne Source), Reginald Black, Jesse Rabinowitz (MK), Marcy, Michael Ferrel (Coalition for the Homeless)

Agenda

I. Welcome/Introductions/Framing

II. Winter Plan Follow Up

- a. Supplies –report out from TCP- Both UPO and Outreach reporting they are good with supplies
- b. Transportation –report out and follow up on Nov issues
 - i. Report out on demand from UPO- During Cold Weather Alert there was a significant increase of people accessing shelters and citizens calling for safety checks, approximately 7,000 calls and 6,000 trips. UPO brought in additional staff and OSSE to assist in covering calls. Concerns around enough lines, UPO reported that a new phone system is being installed end of the month. Currently, there are 10 scheduled routes, which makes on demand challenging. There is a request to bring on additional staff that requires additional funds. A 4pm Pat Handy run was added due to the demand. Still a challenge for non-alert nights there is a two-hour window from 7-9 where people can't go into rec centers and access a bed yet.
 - ii. FU on Transportation for Women from Adam's Place- Ongoing challenge of having enough vehicles to transport women that stay until the end of Adams Place Day Center closing. Currently using 3 vehicles but again ongoing issue of the 2 hours of where to people go on non-alert nights. **FU with DHS**
Additional discussion on couples. Possibly changing a men's site to a couples site, Emory. Outreach has a good idea of where couples are so can do targeted outreach and messaging around shelters. Possibly reserve beds for them. 30 additional couples from those that already come in. **FU DHS and Tom about HMIS to add intake question on couples.**
 - iii. FU on Messaging and issues re luggage and belongings- Ongoing concern of working with people to pair down what they have but also needing space to transport what they do have. Looking for creative solutions. Officially there is a two bag minimum but there is not clarity on the size and the messaging is not always the same across the board. Outreach and UPO are engaging. On the table with DHS is purchasing some larger vehicles. **Smaller group to see what can be done here.**
 - iv. FU on potential for transportation to and from libraries- Challenge is library is calling at the end of the day for pick ups but often the vans can't get there before closing. Working with library staff to call ahead of time. **Follow up with Jean on a memo to library staff with the steps that they can do to help out and with all the phone numbers and to call at least 45 min in advance of closing.**
 - v. FU on potential for transportation to and/from MK/ Georgetown area- General concerns around pick ups from hospitals where people are staying to keep warm. Looking at strategies used with the library of being able to call back. Also concerns around people being

discharged from hospitals that shouldn't and medical liability. **Catherine from Unity has offered to look into options as we collect Medical UIRs from shelters.**

- c. Operational updates/changes
 - i. Seasonal beds from women (Greenleaf, capacity at Pat Handy, etc)- Capacity at Pat Handy has expanded. Starting to plan at the end of hypothermia and what happens to the women at that point with the capacity issues. **FU- invite Elizabeth Young to the next shelter capacity- Michael will do.**

III. Referrals to ERSO

- a. Franklin Park Redevelopment- Would like to coordinate with DHS and DGS to make sure we are aware of plans and outreach has the correct messaging. Concern about shelter capacity if people can no longer sleep outside at Franklin Park.

IV. Follow up on ongoing efforts/initiatives

- a. ID –DOH Kiosks for Birth Certificates- Concerns and comments should be sent to Terra J. Abrams, terra.abrams@dc.gov. Concern that new ID requirements will slow down the process.
- b. Initiative to Enhance Low Barrier Shelter System
 - i. Draft Overdose Policy update- number of questions raised. DHS has gone back to General Council to vet questions. Until we get answers there is a hold off on distributing kits. Did reach out to NY city because they do have a policy. Unity is exploring what options they have to distribute.
 - ii. Exploring continuous improvement efforts to address medical and assault related UIRs

V. Work Group Updates

- a. Shelter Capacity WG Update- Ongoing concern around capacity for single women especially when hypothermia season ends. Pat Handy did a reallocation of existing beds and increased the number for low barrier from 98-152.
- b. Outreach WG Update
 - i. Coordinating Outreach- working on a good system for the winter. Shared doc online so people can see where everyone is covering and what times.
 - ii. Roll out of Amtrak/Union Station security policies- did role out during the cold weather actually helped because of outreach assistance and UPO. Amtrak said DBH did great.
- c. Shelter Conditions WG Update- **Did not get to**
 - i. 801 East Generator update
 - ii. Communicating contraband policies and procedures
 - iii. Shelter in-reach policies and procedures

VI. Governance- Did not get to

- a. Priorities for 2018- **homework- look through priorities and send Jill suggestions**
- b. Calendar for meetings based on priorities

VII. Meeting Logistics (Schedule & Location of Meetings)

- a. Next Scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 28th.