



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)  
Agenda**

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 pm                      Full Council

Location: John A. Wilson Building, Room: G-9  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

**Meeting Participants**

- **ICH Council Members:** this is an official meeting of ICH Members, or their assigned delegates.
- **General Audience:** as a meeting that is open to the public, a general audience is permitted. However, participation in discussion is limited to the Public Comment section of the agenda. Otherwise, the floor is reserved for ICH Council Members attending the meeting.

**Meeting Agenda**

**I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Director Kristy Greenwalt called the meeting to order, welcoming members and stakeholders.

**II. Public Comments**

The Homeless Services Reform Act (HSRA) requires that there be an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to comment on matters relevant to the work of the ICH.

**Public Comments/Questions:**

- A comment was made that although much has been accomplished over the past four years, there is still much to be done. A call was made for the ICH Full Council, Committee, and Workgroup members to consider the voices of consumers to a higher degree.
- A thank you and acknowledgement was given to those who assisted with the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeless Persons Memorial and Vigil Service which will be hosted by The People for Fairness Coalition.
- Unspecified concerns regarding Harriet Tubman's shelter were raised and a request for more insight into these concerns was made.
- An acknowledgment and thank you was given to those who assisted with the opening of the Downtown Service Center.



### **III. Welcoming New ICH Members**

Director Greenwalt acknowledged that for the first time since its inception, the ICH now has private sector partners as members of the ICH Full Council. New appointees introduced themselves, their agency, and their reason for having an interest in ICH Full Council membership.

### **IV. *Homeward DC*: Term One Highlights & Planning for Term Two**

Director Greenwalt introduced the main agenda item for the Full Council's consideration: a reflection on the work which has been accomplished in the last four years of implementing the *Homeward DC* plan – launched in March, 2015. The goal of this reflection is to consider what we've accomplished and what we've learned, and to serve as a reminder that systems-change is possible.

Director Zeilinger with the Department of Human Services (DHS) reviewed the District's Family System reforms.

- Since the launch of the *Homeward DC* plan, 4,621 families have exited shelter/transitional housing into more stable housing and from 2016 to 2018 the District achieved about a 40% reduction in family homelessness (from 1,491 to 924 families). The number of family exits from shelter into more stable housing is outpacing the number of family entrances into shelter.
- With the closure of DC General and the opening of three Short-Term Family Housing (STFH) facilities in Wards 4, 7, and 8, DHS has implemented a new, Whole Family, approach to servicing families in the District. The Whole Family approach considers the mutual needs of both parent/caregiver and child and acknowledges that investing in the household as a whole is more successful in breaking the cycle of poverty.
- A Landlord Partnership Fund has been launched with the Coalition for Non-Profit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) and the DowntownBID. This partnership created a new initiative aimed at streamlining payment structures for landlords who are renting to families through Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) ultimately providing landlords with more reason and security to say "yes" when asked to participate in the District's plan to end homelessness.
- For additional and expanded information on the Family System reforms please see the PowerPoint presentation.

Director Greenwalt reviewed the District's Single Adult System and Youth System reforms along with other foundational efforts seen by the District since the launch of *Homeward DC*.

- Since the launch of the *Homeward DC* plan, 4,846 single adults have exited from the streets or shelter into permanent housing and over half of these adults (2,540) exited into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
- The Coordinated Assessment & Housing Placement (CAHP) System has been implemented to streamline and expand services (e.g. utilizing one common assessment tool and single



data registry across the system, matching and case conferencing housing placements via biweekly meetings, expanding capacity of street outreach and shelter staff).

- In 2017, *Solid Foundations* plan was launched to specifically address youth homelessness in the District. This plan has developed a Youth CAHP System, improved the crisis response for youth (e.g. expanding shelter beds, creating a 24-hour drop-in center), and has expanded youth-specific housing programs. Focusing on youth homelessness is one of the ways that the District can address long-term homelessness – by ensuring that young people do not age into homelessness.
- For additional and expanded information on the Single Adult and Youth System reforms please see the PowerPoint Presentation.

Director Greenwalt reviewed which efforts are being made in planning for Term Two of the *Homeward DC* plan.

- An updated version of *Homeward DC* is being drafted. This draft will be reviewed at the March, 2019 Full Council Meeting.
- For additional and expanded information on efforts being made in planning for Term Two, please see the PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **V. Remarks from Mayor Muriel Bowser**

Mayor Muriel Bowser extended gratitude towards the Full Council and its members for the development and implementation of the District's *Homeward DC* and *Solid Foundations* plans. The Mayor commented on the positive effects of prevention efforts, the completion of modernizing the District's Homeless Services Reform Act (HSRA), and the realization of DC General's closure and opening of STFH programs.

Mayor Bowser also acknowledged that we need to continue focusing on preventing homelessness whenever possible, ensuring we have safe and dignified emergency housing for individuals and families who do lose their housing, and that as we do both of those things, continuing to scale-up our supportive and affordable housing stock to ensure people can more quickly exit shelter to stabilize in permanent housing of their own.

Mayor Bowser also recognized the importance of community and private partnerships in our efforts to prevent and end homelessness in the District. She stated that these partnerships have helped us support residents in a number of ways and acknowledged the following partnerships:

- AOBA (Apartment & Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington) has partnered with us on our Home for the Holidays campaign;
- CNHED and the BID have provided critical support on the Landlord Partnership Fund;
- The Bezos Day One Fund is supporting our work around family homelessness;
- With the partnership of the Downtown BID, she stated she is looking forward to opening the new Downtown Day Service Center.



Mayor Bowser also discussed the new coordinated approach to private sector engagement through our partners at the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

**Comments and Questions:**

- A comment was given about the aging of the homeless population and their higher levels of vulnerability; a call was made for an increase in nursing home placements and assisted living program placements.
- A question was raised about the District's strategy for exiting the individuals currently housed at the 801 East Shelter as the new shelter and hospital are being constructed; a call was made for 801 East Shelter residents to exit into housing, instead of exiting into the new shelter facility.
- A question was raised on how the District will continue to keep-up the investments in housing programs and affordable housing units.
- A question was raised about a possible increase in in-patient hospital beds and/or an increase in community-based programs for those with a serious mental illness.

**VI. Announcements and Updates**

- The 2019 Point in Time (PIT) Count will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.
- The PIT+, which focuses on more qualitative data collection, will be launched in order to better understand the reasons that individuals and families seek shelter. The PIT+ will take place over a 10-day period.
- An updated Winter Plan has been posted as there have been changes to pick-up times and transportation locations and times. This updated plan is posted online at the ICH website.
- The District's Home for the Holidays Campaign is up and running.
- The ICH is conducting a survey to better understand the ICH's operations. All surveys are due by the Close of Business on 12/13.

**VII. Public Comments (*Time Permitting*)**

After the presentation of material and the subsequent questions/comments/discussion, no time was left available for public comment on agenda items.

**VIII. Adjournment**

At the appointed hour, Director Greenwalt adjourned the meeting.