

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness
Emergency Response and Shelter Operations

Date: February 28, 2018
Time: 1 – 2:30 PM
Location: One Judiciary Square (441 4th Street NW). Room number is 1112

Present: Judy Williams (DHS), Catherine Crosland (Unity), Amanda Baker (DBH), Jordan Gulley (DBH), Rico Harris (CCNV), Michelle Durham (N St Village), Scott McNeilly (WLCH), Ruth Walker (UPO), Erika Ransom (UPO), Kate Coventry (DCFPI), Max Tipping (WLCH), Reginald Black, Michael Ferrell (Coalition for the Homeless), Theresa Silla (ICH), Jill Carmichael (NCC)

Agenda

I. Welcome/Introductions/Framing

II. Winter Plan Follow Up

- a. **Supply Update from TCP-** As of this meeting UPO had 16k wool blankets and 4k fleece. There seems to be no issues getting blankets out to providers. For the season so far 40k wool and 20k fleece blankets have been ordered. There has been higher demand this season and that is being attributed to the two rec centers (Emery and Greenleaf) being used as seasonal sites not just for alert nights.
- b. **Transportation**
 - i. Shelter hotline will get their new phones next week, there will not be additional lines but much easier access to data.
 - ii. Still concern around transporting women and the down time between Adams Place closing and Rec Centers opening on alert nights. Ongoing discussion with the library and will follow up with Jean.
 - iii. Option for new runs- There is a large demand for this and DHS is working with UPO to purchase new and larger vehicles as well as funds for hiring more drivers.
- c. **Operational updates/changes and follow up** (i.e. options for Couples)- Melvin has stated that Emery can and will accommodate couples even if at capacity for men. Ultimate question is we want to capture data on the barriers to entering shelter and of those that enter shelter how many are couples. The barriers to shelter can be added to outreach and the couples entering shelter can be added to shelter intake. Overall discussion points”
 - i. The sense right now is that all 20 women at Emery are coming in as a unit.
 - ii. Refusals from clients happening at Pat Handy when people come in with sisters, daughters or cousins and there are not enough beds.
 - iii. Do we offer an LGBTQ space as an option for those that do not feel comfortable in shelter general shelter settings? During the listening sessions overall feedback was every place needs to be safe and not to limit LGBTQ community with only LGBTQ spaces but raised again of does that need to at least be an option for some.
 - iv. DHS contracts from hypothermia extend to April 15th. Meaning seasonal beds will stay open until April 15th.

III. Referrals to ERSO

- a. **Franklin Park Redevelopment-** recommendation to move to Consumer Engagement Workgroup

IV. Follow up on ongoing efforts/initiatives

- a. **ID –DOH Kiosks for Birth Certificates** (heads up re 3/05 Homeless Outreach meeting)- if you are concerned and have issues in this area go to that meeting.
- b. **Initiative to Enhance Low Barrier Shelter System** (updates re Draft Overdose Policy)- Question of if this is a policy does that override Good Samaritan Law, Attorney General is weighing in and DHS is working on this policy.

V. Work Group Updates

- a. **Shelter Capacity WG Update** (looking ahead re Capacity for Women post hypothermia season)
 - i. Discussion with Rico from CCNV on transitioning the 48 women’s beds from seasonal to ongoing outside of winter. Rico stated that this is an option as long as the same terms are followed that were set for the contract during hypothermia season. Staff has been getting stipends and they would like that to continue.
 - ii. New Topic is to discuss with women providers why women are rejecting temp or transitional beds and only wanting low barrier beds.
- b. **Outreach WG Update** (updating infrastructure for managing transportation requests and exploring potential for Coordinating Outreach via 311 app)- Hoping to do a demonstration at the next outreach workgroup meeting. Working to make it a priority and then will have more of a deadline. Outreach is 3/14, 3-4:30pm.
- c. **Shelter Conditions WG Update**- Next shelter conditions will be canceled and will be back in April.

VI. ERSO alignment to the CAHP process- Outreach has mentioned that it is difficult to know the next step once someone is matched to housing. Goal is to replicate what has been done on the Veterans side. Where outreach and shelter staff are connected and know each other well. How can we connect everyone from all angles so that we can house people and get documents? Pat Handy is doing this well and can come in as an example.

VII. Governance

- a. **Priorities for 2018/Calendar**
 - i. Consumer specific debriefs around the winter plan and that should be a recommendation that they would happen in the consumer engagement workgroup.
 - ii. 3 populations we want feedback from: singles, families, and youth
 - iii. Pre meeting on 3/13 will be dedicated to designing the consumer engagement work group. 12:30.
- b. Women’s Task force did an assessment of needs and resources that are available to women in the shelter system. Shortage of year round beds, safe access, equal access to housing interventions. The Women’s Group will continue to meet however, there are no decisions around shelter and emergency response that can be made outside of the ERSO committee. The new group is focused on DV and violence against women and it is a working group under strategic planning. ICH will post meetings online.

VIII. Meeting Logistics (Schedule & Location of Meetings)

- a. Next Scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 28th, 1-2:30pm