



Mayor Muriel Bowser
City Administrator Rashad M. Young



Interagency Council on Homelessness Strategic Planning Committee



June 23, 2020

Agenda



- ❖ Strategic Planning Committee FY20-21 Work Plan
- ❖ HDC 2.0 Objective 7.5 – Racial Equity
- ❖ HDC 2.0 Objective 7.4 – Trauma
- ❖ CARES Act ESG Funding
- ❖ “Reopening” – What Does it Mean for the CoC?



- ❖ **Strategic Planning Committee FY20-21 Work Plan**
- ❖ HDC 2.0 Objective 7.5 – Racial Equity
- ❖ HDC 2.0 Objective 7.4 – Trauma
- ❖ CARES Act ESG Funding
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Homeward DC 2.0 Objective 7.5: Review System Operations through a Racial Equity Lens

Convene an expert task force, including people with lived experience, to review homeless services system operations through a lens of racial equity, focusing on issues such as leadership and decision-making, access to services, and quality of services, to ensure we – as the CoC – are aware of and responsible for ways we contribute to issues of racial discrimination and oppression.

Key Context



- ❖ In spring 2019, the Homeless Services Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOCG) began discussion of a regional Racial Equity initiative.
- ❖ We hosted conversations with two key national organizations:
 - National Innovative Services
 - Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC)

Where do things stand?



- ❖ Each jurisdiction has committed resources to the project.
- ❖ MWCOCG has determined that it has to do a procurement.
- ❖ Tentative Timeline:
 - Late-June to mid-July: Draft RFP
 - Late July: COG Homeless Services Committee Review/Feedback
 - August: Finalize RFP/Publish
 - September: Selection Panel Convenes to Review Proposals
 - October: Execute Contract
 - Late Oct/Early Nov: Consultant begins



Discussion Questions



- ❖ What is(are) the most important thing(s) you'd like to get out of this work?
- ❖ What are the most important topics we should start with/prioritize?
- ❖ How would you like to be involved?
- ❖ Is there “pre-work” that agencies/partners could or should do over the summer?

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Trauma-Informed Care



Homeward DC 2.0 Objective 7.4: Review System Operations through a Lens of Trauma

Convene an expert task force, including people with lived experience, to review systemwide operations through a lens of trauma, with particular emphasis on front door/intake protocols and shelter operations, to ensure facilities, protocols, and services are grounded in principles of trauma-informed care.


DV Strategic Plan



Background

- ❖ The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) issued a grant in November 2019 to create a strategic plan for domestic violence housing.
- ❖ The Community Partnership (TCP) along with seven D.C.-based providers (Calvary Women's Services, Community Family Life Services, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, DCSafe, Domestic Alliance for Safe Housing, My Sister's Place, and House of Ruth) submitted a collaborative application and was awarded the grant in December 2019.
- ❖ The plan is being created with the support of a consultant (The Raben Group).

Strategic Plan Requirements

- ❖ The plan must identify existing domestic violence-specific housing and funding streams, provide recommendations to address existing needs and gaps, and estimate the financial investments necessary to implement the plan.
- ❖ It must also be informed by survivors' experiences and include input from providers, advocates, and government agencies and must align with the  City's Homeward DC plan to end long-term homelessness.

DV Strategic Plan: Timeline



March – June

Information Gathering

Program Committee

Individual Interviews:

- OVSIG
- DC Gov't Agencies
- Community Orgs.
- Advocates
- Survivors
- Funders

Data Committee

DC Inventory

- Services
- Shelter/Housing

Needs Assessment

- Survey of providers and services

Steering Committee

Create Systems Map & Intake Model



Community Engagement

Program Committee

Virtual Roundtables:

- Families
- LGBTQ+
- Youth
- Racial Equity
- Trauma-informed Care
- Criminal Justice and Court Involvement
- DV Providers

Steering Committee

Survivor Roundtables:

- Steering committee agencies conduct internal focus groups with survivors.



July

Analysis & Draft Plan

Data Committee

Needs Assessment Analysis

Inventory Gaps Analysis

Program Committee

Compile interview, roundtable, and survivor focus group information.

All Committees

Draft Plan



August

Final Plan Approval

Steering Committee

Approve Plan

Discussion Questions



- ❖ We do not currently have resources identified to hire an outside consultant. Do folks think we have the bandwidth within the Strategic Planning Committee to manage this work or should we try to identify resources to bring in an outside expert?
- ❖ What are the main objectives people want to get out of the project?
- ❖ If we try to move the project forward within the Committee, do people have a vision for what that looks like (who can manage/staff the work)?
- ❖ What part(s) of the system are most important to start with?

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ESG CARES Act Funds - Update



- The District has received a total of \$27.7 million in COVID-19 Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) - a program administered by DHS.
 - CARES Act ESG funding can support a broad range of activities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, including outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention
 - First ESG Award - \$4.6 million: DHS is using its first ESG award of \$4.6 million to cover the costs of access to overflow emergency shelter hotels for families during the pandemic

ESG CARES Act Funds - Update



Second ESG Award - \$23M:

- Majority of funding will be used to meet the needs of existing system given anticipated COVID-19 increases and budget reductions in FY21. We will know more about gaps when budget finalized in July and can share any updates to the plan.
 - DHS priority funding areas:
 - FRSP: Current FY21 funding for 1,389 families. DHS anticipates 2,300+
 - Hotels: Need for emergency overflow into FY21
- Question for discussion:
- What are highest community priorities for ESG funding?



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- ❖ **“Reopening” – What Does it Mean for the CoC?**
 - District Re-Opening Plans
 - DHS Re-Opening Plans
 - Discussion questions

DC's Phases of Re-Opening

Recommendations to the Mayor

OUR VALUES

Health

Opportunity

Prosperity

Equity

REOPEN DC ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

OUR STAGES

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
What is the nature of the pandemic?	Declining virus transmission	Only localized transmission	Sporadic transmission	Effective vaccine or cure
Gather?	Up to 10 people	Up to 50 people	Up to 250 people	All gatherings
Travel?	Discouraged	Discouraged	Can resume	All travel
Work remotely?	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Encouraged	New normal
What can we do?	Key low-risk activities with strong safeguards	Additional activities with strong safeguards	Higher-risk activities, with safeguards	A "new normal" for DC, with all activities as close to normal as possible

GATING CRITERIA

Level of community spread
Healthcare system capacity

Testing capacity
Public health system capacity



OUR SAFEGUARDS

UNIVERSAL SAFEGUARDS

For Individuals

- Physical distancing of at least 6 ft. when not at home
- Mask use in public spaces
- Stringent personal hygiene
- Staying home when sick
- Regular disinfection of surfaces

For Employers and Venues

- Physical distancing of at least 6 ft. for employees and patrons
- Regular cleaning and strict sanitation
- Use of health screenings and protective equipment
- Protections for workers and their families, particularly vulnerable persons
- Education of employees about COVID-19
- Strategies for accommodating ill employees

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Protected through collective commitment to universal safeguards
- Provided employer flexibility
- Easy access to hygiene, sanitation supplies, testing and safe isolation

For more information on what DC Health is monitoring and tracking, please visit: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>

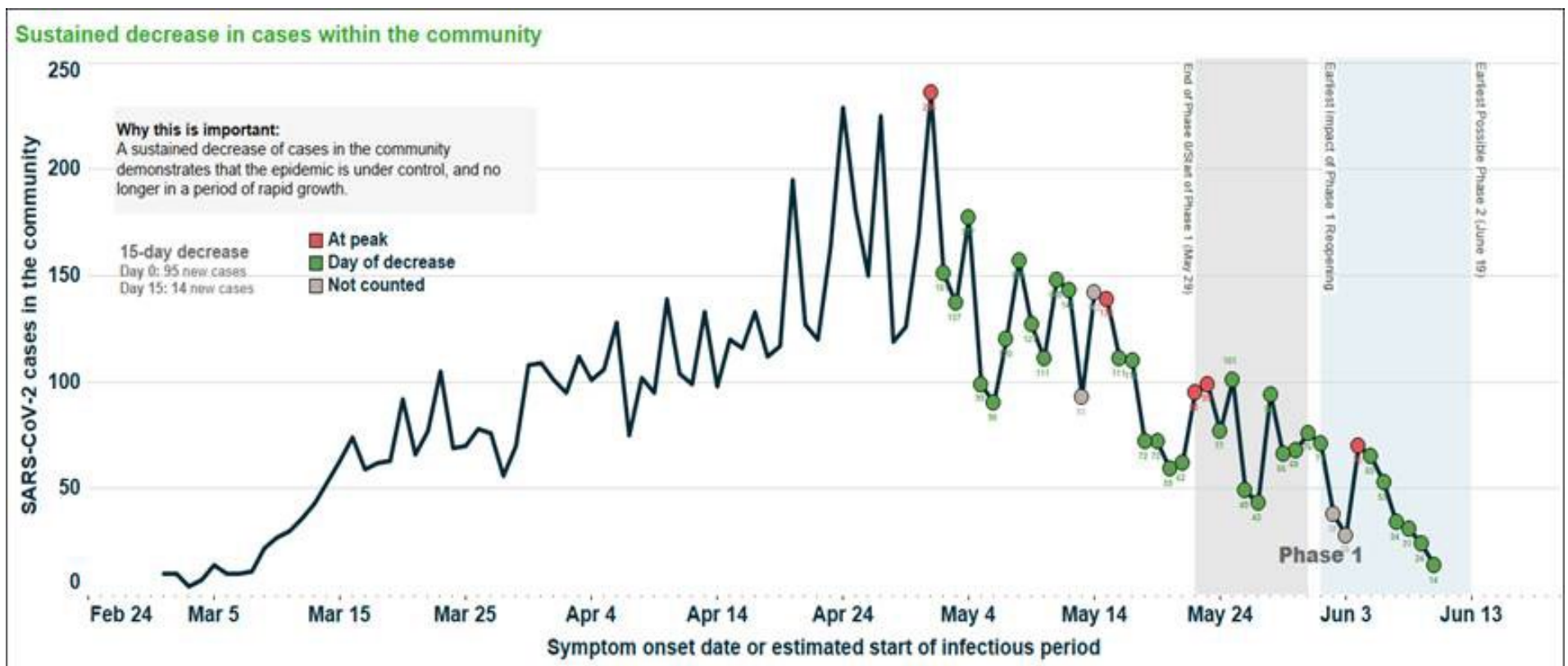
DC Health Metrics for Re-Opening

Metric		Phased Reopening
COVID-19 Case Decline		
	Sustained decrease in community spread	14-day decrease
	Low transmission rate (R_t)	$R_t < 1$ for 3 days
Testing Capacity		
	Ability to test all 1) symptomatic, 2) at-risk healthcare workers, 3) essential workers, and 4) close contacts of all new positive cases	Ability to test all four groups
Health Care System Capacity		
	Sufficient healthcare capacity without surge	<80% over 7 days
Public Health System Capacity		
	Sufficient contact tracing capacity for all new cases and their close contacts	Contact tracing attempt of new cases within 1 day and their close contacts within 2 days

Learn more: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/reopendc>

Where we are now (as of 6/19/20)

The District has experienced 15 days of sustained decrease in community spread of COVID-19 during Phase One.



CoC Re-Opening – Guiding Principles

- ❑ Phasing out modified operations for homeless services **not directly tied to District's Phases.**
- ❑ **We are in this together!** Continued input from key stakeholders (DC Health, community partners, providers) important to making decisions about when and how to safely resume “normal” operations
- ❑ **Universal safeguards** – PPE, social distancing, rigorous hygiene practices – are critical as activities increase
- ❑ **Testing, screening and contact tracing** remain key to continuing to curb infection rate
- ❑ Continued **federal funding** to maintain modified operations will be a constraint.

Anticipated Changes in the Coming Weeks

- ❑ Congregate Shelters – *no changes to modified operations*
 - ✓ ISAQ and PEPV to continue
- ❑ DHS-Funded Outreach – *Full staff capacity by July 1*
- ❑ DHS-Funded Day Centers – DDSC limited, Zoe's Doors & Sasha Bruce open
- ❑ Virginia Williams Family Resource Center – Open, intake via telephone / Shelter Hotline
- ❑ Case Management (FRSP, RRH-I, PSH, ERAP, HPP, etc.)
 - ❑ Providers will be asked to develop a plan that balances staff and client safety & wellbeing (a mix of remote and in person visits)

Low-Barrier Shelters

New Testing Strategy – Mass Testing

- ❑ Identifies asymptomatic positive staff and clients
- ❑ Initially triggered by one positive case at a shelter site
- ❑ Follow up testing will recur until no positives
- ❑ Extent of testing may vary depending on layout of site

Shelter capacity will remain at reduced levels

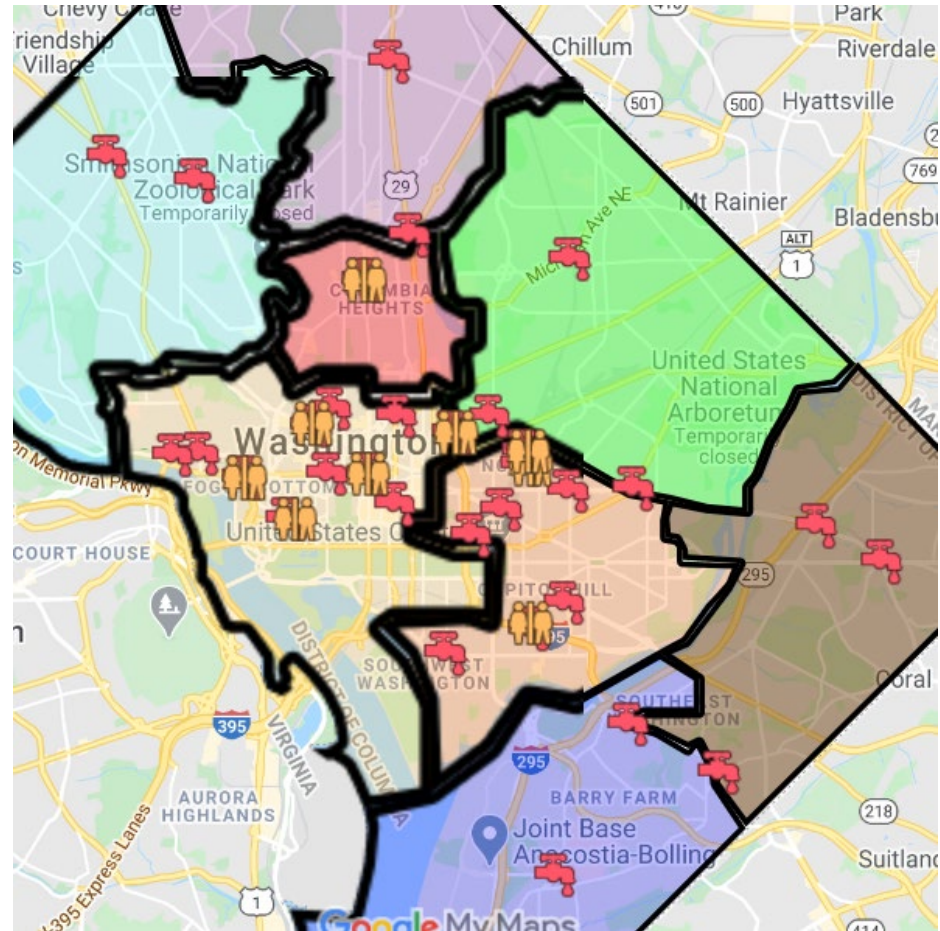
- ❑ LBS currently operating at 58-68% capacity
- ❑ DHS developing metrics for when to increase capacity in congregate sites
- ❑ Working to identify sites to add capacity this fall/winter

Extended hours, meals and reduced transportation

- ❑ Strategies to reduce movement will remain in place for now

Outreach and Support for Unsheltered Individuals

- Outreach returning to full staff capacity **July 1**
- No change to current food, showers, laundry, charging stations access
- No change to handwashing stations or porta potties



Case Management and Housing Process

Case Management

- ❑ Focus on planning for phasing in more in-person case management
- ❑ In-home visits limited and with adequate safeguards

Housing Process

- ❑ CAHP restarted matches for individuals in May and families/youth in shared living spaces in June
- ❑ DHS, DCHA and the ICH have developed virtual housing and lease-up processes (e-signatures, virtual voucher briefings, unit viewings and inspections)
- ❑ Additional protocol being developed to clarify roles, responsibilities, and expectations

Questions for Discussion

- ❑ As we look towards resuming some in-person services (e.g., housing search and placement supports, case management services) what are your biggest needs or concerns?
 - How can we best balance the safety and well-being of staff and vulnerable clients?
- ❑ Have you had any important insights or lessons learned within your agency that you want to share?
- ❑ Do you have questions that you feel haven't yet been raised that you want to make sure are on our radar?

Additional Information

DHS modified operations:

<https://dhs.dc.gov/page/dhs-modified-operations-during-covid-19>

Web portal for homeless service providers:

<https://dhs.dc.gov/page/resources-homeless-service-providers>

Central inbox for requests and inquiries: dhs.covid19@dc.gov

Share tips, experiences, and photos to post:

dora.taylor-lowell@dc.gov



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