

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)
Strategic Planning Committee Notes**

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

2:30 to 4:00 p.m. by Webex

Kristy	Greenwalt	ICH
Kimberly	Waller	ICH
Kelly	Sweeney McShane	Community of Hope, Co-Chair
Tania	Mortensen	DHS, Co-Chair
Aaron	Ford	ICH
Adam	Rocap	Miriam's Kitchen
Amy	Louitt	
Andrea	Scallon	Miriam's Kitchen
Cathy	Solomon	N Street Village
Christy	Respress	Pathways to Housing
E	Rosa	
Gary	Maring	N Street Village
Ishan	Heru	Community Connections
Jacqueline	Lippman	
Jamey	Burden	Community of Hope
Jennifer	Olny	Community Foundation
June	Crenshaw	Wanda Alson Foundation
Karen	Cunningham	Everyone Home DC
Kate	Coventry	DCFPI
Kyla		
Michael	Ferrell	Coalition for the Homeless
Nechama	Masliansky	SOME
Polly	Donaldson	DHCD
Qaadir		
Rachel	Pierre	DHS
Reginald	Black	Street sense
Richard	Livingstone	
Robert	Warren	
Russell	Gardner	HCSEMA
Schroeder	Stribling	N Street Village
Sharlene	Castle	Jaydot
Waldon	Adams	
Wes	Heppler	WLC

- Update on Trauma Informed Care assessment – Amy Louitt provided an update on progress to date and next steps.
- Save Rental Housing Strikeforce - Polly Donaldson provided some background on the Strike Force and reviewed slides with information on the tasks and timeline. Recommendations are due in mid-March to the Mayor. The goal is to bring together disparate interests to get to consensus on short, medium, and long-term recommendations related to rental housing in DC. One example is whether DC should consider the conversion of hotels into congregate sites. Comments from the public can be provided in writing to Polly Donaldson as the Chair, or through the public comment process at open meetings or on a public comment page. Meetings are listed on the DHCD website. Kristy Greenwalt and Laura Zeilinger are also on the strike force.
- Emergency Rental Assistance - Rachel Pierre then reviewed slides for Emergency Rental Assistance, which has \$200 million in federal funds allocated to it. Rachel clarified that funding would not be going to community based providers but that there would be one single point of entry for uploading information, getting certified, and receiving funds. The plan is to for a mid-March rollout. There were questions about how ERA is different from ERAP and the acknowledgement that there are multiple sources of funding for emergency rental assistance, but each of them have slightly different criteria. Director Donaldson said that they are working on an education and outreach component. Rachel said that there would be at least four stakeholder engagement opportunities, with one before implementation and three afterwards.
- Discussion – There was then discussion of what recommendations could be offered to DHCD and DHS. A few remarks included:
 - Use funding to extend subsidies for families in Rapid ReHousing
 - Separate units of housing developed for extremely low income households from the numbers/projections for general affordable housing. Be clearer, more focused on developing units for extremely low income households.
 - Strike Force should look at policies that hinder speed of leasing people up and should look at how to bring prices down to a manageable level for extremely low income households.

Director Donaldson also shared that there will like be additional federal funding, of which the District will likely be made whole from last year (\$750 million) plus a state share (\$1.4 billion). These funds will help make up for the severe revenue drop in 2020 and 2021.

- Updates
 - Kristy reviewed the results from the survey from the last meeting with recommendations for funding under the Partnership to End Homelessness.
 - Kristy then reviewed the scope for the public awareness work group. They are looking for program experts as well as communications experts.
 - Kristy also reviewed the launch and the goals of the Racial Equity workgroup.
 - Kristy also provided an update on the COG Regional Racial Equity Systems Audit. Kristy thanked TCP for the financial contribution, and Reginald Black and Michael

Ferrell for participating on the RFP review panel. C4 Innovations was selected as the consultant. A spring launch is expected. The REI Work Group will serve as a point of contact for the consultant team on behalf of DC.