Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Committee

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January 12, 2021

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome & Call to Order

II. Items for Approval
   - ❖ No Items Pending

III. Discussion Items
   - ❖ HMIS Visibility
   - ❖ 2020 HUD CoC Competition
   - ❖ Prevention Update
   - ❖ Stimulus Checks
   - ❖ Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
   - ❖ ICH Governance & Operations (Cont from Dec)

IV. Partner Updates/Announcements

V. Adjournment

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HMIS Enhancements

- ❖ TCP has worked for the last several years to make improvements to the CoC's HMIS.

- ❖ This work was done to address:

  - ➢ Community feedback on the functionality of the system;

  - ➢ HMIS's impact on the delivery of services; and

  - ➢ Software and tech features that were not available when TCP first implemented HMIS in the District (in the early 2000s).

HMIS Enhancements

❖ Where we were (pre-changes):

➢ Completely "closed" system

➢ "Flat" database structure

➢ Users having multiple log-ins

➢ Consumers having multiple records in HMIS

➢ Outdated policies and procedures
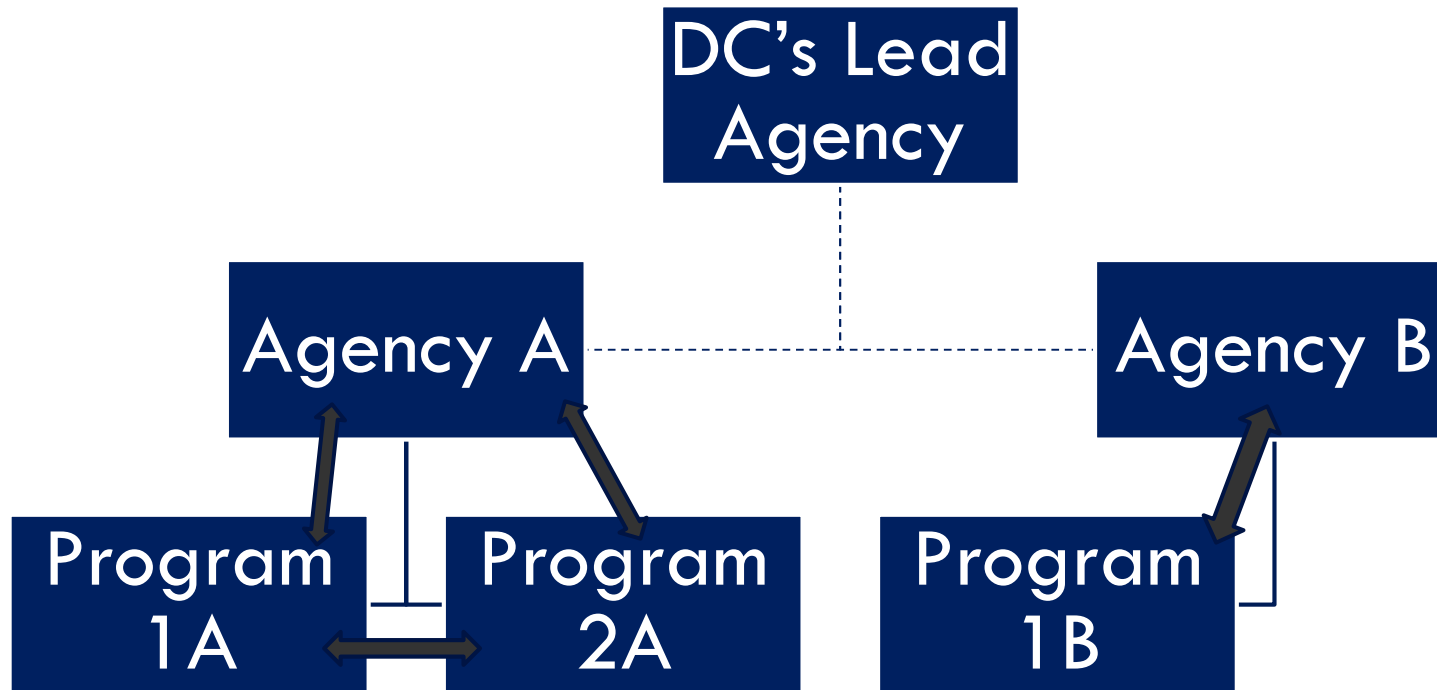
Old Provider Structure
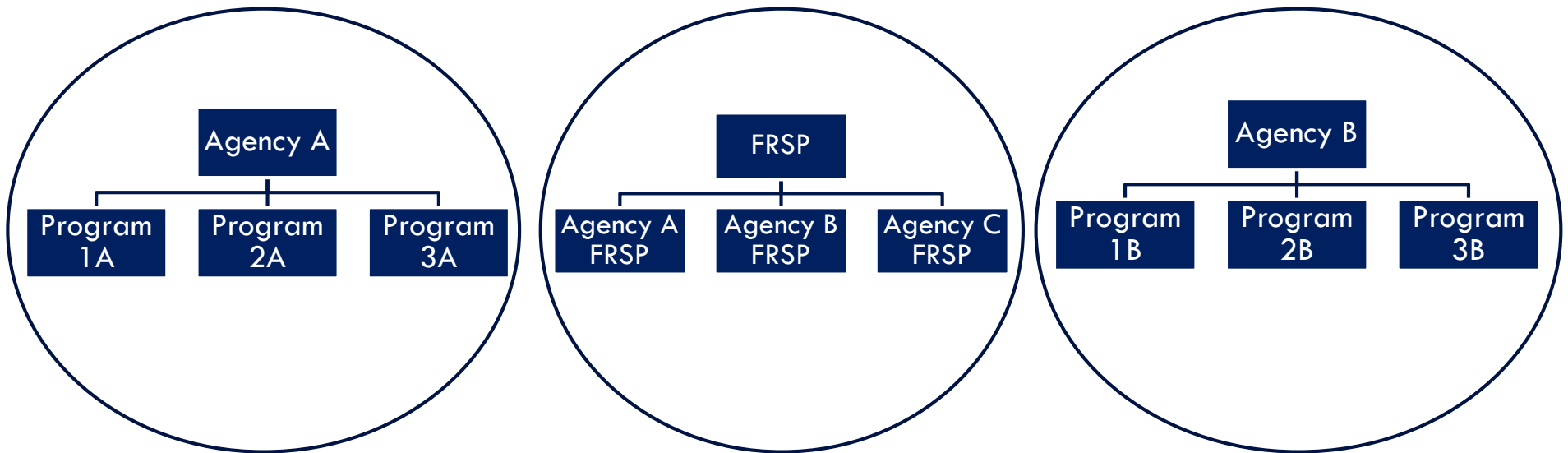
HMIS Enhancements

❖ **Where we are now:**

➢ Restructured provider "tree"

➢ Users have a single log-in

➢ Clients have a single record (with limited shared identifiers)

➢ Releases of Information are active in the system

➢ Workflow updates

➢ Updates made to policies and procedures for use of and gaining access to the HMIS

Current Provider Structure -- Visibility

- In the "closed" system, each provider agency could only see the client records created by their agency
  - This led to numerous duplicate records (for people using more than one agency) and to program participants answering the same questions multiple times at different locations
- The new visibility structure lets all agencies see whether someone newly presenting at their agency has a record in the system already, though the content of that record will not be visible without a signed Release of Information (ROI).

What's Shared Without an ROI

UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIERS (ONE ANSWER PER CLIENT RECORD)

- ❖ Name
- ❖ Name Data Quality
- ❖ Social Security Number
- ❖ Social Security Number Data Quality
- ❖ Date of Birth
- ❖ Date of Birth Data Quality
- ❖ Race
- ❖ Ethnicity
- ❖ Gender
- ❖ Veteran Status

UNIVERSAL PROJECT STAY ELEMENTS (ONE OR MORE VALUES PER PROJECT STAY)

- ❖ Disabling Condition (Yes/No)
- ❖ Project Start Date
- ❖ Project Exit Date
- ❖ Destination
- ❖ Relationship to Head of Household
- ❖ Client Location
- ❖ Housing Move in Date (for RRH and Permanent Housing projects)
- ❖ Prior Living Situation

Data Sharing Among Provider Groups

❖ The scope of how data is shared (enabled with the ROI) differs for groups of providers:

➢ Virginia Williams, and the providers it makes direct referrals to (HPP, STFH, Temporary Shelter, etc.)

➢ The Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement locations

➢ The general provider group beyond the "front line" providers for the CoC (two groups noted above), such as transitional housing, RRH, and PSH.

✓ Providers in this group will use new functionality called Enter Data As (EDA) to enable sharing when agreed to by the client

EDA and Data Sharing
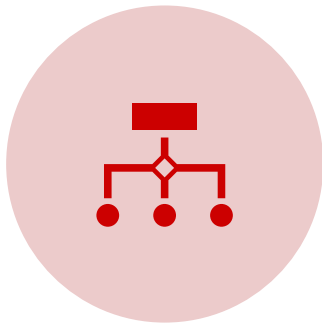
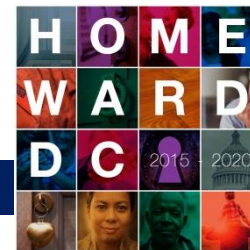ENTER DATA AS ALLOWS FOR MORE PINPOINTED DATA SHARING TO HAPPEN.

THIS MIRRORS CLIENTS WISHES AND INTENTIONS WHEN THEY SIGN RELEASES OF INFORMATION.

KEEPS CLIENT INFORMATION SAFE AND SECURE.

Data Sharing

Updated language around what is shared automatically within the system and what requires a Release of Information.

Stage 2 of these updates includes a Universal ROI, in process of being drafted.

HMIS Policy Updates

Training

Added: Timely log in

Added: Successful completion of training

Added: Annual Security Training Requirement

Added: Recertification Training

Added: HMIS Training as Remedial Training

Agency Admin

Who chooses the Agency Administrator

Duties of the Agency Administrator

Core Competencies of the Agency Administrator

Required trainings for the Agency Administrator

http://www.community-partnership.org/

The Community Partnership
For The Prevention
of Homelessness

Funding Monitors

Coordination with the Lead Agency

System Configuration

Data Entry

Expanded Reporting Access Agreement

User Violations

HMIS users and Partner Agencies must abide by all HMIS policies and procedures found in the HMIS Policies and/Procedures manuals, the User Agreement, and the Agency Agreement.

Repercussions for any violation will be assessed in a tiered manner. Each user or Partner Agency violation will face successive consequences – the violations do not need to be of the same type in order to be considered second or third violations. User violations do not expire. No regard is given to the duration of time that occurs between successive violations of the HMIS policies and procedures as it relates to corrective action.

http://www.community-partnership.org/

Updated User Agreement

The HMIS User Agreement has been updated and digitized.

All users must report any potential conflict of interest to their Agency Administrator. Users who are also clients with files in the HMIS are prohibited from entering or editing information in their own file. All users are also prohibited from entering or editing information in files of immediate family members. The Lead Agency may run an HMIS user audit trail report to determine if there has been a violation or suspected violation of the conflict-of-interest agreement.

The Community Partnership
For The Prevention
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2020 HUD CoC Program Funding

The HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is the primary source of federal funding supporting the community's efforts to prevent and end homeless.

The CoC Program is designed to:

❖ Promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness;

❖ Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families; and

❖ Promote access to and effect use of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families.

2020 HUD CoC Program Funding

Typically, CoC Program Grants are renewed annually as part of a competitive process. The annual competition opens when HUD releases the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to renew existing grants. In many years the NOFA includes opportunities to seek new funding under bonus funding opportunities and to repurpose funding through the reallocation process.

During a normal competition cycle, the District's full application package, or the Consolidated Application, will include the following:

❖ Project Applications for all renewing grants;

❖ Project Applications for consideration under the bonus opportunities;

❖ The Project Ranking; and

❖ Narrative and performance information on the community's response to homelessness.

2020 HUD CoC Program Funding

❖ The 2020 CoC Program renewal cycle has been delayed because of the pandemic.

❖ Recently we received information from the HUD Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAP) Office about the 2020 CoC Grant renewal process.

❖ The most recent COVID relief bill contains language allowing HUD to renew existing CoC Program grants noncompetitively.

2020 Grant Renewal:

❖ HUD will publish a list of grants to be renewed.

❖ There will be not be a formal application process. Once the list of grants is finalized, HUD will move forward with conditional awards and grant agreement execution.

2020 HUD CoC Program Funding

Noncompetitive Grant Renewal:

❖ HUD will publish a list of grants eligible for renewal.

❖ Collaborative Applicants will be given the opportunity to review and correct the list as needed.

❖ There will be no application process. Once the list of grants is finalized, we will move directly to conditional award and grant agreement execution.

❖ This process does not include opportunities to fund new programs. Meaning:

  ➢ There will be no new Permanent Housing or DV Bonuses this year; and

  ➢ We will not have the opportunity to reallocate grants this year. Reallocation takes all or part of an existing grant to create new programming.

❖ TCP will share the final list of renewals with the ICH Executive Committee.

2020 HUD CoC Program Grant Renewal

Noncompetitive Grant Renewal:

❖   There will be no project ranking.

❖   We will not need to set community priorities.

CoC Key Contacts

TCP Contacts:

❖ Jose Lucio: jlucio@community-partnership.org

❖ Tom Fredericksen: tfredericksen@community-partnership.org

❖ Jenn Miné: jmine@community-partnership.org

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Estimating Need

- ❖ Household Pulse Survey (HPS) from US Census Bureau continues to be best source

  - ➢ For more information, see https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/hhp/2020/wk21/housing1b_week21.xlsx

- ❖ Around 40,000 households in the District have lost jobs or income & have rental arrears

  - ➢ ~30k households below $75,000 MFI
  - ➢ ~11k households below $25,000 MFI

Prevention Update

The Mayor extended the public health emergency until the end of March; the eviction moratorium will be in place through May 2021 (60 days after the end of the public health emergency).

New Resource:

❖ COVID Relief Bill - extends the CDC's federal eviction moratorium through January 31 and includes $25 billion nationally in emergency rental assistance.

  ➢ DC will receive the state minimum, which is expected to be $200 million.

  ➢ Treasury has not released the funds or the program guidance yet.

  ➢ DHS is already working closely with DHCD and other District agency partners to track the emerging details about how the funds can be used in order to quickly implement a coordinated, interagency effort to get these funds to households in need.

  ➢ We will provide additional information as soon as it becomes available.

Ongoing Tenant Resources:

❖ Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) hotline - 202-719-6560 and Tenants Rights and Resources, available at https://ota.dc.gov/

❖ Rental Assistance Programs - DHS's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and DHCD's COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP). More info here: https://dhs.dc.gov/service/eviction-prevention

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Program Overview

❖ The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) helps DC residents who are facing housing emergencies by providing funds to assist with rent arrears or rehousing.

  ➢ Overdue rent (at least 30 days), including late costs and court fees;

  ➢ Security deposit and/or first month's rent

  ➢ ERAP does not pay utilities, mortgage payments, or any housing expense other than those listed above

❖ Available to residents earning up to 40% of Area Median Income (AMI) in the last 30 days.

ERAP Emergency Amendment Act

D.C. Act 23-455 was introduced by Council and became effective November 2, 2020 (expiring in 90 days from the effective date on February 1, 2021). https://development.code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/acts/23-455.html

New requirements under the Act include:

❖ Increasing income eligibility from 125% Federal Poverty Guideline to 40% AMI. ERAP checks the household's income 30 days prior to the application.

❖ Residents are now able to self-certify if they are unable to provide supporting documents (e.g., bank statements, birth certificates, SSN cards, proof of income, etc.).

New Funding Caps:

❖ Increase the rental assistance cap from a fixed $4,250 to up to five times fair market monthly rent per HUD's Rent Reasonableness guideline per the zip code and bedroom size. The revised average rental amount would be $10,205.

❖ Eligible households may apply for ERAP twice within a 12-month period during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and within sixty days of the expiration of the public health emergency.

ERAP Emergency Amendment Act

❖ The changes reflected in the Emergency Rental Assistance Reform Emergency Amendment Act are implemented as of November 2, 2020

❖ DHS is in the process of finalizing the legal sufficiency review of the ERAP Emergency and Proposed regulation

❖ We will notify stakeholders when the regulation is published for public comment

Updates to the ERAP Application Process

We are working on developing an enhanced ERAP/CHAP application platform to:

- ❖ Allow residents

- ❖ To upload documents

- ❖ Check their application status

- ❖ Be able to submit one common application

On December 10, 2020, the ERAP online application process was updated to avoid the need to schedule an appointment

Current ERAP Application Process

Online: Residents can use the online application platform to for ERAP at: https://dhs.dc.gov/service/emergency-rental-assistance-program

❖ During the Public Health Emergency residents are encouraged to apply online

Drop Off/Call: Residents may also apply for ERAP by downloading the ERAP Application from the DHS website and dropping-off the completed application to an ERAP provider, or call provider for assistance:

❖ Catholic Charities The Southeast Family Center-2812 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20020- (202) 338-3100

❖ Salvation Army (NW Office) -1434 Harvard Street, NW Suite B Washington, DC 20009 -(202) 332-5000

❖ United Planning Organization (UPO) - 2907 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20032-(202) 265-8200

❖ Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL)-2901 14th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009- (202) 265-8200

ERAP Data

- ❖ Total number of applications received and processed since 10/1/2020: **1,219**

  - ➢ Pending: 671

  - ➢ Approved: 441

  - ➢ Ineligible: 50

  - ➢ Abandoned: 57

- ❖ Total number of pre-applications (online assessment) submitted since 10/1/2020: **5,899**

- ❖ Total number of Seamless Doc applications received since 12/11/2020: **299**

- ❖ Currently, applications received between 10/2/2020 and 12/15/2020 are being processed

- ❖ Total rental assistance provided since October 2020: **$2,141,490.00**

- ❖ Total rental assistance provided between March – September (PHE): **$3,023,197.54**

  - ➢ Number of Applications: 2203

  - ➢ Number of Approved Applications: 854

DHS will share these data items on regular basis moving forward

Eviction Prevention Hotline

DC Launched an Online Eviction Prevention Resource Tool and Hotline

➢ After answering a few questions, residents are directed to resources for back rent, legal protections, and mortgage assistance.

➢ Residents can also call the hotline Monday-Friday from 7:00am-7:00pm to speak with staff who can help fill out the tool and relay information.

➢ Hotline staff are also assisting with the processing of applications and answering questions as residents complete the online ERAP application.

Call 1-888-349-8323 or visit gethelp.dc.gov

Rental Assistance FAQ

- ❖ Many residents have questions about how and when to utilize rental assistance
  - ➢ How long will the eviction moratorium last?
  - ➢ Should I apply for emergency rental assistance now or wait until the end of the eviction moratorium?
  - ➢ What are my rights during the eviction moratorium?

- ❖ DHS worked with OTA, DHCD and ICH to develop an FAQ to help answer these questions, and more.
- ❖ FAQ can be found on DHS website and HERE.

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Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus Check)
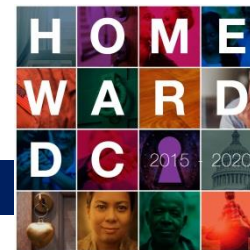
❖ IRS & Treasury now delivering 2nd round of payments

❖ Most people will get payments automatically including

  ➢ eligible taxpayers who filed a 2019 tax return

  ➢ SSI/SSDI and VA beneficiaries who did not file returns

  ➢ Anyone who successfully registered for 1st round using **Non-Filers** tool (at irs.gov)

❖ **Get My Payment** tool (at irs.gov) will confirm:

  ➢ if 2nd payment is on its way

  ➢ if 1st payment was sent &

  ➢ type of payment: direct deposit or mail

- ❖ The following people **WILL NOT** be able to use the **Get My Payment** tool for this 2nd round

  - ➢ Did not file a 2019 tax return

  - ➢ Did not use the Non-Filers tool for the 1st round

- ❖ Eligible people who will not receive payment, may claim Recovery Rebate Credit on line 30 of their 2020 tax return

- ❖ ICH working with DHS and homeless service providers to direct clients to the appropriate income tax help.

Please contact ich.info@dc.gov with any recommendations/insights to free income tax help, particularly those focused on serving our population.

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❖ **$4.28 YHDP Federal Grant**

  ➢ One RFP for Youth Rapid Rehousing OR Youth Joint Transitional

  ➢ One RFP for Site-Based Youth Permanent Supportive Housing

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Timeline for RFP release:

- ✓ Release RFP January 11, 2021

- ✓ Pre-Bidders Conference February 1, 2021

- ✓ RFP Applications Due February 22nd

- ✓ Review Panel/Process from February 23rd through March 26th, 2021

- ✓ New review process
  - o Tentatively 2 weeks for review; 2 weeks for interviews
  - o Include Youth Action Board members and other non-conflicting stakeholders

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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**

Recap on Decisions

1) Committee Leadership: Standing Committee Co-Chair positions should be filled by –

   ➢ Option B: Any interested community partner with appropriate expertise. (81.3%)

2) Co-Chair Voice at Decision-Making Table: To ensure stakeholders investing time in co-chairing committees & work groups have a voice at decision-making tables –

   ➢ Option 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. (37.5%)

3) Work Group Co-Chair Selection: When more than one individual is interested in serving as a co-chair for a Work Group, selection should be made in the following manner –

   ➢ Option C (new): When a new Work Group is formed, the Standing Committee co-chairs will make the initial selection. If/when turnover occurs, Work Group stakeholders will make the selection. (81.3%)

4) Consumer Voice: To expand/enhance efforts to incorporate consumer voice in homeless service system planning and decision-making, the ICH should –

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

   ➢ Option 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.)

   ➢ **Option D: Items B and C above – (46.7%)**

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.

Issue #6. Establish Public Awareness/Education WG

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?

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