



Meeting Details

Date: 10/27/2021 **Time:** 1pm-2:30pm **Location:** Webex

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Updates
 - 801 East Update – See Slides
 - Winter Plan Preparation Update – See Slides

Christian Howard from DHS discussed plans to move individuals into both PEP-V and Bridge Housing Site throughout Hypothermia Season, and informed the group there is availability at PEP-V. Individuals asked questions about mental illness as an eligibility to criteria for PEP-V, and about using bridge housing and PEP-V for individuals living in encampments.

- IV. Discussion
 - DBH Sober Center Overview and Feedback – See Slides

Michael Grier from DBH (Michael.Grier@dc.gov, 202-256-8194) presented on the DBH Stabilization and Sobering Center. The group provided significant feedback and noted that they believed the center to be crucial to our services in the District. Feedback including that clear messaging around what the center does and how to access is important, as well as ensuring language barriers and cultural barriers are taken into account in messaging and development. The group shared that it was important that the location is as low barrier as possible, with few steps to get access. Physically individuals should be able walk up to the location, and also receive transportation if needed, ensuring individuals with physical disabilities are able to access. Additionally, the site needs to be responsive to any age or family makeup and have a clear plan for working with parents/families with a harm reduction. Competent, consistent staff to assess clients and proceed with the right intervention is crucial. Additionally, it was noted that peers would be helpful to staff the center and that staff should have close connection and relationship with Emergency Response teams in the event it is needed. It was also noted that staff should be able to connect individuals to life skills training and housing providers, if the consumer is matched to housing. Co-location of services was also recommended. Many different locations were noted, as the group thought accessibility and closeness to sites where usage occurs is crucial, including co-location with shelters experiencing high incidences of use. A data bump was recommended to understand locations where services are most needed.

- LGBTQ+ Shelter Feedback

The Committee broke out into three groups to discuss feedback for the LGBTQ+ Shelter. In regard to staffing, the youth workgroups appreciate that a large number of staff in their centers identify similarly to them, and it was noted that providers should make it clear that any staff should feel comfortable to identify as they are (consider surveying clients to understand what they prefer), however, boundaries must be maintained. Training for staff is crucial and it was recommended to utilize peers and case managers who can meet individuals where they are in the staffing model. Finally, in regards to staffing it was recommended to coordinate with an LGBTQ+ specific provider to provide services. Additional individuals discussed the important of the location being safe. It was noted that training would be crucial if there was security on site and would need to provide clarity as to what is expected of security at the site. Some in the group recommended not using security. Additionally, it was noted that it would be important to provide safety planning and have a partnership with DV and victim service providers. Bathroom usage was also a topic the group focused on noting that we need to create safe, comfortable, and welcoming spaces for individuals to use the

bathroom/showers, co-ed personal stalls and personal bathrooms that are all inclusive were recommended. It was also noted to have hygiene supplies available. Folks emphasizes that signage with affirming messages would be helpful for individuals to feel safe in that space without having to access. Finally, it was recommended to have medical storage, where clients could access their medicine.

- V. Updates & Announcements
- VI. Adjournment

Decisions & Action Items

N/A

Next Meeting

Date: TBD **Time:** 1pm-2:30pm **Location:** Webex

Meeting Participants (49)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindsay Curtin (ICH) Michael Ferrell (DC Coalition for Housing) Sakina Thompson (DMHHS) Theresa Silla (ICH) Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC) Jill Carmichael (National Community Church) Jim Yates (TAC Associates) Shelah Wilcox (Everone Home DC) Jesse Rabinowitz (Miriam's Kitchen) Reginald Black (PFFC) Russell McDowell Bill Kuennen (DHS) Samuel Koroma (Catholic Charities) Kate Coventry (DCFPI) Wes (Legal Clinic) Synina Pugh (DHS) Alicia Horton (Thrive DC) DeeAnna Segee (ICH) Sangita Joshi (NSV) Betty Gentle (SOME) Candyce Coates (TCP) Ceymone Dyce (Pathways) Rico Harris (CCNV) Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hassan Koroma (Catholic Charities) 2029****64 Tyrell McQueen (TCP) Kimberly Waller (ICH) Elizabeth Coleman (Catholic Charities) Catherine Crosland (Unity) Dervin Brown (UPO) Michael Grier (DBH - SOR Team) Peggy Jeffers (Apt & Office Bldg Association of Metro Washington) Evan Langholt (Catholic Charities) Veronica Fabani (Catholid Charities) Luline Almonacy (UPO) Ana Elias (Community Connections) Christian Howard (DHS) Carla Branham (DHS) Kalifia Thomas (COH) Melvyn Smith (DHS) Kim Glover (DHS) Qaadir (PFFC) Veronica Fabani (Catholic Charities) Anthony Newman (DHS) Alexis Blackmon (Casa Ruby) Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities) Dervin Brown (UPO) |
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