



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES

### Meeting Details

**Date:** June 08 2021

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:00 PM

**Location:** WebEx

### Tentative Agenda

#### I. Welcome & Call to Order

Theresa Silla (ICH) welcomed attendees. After noting that there were no objections to approving the meeting minutes for the May Executive Committee Meetings, Ms. Silla walked through the June 08 meeting agenda and purpose.

#### II. For Discussion

Key components of the Mayor's Proposed Budget were presented, along with the schedule for FY22 budget hearings. The presentation was led by the Directors of DOES, DBH, DHS, DHCD and DCHA (the five government agencies that are charter members of the ICH Executive Committee).

Director Morris-Hughes (Department of Employment Services, DOES) shared the agency's proposed FY22 budget and vision (see PowerPoint slides attached). Meeting participants identified the following feedback/questions/concerns:

- Identifying Social Work as a high demand occupation and tailoring programming to ensure that there is pipeline of candidates for filling social work positions (e.g., Case Manager positions);
- Leveraging the "Learn and Earn" approach to support Peer Academies or Peer Specialist trainings for individuals with lived experience that have an interest in working in the homeless services sector;
- Ensuring individuals experiencing homelessness have an opportunity to gain employment on capital improvement projects, particularly the construction of homeless services facilities; and
- Accessing Supported Employment programs which are also administered by DBH.

Particularly as it relates to identifying social work as a high demand occupation and creating a pipeline of candidates for filling social work positions, DOES identified the following resources:

- Office of Talent and Client Services (DOES): <https://does.dc.gov/page/office-talent-client-services>
- DC Networks (DOES): <https://www.dcnetworks.org/vosnet/Default.aspx>

Director Bazron (Department of Behavioral Health, DBH) presented key components of the agency's proposed budget, highlighting the expansion of mental health, supported housing, prevention, and substance use disorder services (see PowerPoint slides attached). Dr. Bazron also shared DBH's commitment to leveraging peer support to ensure customers have access to services provided by individuals with lived experience. Feedback/questions/concerns from meeting attendees include:

- Understanding programming/services that will be offered at proposed Sobering and Stabilization Center;
- Exploring opportunities for co-locating or embedding Sobering/Stabilization services at low barrier shelters;
- Ensuring individuals recently housed and/or currently experiencing homelessness have access to the telehealth initiatives proposed; and
- Leveraging CAHP to target new/proposed intensive care coordination services and rental subsidies, if and as appropriate.

Director Zeilinger (Department of Human Services, DHS) identified 6 “Pillars of Growth and Recovery” before honing in on key investments in rental assistance and prevention of homelessness, economic mobility for families, and ending homelessness for unaccompanied (meaning single) adults (see PowerPoint slides attached). Meeting attendees flagged the following feedback/questions/concerns:

- Revisiting minimum qualifications for PSH staff. Social Work Board requirements flagged as an issue that significantly limits the ability of providers to successfully recruit eligible candidates and onboard new employees; and
- Capacity concerns related to the influx of resources to unaccompanied (single) adults. Need for providers to scale up quickly and for the system to speed up the lease-up process. Particularly as EHV’s come online in July.

Director Donaldson (Department of Housing and Community Development, DHCD) provided an overview of the FY22 investments, with a focus on the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) and Local Rent Supplement Programs (LRSP). Presentation also emphasized adjustments to the LRSP process (see PowerPoint slides attached). Given the amount of time remaining for questions, Director Donaldson referred attendees to the Housing Solutions Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 21 from 2 – 3 pm. Attendees inquired about:

- Use of housing production trust funds (HPTF) to rebuild public housing infrastructure in the District; and
- Availability of project-based vouchers to develop new site-based PSH and PSH+ projects;

Director Garrett (District of Columbia Housing Authority, DCHA) stated that the proposed operating budget for DHCA would be 161.3 million dollars (similar to FY21). However, given the impending transition, Director Garrett indicated that an official agency budget update is outstanding and will be available post-transition.

### **III. Governance**

#### **a. Process and Timeline for Seats & Slates**

ICH has identified May 2022 as the goal for confirming new members; ICH staff working with MOTA to identify appropriate timeline for initiating process and is projected to release a public invitation for new members in July/August (11 full council seats to be renewed or filled.)

#### **b. ICH Post COVID Operations**

ICH Committees and Work Groups will continue to meet online for the coming quarter. ICH staff will administer another survey within the next quarter to determine if any updates are warranted/necessary.

### **IV. Partner Updates & Announcements**

Our Executive Committee co-chair Schroeder Stribling (CEO of N St. Village) will be transitioning out of her position with the organization. Thank you for your dedication, Schroeder. You will be missed!

The Executive Committee will initiative a search for the next community co-chair after a discussion on the appropriate co-chair qualifications/selection criteria at the next Executive Committee meeting.

### **V. Summary and Adjournment**

## **Decisions & Action Items**

## **Next Meeting**

**Date:** July 13 2021

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:00 PM

**Location:** WebEx