Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Committee

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December 8, 2020

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome & Call to Order

II. Items for Approval

  ❖ Homeward DC 2.0

III. Discussion Items

  ❖ ICH Governance & Operations

IV. Partner Updates/Announcements

V. Adjournment

Reminder – Executive Committee Voting

* Per bylaws (Section 4.6):
  * If consensus cannot be achieved, the matter shall be deemed approved when a simple majority of the Executive Committee voting members present and voting vote in the affirmative.

* On issues coming before the committee today:
  * We will begin with WebEx poll of all stakeholders
  * If we do not have consensus, we will move to an offline/virtual process (following the meeting)
  * We will report results with meeting minutes by the end of the week and review at January meeting.

Executive Committee Voting Members

Government Voting Members

❖ Department of Human Services (DHS)

❖ Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

❖ DC Housing Authority (DCHA)

❖ Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

❖ Department of Employment Services (DOES)

Collaborative Applicant

❖ The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness

Community Voting Members

❖ Lauren Puryear, Covenant House

❖ Jill Carmichael, National Community Church

❖ Chapman Todd, Development Consultant

❖ Kelly Sweeney McShane, Community of Hope

❖ Schroeder Stribling, N Street Village

❖ Reginald Black

❖ Waldon Adams

❖ Q'aadir El-Amin

❖ Aaron White

*In accordance with ICH By-Laws here: https://ich.dc.gov/publication/ich-bylaws

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Homeward DC 2.0

- ❖ Proposed content changes shared with Executive Committee at October meeting.

- ❖ ICH staff incorporated edits into plan in late October/early November.

- ❖ Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the revised plan, assisted with final wordsmithing, and approved for delivery back to the Exec Committee in late November.

Key Changes

❖ Preface – added context about COVID

❖ Original Chapter 1 broken down into:

➢ Introduction: About the plan – why it was developed, process for developing, and the impact of COVID on the plans' release.

➢ Chapter 1: Key Context, Progress, and Lessons Learned

➢ Chapter 2: Vision, Guiding Principles, and Plan Building Blocks

(note modification of vision statement to address racial equity)

Key Changes, Cont.

- ❖ Chapter 3 (previously Ch. 2) – System Modeling: Addition of language to explain why modeling was *not* updated to reflect COVID at this time.

- ❖ Chapter 4 (previously Ch. 3) – Strategies: Modification of existing strategies + addition of new strategies to increase emphasis on racial equity and reflect key COVID issues.

- ❖ Appendix (Definitions) – added definitions related to racism, racial equity, and inclusion.

HDC 2.0 Next Steps

- ❖ If approved today, plan be delivered to the Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM).
  - ➢ Plan is not public until the Mayor releases it.
- ❖ Once delivered, plan will go through internal EOM review, a final line edit, and document layout.
- ❖ Executive Committee will be alerted when plan is released.

HDC 2.0 Discussion

Final questions, suggestions, or proposed edits?

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ICH Governance & Operations

Continuation of last month's discussion:

1. Committee Leadership
2. Ensuring Committee Co-Chairs have a Voice at Decision-Making Tables
3. Work Group Co-Chairs Selection
4. Consumer Voice
5. Establishment of REI Committee or Work Group
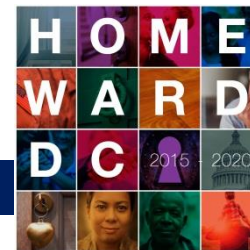6. Establishment of Public Education/Awareness WG

Issue #1: Committee Leadership
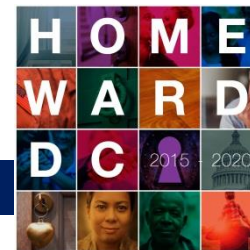
Q1: Standing Committee Co-Chair positions should be filled by:

   a)   ICH full Council appointees *(status quo)*

   b)   Any interested community partner with appropriate expertise *(requires an amendment to ICH bylaws)*

Issue #1: Committee Leadership (Cont.)

Considerations

- ❖ Amending the bylaws can be accomplished by the Executive Committee; procedurally, it is not time consuming nor difficult.

- ❖ Amending the bylaws to allow any stakeholder to co-chair a committee ensures we can leverage expertise in the community.

- ❖ Allowing any stakeholder to co-chair a committee allows us to continue to advance our racial equity and inclusion goals without having to wait for turnover of full Council seats.

- ❖ However, if a stakeholder chairing a committee is not a full Council appointee, they will not have voting rights on the full Council. (See Issue #2)

- ❖ The policy currently in place was to encourage active participation by individuals appointed to the full Council.

Issue #2. Ensuring Co-Chairs have a Voice

Q2: To ensure stakeholders investing time in co-chairing committees & work groups have a voice at decision-making tables:

a) The HSRA should be amended to add more full Council seats.

b) The ICH Bylaws should be amended to ensure all Standing Committee and Work Group Co-Chairs have a voting seat on the Executive Committee.

c) Both a & b

d) Neither a nor b

Considerations

❖ Adding full Council seats requires a statutory change to the HSRA.

❖ Who serves as co-chairs may change from year to year – so we do not know if we should be adding seats for consumers, advocates, providers, or philanthropic/business reps.

➢ Adding seats to the full Council would give us a larger pool of people to choose from, but does not guarantee that co-chairs will have a seat on the full Council unless we retain the requirement that co-chairs must be full Council appointees.

❖ Very few decisions are actually made by the ICH. There are a few items outlined in the HSRA that are the explicit purview of the ICH, but most of the conversations in the ICH are advisory in nature with the goal of providing feedback to the administering agencies.

❖ Among those items that are the explicit purview of the ICH, more discussion typically happens at the committee level than at the full Council.

Issue #3. Work Group Co-Chair Selection
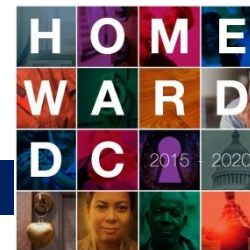
Q3: When more than one individual is interested in serving as a co-chair for a Work Group, selection should be made by:

   a)   Chairs of the Standing Committee that is over the Work Group *(status quo)*

   b)   The stakeholders of the Work Group *(requires amendment to the bylaws)*

Considerations

❖   The original process was instituted because we viewed the Standing Committee Chairs as responsible for moving the work of committee forward, including any work assigned to work groups. The goal was to keep efforts aligned.

❖   As this point, however, many of the work groups are operating largely independently, and accordingly, work group stakeholders may have a deeper understanding of the work group dynamics and the value each nominee offers.

Issue #4. Consumer Voice

Q4: To expand/enhance efforts to incorporate consumer voice in homeless service system planning and decision-making, the ICH should:

a) Increase the number of seats on the full Council for persons with lived experience now (*requires amendment to HSRA*)

b) Increase the number of seats on the full Council for persons with lived experience *once we have more robust participation/demonstrated interest.*

c) Focus on other methods to obtain consumer input/feedback (meeting consumers where they are at and using tools like focus groups, interviews, surveys, etc.)

d) Items a and c above.

e) Items b and c above.

Issue #4. Consumer Voice (Cont.)

Considerations

- ❖ The full Council currently has an approximately equal split between public/govt and private representatives.

  - ➢ Among private representatives, there are 8 seats for providers (to represent all populations), 4 seats for persons with lived experience, 4 seats for advocates, and 4 seats for business/philanthropic partners.

  - ➢ Persons with lived experience may also be slotted into an advocate seat (e.g., PFFC, The Way Home).

- ❖ There are also 4 seats for persons with lived experience on the Executive Committee, 2 seats on each standing committee, and 8 paid stipend seats overall (as limited by our current budget).

- ❖ We have had difficulty recruiting new individuals into the consumers seats (we have yet to have more than 4-5 people consistently participating), such that the responsibility is continuously being carried by a small group of individuals. It seems that many people are either not interested in or able to make the time commitment that is required by full council appointments.

- ❖ We may get more robust feedback by going to consumers vs making them come to us.

Issue #5. Establishment of REI Committee or WG

Q5: Moving forward, racial equity and inclusion work should be accomplished through:

a) Standing Committee *(requires amendment to bylaws)*

b) A Work Group that reports directly to the Executive Committee

c) A different vehicle/mechanism, TBD.

Considerations

❖ It's important that a racial equity lens be incorporated across the work of all committees, but we do likely need a specific of group of people focused on developing tools and recommendations to support the work of the other groups.

❖ A Standing Committee seems to imply more formality and longevity; a Work Group allows more flexibility as we learn and evolve.

❖ A group that reports up to Executive Committee (which includes the co-chairs of all other committees) may allow for the cross-system impact we are looking for, but there may be better/different/additional ways to ensure the REI work group influences the efforts of the other committees and work groups.

Q6: A Public Awareness & Education Work Group that reports up to the Exec Committee should be established in 2021.

a) Agree

b) Disagree

<u>Considerations</u>

❖ The group could serve as a formal structure to develop and implement system-level community engagement, communications, and social media strategies.

❖ The group would provide an opportunity for non-traditional stakeholders to engage at the system level.

❖ However, there is a tremendous amount of work already underway. Is it the right time to start another Work Group? And can it truly help accomplish something that individual agencies are not able to accomplish on their own?

Who Are We Missing at the ICH Table?

- ❖ How can we improve our partner outreach to expand the voices at the table?
  - ➢ For example, when we conduct outreach for the vacant full council seat or committee chairs, are there methods other than email we should be using?
- ❖ For small organizations with limited staff capacity, are there other methods (outside of monthly meetings & distributing/posting meeting minutes) we might consider to keep partners informed/involved?

Other Issues/Suggestions?

Next Steps

❖ We will update bylaws to reflect outcome of this discussion and circulate in advance of next month's meeting for approval.

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12

Agenda Topics: Prevention Update, HMIS Visibility