



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting Details	Date: 18 April 2023	Time: 2:30 – 4 pm	Location: Webex
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Meeting Notes

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Kelly S McShane (Executive Director, Community of Hope) thanked everyone who joined the meeting. Theresa Silla (Executive Director, ICH) walked through the housekeeping items including:

- Recording committee meetings,
- Using the chat function for introductions and partner announcements/reminders,
- Adopting prior meeting notes and joining the meeting listserv.

Madeleine Solan (Senior Policy and Program Advisor, DHS) also introduced herself as co-chair.

II. ICH COMMENTS TO THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

The ICH had intended for a quick level-setting, 3 agency presentations, and a review of comments received to date. However, DOES was not available so agency presentations were limited to the 2 agencies represented: DCHA and DBH.

A. LEGISLATED MANDATE & REQUEST FROM COUNCIL

Director Silla (ICH) provided an overview of the Comments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget, including:

- An introduction to the legislated mandate,
- The request from Council to expedite Comments and make them available for Council Mark-Up, and
- ICH efforts to accommodate the request.

See slides 6 – 9 for details.

B. DCHA BUDGET PRESENTATION

Director Brenda Donald (DCHA) walked through the local portion of the DC Housing Authority budget that is included in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. See slides 10 – 14 for details.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback

- **Total Budget and Housing Allocations:**
 - **Q:** What is the LRSP funding for FY24 including a breakdown by program type (PSH or TAH) and population served (singles and families)?
A (DCHA): The funding in the DCHA budget is to support rental assistance from the inception of the program through FY22 allocations. Since FY22, new allocations are in the DHS budget.

A (DHS): Rachel Pierre (FSA Administrator, DHS) responded on behalf of DHS to clarify that there are no PSH and TAH allocations for FY24. Matches are still being made for FY22, so FY24 will be used as a catch-up year. To track progress on voucher utilization, see the [DHS Storyboard](https://dhs.dc.gov/page/tracking-dhs-voucher-utilization) available on their website at <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/tracking-dhs-voucher-utilization>.

- **Need to Expand Available Public Housing**

- **Q:** Call for addressing racial equity in access to affordable housing by allocating additional funds for repairs and expanding public housing as quickly as possible.

A: DCHA is eager to continue working with the ICH to highlight the larger Housing Authority budget including efforts underway related to maintenance and repair versus renovations and redevelopment.

- **Decoupling Vouchers from Services, Moving on from PSH Case Management Services**

- **Q:** For clients that do not need the wrap-around services offered under PSH, how can they continue to receive rental assistance, and free up the PSH slot?

A: The Housing Authority can investigate the particulars of a case. However, voucher allocations are made for target populations, thus, there is not a clear path from transferring from one voucher type to another.

- **Staffing Capacity for Expediting Voucher Applications & Building Inspections**

- **Q:** Is there funding to ensure there are enough DCHA staff to process LSRP applications quickly and perform inspections within the standard inspection timelines?

A: The available funding includes administrative fees for processing the LRSP vouchers. These administrative fees cover staffing costs. In terms of expediting business processes, the DCHA and DHS are working with The Lab@DC and HCI to review the business operations of vouchers with the goal of streamlining processes over the next few months. In person inspections are currently underway. The efforts to streamline business processes will also review inspections.

- **Payment for Additional Fees**

- **Q:** When a client is moving into an apartment or project housing, are fees covered?

A: Yes, security deposits are covered within assistance.

C. DBH BUDGET PRESENTATION

Director Barbara Bazron (DBH) walked through the DBH presentation. See slides 15 – 33 for details.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback

- **Improving Crisis Outreach and Response to Shelters**

- **Q:** Will the budget allow Crisis Response Teams to support shelter providers when clients are in crisis?

A: Services to shelters are extremely important to DBH and we are working closely with DHS to deliver support.

- **Improving Response Times for Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams**

- **Q:** Why does it take so long (up to 24 hours) to receive crisis response services?

A: It should not be 24 hours before a response. Please contact Dr. Bazron or Dr. Bebout directly if this is the case.

- **Partnering with Churches to Deliver Mobile Crisis Outreach Services**

- **Q:** Any considerations for teaming with church-based outreach ministry with non-pharma-based personal growth and change?

A: Yes, DBH has contracts with church-based organizations, and we need to do more here. Agreement that faith-based communities are important partners.

- **Program Design for Housing Case Management Services**

- **Q:** There is \$1.7M allocated to support housing case management services. Do we know anything about program design?

A: The Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services is convening DCHA, DHS and DBH to determine the appropriate target population. Program design will be fleshed out as part of that process. While managing housing is outside of the DBH wheelhouse, DBH is excited to take responsibility for providing the needed services and supporting clients in community.

- **Referrals to the Sobering Center**

- **Q:** How will referrals work with Sobering Centers?

A: Clients can walk up to the site. Core Service Agencies, DC Fire & EMS are entities that can bring people to the center. MPD may also bring clients, but this is a voluntary service. A client can come for as long as needed. Peers are there to help a client think through and enroll in the recovery process.

D. COMMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE

Director Silla (ICH) reviewed the handout on Comments Received To Date.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback

- **Deadline for Providing Comments.** Request to be more flexible with definition of close of business as some members might need till after 5 pm to provide their input. Feedback that is provided anytime before 04/19 will be included.
- **Need to Review Budget with a Racial Equity Lens.** Request to establish a process for reviewing the proposed budget with a racial equity lens by either the Mayor's Office of Racial Equity (DC ORE) or the Council Office of Racial Equity (CORE).
- **Applying a Strategic Lens to Feedback.** Request by highlight resources that prevent and end homelessness like ERAP, PSH, and TAH.
- **Soliciting Feedback and Improving the Process of Gathering Comments.** Recognizing that this is the first time that the ICH has officially gathered comments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget, recommendation to debrief on the process and the report at the upcoming ICH Executive Committee meeting.
- **Incorporating Private Chat Messages:** note that ICH staff have received private chat messages which are most appropriately integrated into the process by incorporating them into meeting records and ultimately the ICH Comments to the Proposed Budget.

Specifically, DCCADV flagged the following request via chat to the ICH Director.

- **Request to Reallocate \$1.2M of DBH Funds for Survivors of Domestic Violence**
 - Currently, no DBH funding is directed to domestic violence service providers offering services within the context of wrap-around services. While the DCCADV notes the overall 2.2% increase to the DBH budget, a reallocation of an additional \$1.2 million toward serving the mental health needs of survivors of domestic violence within domestic violence survivor service providers will ensure more timely counseling services are available to survivors regardless of their ability to safely access medical

insurance. The current need greatly exceeds the available resources: some programs have months-long waiting lists and others not able to accept new clients. It is the clients who are already most marginalized who lack the most access to therapy and mental health supports. The longer we avoid prioritizing these populations, the more their trauma compounds and the more it costs us in the long run. It is time for DC Council to acknowledge the link between domestic violence and Behavioral Health by dedicating \$1.2 million toward mental health care for domestic violence survivors.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

None identified.

IV. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

Kelly S McShane noted that the meeting was adjourning right at 4 pm.

Next Meeting	Date: 27 June 2023	Time: 2:30 – 4 pm	Location: Webex
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Participant List (46 attendees, 24 organizations)

Adam Rocap (Miriam's Kitchen)	Synina Pugh (ICH)	Jennifer Olney (PTEH, CFDC)
Ann Chauvin (Woodley House)	Theresa Silla (ICH)	Karen Cunningham (Everyone Home DC)
Annemarie Cuccia (Street Sense Media)	Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (PFFC, CEWG)	Kate Coventry (DCFPI)
Barbara Bazron (DBH)	Ms. Naomi (PFFC, CEWG)	Kecia Tinubi (Woodley House)
Marina Soto (DBH)	Nikila Smith (PFFC, CEWG)	Kris Thompson (Calvary Services)
Betty Gentle (SOME)	Qadir El Amin (PFFC, CEWG)	Lindsay Curtin (DHS)
Nechama Masliansky (SOME)	Robert Warren (PFFC, CEWG)	Rachel Pierre (DHS)
Brenda Donald (DCHA)	Rachelle Ellison (PFFC, CEWG)	Madeleine Solan (DHS)
Hammere Gebreyes (DCHA)	Queenie Featherstone (PFFC, CEWG)	Toya Fisher (DHS)
Jenna Cevasco (DCHA)	Elisabeth Young (TCP)	Lynn Amano (Friendship Place)
Charlene Flaherty (COH)	Leigh Cordeiro (TCP)	Mariesa Robinson (DCCADV)
Jamey Burden (COH)	Samantha Nolet (TCP)	Nerissa Lemon (OCA)
Kelly Sweeney McShane (COH)	Gary Maring (N Street Village)	R Robinson (Concerned Citizen)
Christy Respress (Pathways DC)	Kenyatta Brunson (N Street Village)	Wes Heppler (Legal Clinic)
Daisean Foster (ICH)	Iris Osuji (CNHED)	Christine Wong (Concerned Citizen)
Donna Harris (ICH)		