



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

YOUTH COMMITTEE

SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:
Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

Meeting Details	Date: 26 January 2023	Time: 10:00AM to 11:30AM	Location: Webex
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Meeting Notes

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

ICH Advisor, Jorge Membreño (he/him), welcomed attendees and introduced Committee co-chair, Sabrina Burrell (DHS). Jorge also covered additional housekeeping items for ICH meeting standards outlined on slides 2-4 before reviewing the meeting agenda.

II. DISCUSSION

A. CAHP PRIORITIZATION: PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

Samantha Nolet (TCP) presented this discussion item. Information is outlined in PPT slides 7-12.

Concerns/Recommendation/Feedback:

- **Youth aged 24 & “Aging Out”:** Additional information requested on addressing challenges for youth turning 24 or aging out of the homeless youth services network of services. Youth aged 24 comprise 15% of the Youth By-Name List (320 youth not yet matched to a housing resource). Some notes on the topic:
 - Some youth enter the system at various ages, some who very quickly turn 24 and are at risk of aging out of youth-specific services.
 - Feedback that ICH has been tracking from other youth workgroups are for youth who were exited successfully, but returning to youth drop-in centers, etc. either at age 24 or older than 24.
 - Is there a way to review exit process for youth programs to do warm handoffs, etc.?
 - Connection to status of program vacancies reviewed in the Shelter Capacity meeting on 1/25: ES facilities are at 59% occupancy while ETH is 100% and TH is at 96%. Potential reasons could be that youth are connected to individuals who are in the single adult system. Based on the By-name List we know that 40% of youth not matched to a housing resource are accessing single adult low barrier shelter. Youth work in the evenings and might need access 24/7 to shelter to feel comfortable and desire intervention.
- **Leveraging Relevant Legislation:** Question on Rapid Re-Housing Reform Amendment Act of 2022 and impact on this challenge of system flow, experience of youth aging out of youth specific services and establishing need for new and different resources.
 - ICH will need to do more research on the bill, noting that much of the language is likely related to the family system and the model of progressive engagement with the FRSP program.
 - Caitlin Cocilova (DC Council) introduced herself and offered assistance with following up on this question given the complexity of the housing system and Council’s commitment to accurately reflect the needs of the system without undoing the work being done in community forums.
 - Director Silla briefly described the key differences between the family and other subpopulations such as the youth subsystem. More specifically, that the family subsystem exercises a progressive engagement

model with RRH (FRSP) for all families entering shelter where as the single adult and youth subsystems do not have the resources to promote similar system flow.

- **Reality of Expansion:** Ishan Heru (Community Connections) noting timeliness of this discussion and upcoming performance oversight and budget hearings and if appropriate to request for expansion of programs and RRH. Potential for hybrid model of progressive engagement for youth and exploring shared housing options.
 - Director Silla (ICH) discussed the need to properly evaluate any time there is a request for expansion of programs citing the delay in the District and provider's ability to absorb and scale up to accommodate the significant increase in FY22 resources. Need to determine what is reasonable for growth and quality services.
- **Variety of Housing Options:** Larry Villegas (OHR) shared that in 2020 the youth system heard more interest in shared housing, roommates, etc. instead of waiting for a voucher. Will be important to research other ways to help people achieve housing security for purposes of equity and achieve by the time they are ready to leave the youth system.
- **RRH for Young Adults:** Sheila Clark (Deputy Administrator, Youth Services Division DHS) shared that the RRH contract for youth will likely be re-bid for FY24 noting an opportunity to evaluate program standards. DHS will look to engage community for review and feedback and leverage ICH meetings to do this.
 - Director Silla (ICH) expressed appreciation for DHS' openness to feedback. Important to think through the service component of RRH, the housing component, supporting shared housing goals.
 - ICH can support with listening sessions to support DHS in redeveloping the solicitation for FY24.
 - It will be important to include our clients and frontline staff. Allows us to advance racial equity and inclusion.
- Larry Villegas (OHR) shared resources available from HUD on RRH:
 - RRH Brief: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Rapid-Re-Housing-Brief.pdf>
 - Lessons learned in other jurisdictions: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Understanding-Rapid-Re-housing.pdf>

B. SOLID FOUNDATIONS 2.0: LAUNCHING THE PLANNING PROCESS

Jorge Membreño (ICH) covered this topic highlighting that the updated strategic plan will serve as the playbook to prevent and end youth homelessness. Please see slides 15 to 21 for more information as well as feedback recorded directly in the PPT slides.

Concerns/Recommendations/Feedback on Using Solid Foundations 1.0 as a Template

- **Evaluating Progress:** Question on progress with benchmarks from Solid Foundations 1.0. Do not have specific metrics with the objectives in the strategic plan, but it will still be helpful to review.
 - Perhaps it will be helpful to reframe how we outline goals and objectives for understanding our progress under Solid Foundations 2.0.
 - Spend a lot of time reviewing program occupancy and success. Deep belief that we can help youth end their homelessness and not return.
 - When talking about benchmarks, how can we dig into broader system goals related to exit destinations, connection to education, employment, connection to support networks?
 - Distinction between ending homelessness and poverty, so need to be realistic about what we are resourced to do, and we have to approach this discussion with nuance.
- **Intersection of Homelessness and Poverty:** Question on ICH's coordination with the Poverty Commission. ICH is hoping to present on this coordination in the ICH February Executive Committee.
- **Improving RRH:** Recommendation to look at RRH as a workforce development program. Community Connections has provided guidance and lessons learned on this to DHS and HUD to support further program development and orientation to program models.
- **Homelessness as a protected category in DC:** Incorporate understanding of homelessness as a protected trait in strategic planning process and how that could impact future grant requirements and claims of discrimination.

Larry Villegas (OHR) shared the following: <https://ohr.dc.gov/protectedtraits> and <https://ohr.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ohr/publication/attachments/OHR%20New%20Protected%20Traits%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

- **Regional Coordination:** Note from Ebony Grey (co-chair for Montgomery County Coalition on Homelessness) on potential work with the Collaboration Council and Montgomery County youth drop-in center. ICH noted possibility to leverage larger regional coordination within the COG since likely have youth who are crossing jurisdictions.
- **Existing Resources:** Have we looked at resources such as the recent publication by Point Source Youth on RRH? <https://www.pointsourceyouth.org/rapid-rehousing> and <https://www.pointsourceyouth.org/blog/explore-our-rapid-re-housing-handbook-20>

Concerns/Recommendations/Feedback on Using Homeward DC 2.0 as a Template

- **Balancing Number of Goals and Priorities:**
 - Director Silla (ICH) highlighted that the 12 goals and 140 strategies and activities across 12 goals in Homeward DC 2.0 is a lot!
 - One perspective is that if we develop a broader plan, we have flexibility and coverage to advance on different priorities. However, attention dictates what can be advanced.
 - Need to dissect who would do what for the number of goals and strategies included.
 - Emphasize the need to be inclusive of ideas while documenting input and feedback and balancing clarity and realistic on where priorities land across all goals and activities within the goals.
- **Inclusion of Youth with Lived Experience:** Recommendation to include youth who are already housed to share insight on program experience and services that would help avoid reexperience of homelessness.
- **Gap in Services for youth 25-30 years old:** Flagged by Sabrina Burrell (DHS).
 - Director Silla (ICH) identified how subpopulations are defined as a potential equity and inclusion issue when services and investments change based on age.
 - Sarah Roenfeldt (COH) shared agreement adding that “unfortunately, several of these youth ‘aged’ out of other programs and now are ‘aging’ out again, which is just re-traumatizing. We need a better system overall that connects and works together instead of in small sectors that only partially talk.”

Concerns/Recommendations/Feedback on Using Federal Strategic Plan “All In” as a Template

- **Homelessness and Experience of Violence:** Feedback from Robert Warren (PFFC, Person with Lived Experience) that need to emphasize long-term affordability just as housing options in any other population. Robert also noted that the increase in crime and the effect of violence in the District might also overlap with youth experiencing homelessness. Need to be intentional about creating resources to engage young adults, and this may positively impact the crime rate.
 - Director Silla (ICH) shared appreciation for the connection of our work with the violence youth are experiencing in the District, noting that we may not have truly grappled with safe housing for people at risk of violence. This has to do with how we identify and define vulnerability overall.
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Staying intentional and consistent with work of the ICH Racial Equity and Inclusion (REI) Workgroup. The federal strategic plan centers on equity. Appreciate the equal focus on the foundations and solutions included in the graphic on slide 20.
- **Crisis Response:** Homeless services system is struggling with medical and behavioral health services in addition to the crisis of homelessness. This includes substance use and shift in prevalence across youth experiencing homelessness. Crisis response should be no less important than housing solutions.

III. UPDATES

A. JOINT DHS/ICH/TCP OFFICE HOURS FOR YOUTH CAHP

The Committee did not have time to review this update directly. However, details are included in slide 23 in the PPT.

B. DHS YOUTH DIVISION PRIORITIES

Sheila Clark (DHS) reviewed DHS' Youth Division Priorities for 2023. Please see PPT slide 26.

C. ICH AND DHS PERFORMANCE/BUDGET HEARINGS

Director Silla (ICH) quickly reviewed the schedule for performance and budget oversight hearings. Information from this agenda topic is outlined on slide 25.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- **Youth Leadership Transitions**
 - Youth Committee co-chair, Lauren Puryear is leaving Covenant House Washington as of 01/30.
 - Once the 2022 ICH Members are onboarded, ICH will work with the new members of the ICH to identify Youth Committee and Workgroup co-chairs.
- **OSSE - Become an Ally Partner for DC Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness**
 - Point of Contact: Tasheen Stallings Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov
 - <https://osse.dc.gov/page/become-ally-partner-dc-children-and-youth-experiencing-homelessness>
 - To expand support and awareness for youth and families experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia, OSSE's Homeless Education Program has established the Ally Partner Program. Through the program, interested adults in local educational agencies, community-based organizations, and District of Columbia agencies assisting families and youth experiencing transitions in housing will receive training on how to become a trusted point of contact for students experiencing homelessness. Allies are adults who identify themselves as individuals to whom students can go for help, without worrying about stigma or embarrassment.
 - After completing the OSSE Ally Partner Training and NCHE webinar, you will receive an Ally Partner Program Certificate from OSSE's Homeless Education Program to certify that you have completed the requirements to be recognized as an Ally Partner for 2022-23 school year.
- **Constituent Services Worldwide (CSW)** has paid certification training and internships for 18 to 24-year-olds.
 - Enrollment in cosmetology, IT, Culinary, Media Arts, and Green Infrastructure certifications start February 13th. Virtual orientation is held every Wednesday at 11 am and open houses every Friday 5-8 pm. Register and learn more here:
 - Wednesday Virtual | <https://generalschedulingpage.as.me/orientation>
 - Friday In-person | <https://generalschedulingpage.as.me/openhouse>
 - ABOUT CSW | <https://youtu.be/QP00EIBUhxM>
- **LAYC Behavioral Health Program**
 - Offers free mental health therapy, substance use disorder counseling, and case management and is always looking for referrals for homeless youth and young adults ages 17-24.
 - Please send referrals to bhreferrals@layc-dc.org or email me directly at tyvon@layc-dc.org

V. SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT

Jorge Membreño adjourned the meeting and thanked attendees for their participation and discussion.

Next Meeting	Date: 27 April 2023	Time: 10:00AM to 11:30AM	Location: WebEx
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Participant List (51 attendees, 28 agencies)		
Ami Angell (The h3 Project) Aaron White (DBH) Amber Rieke (CLC) Angela Jones Hackley (Covenant House) Ashley Richardson (DHS) Caitlin Cocilova (DC Council) Candyce J Coates (TCP) Chelsey Brown (Covenant House) C.Rogers (Covenant House) Donna Harris (ICH) Dr Mayaalla MuQaddim Abdullah Al Saud (PFFC) Dylan Mattimore (Wanda Alston) Ebony Grey (Montgomery County Coalition for Homeless) Eileen Rosa (ICH) Fidel Ramos (LAYC) Frances Matovu (Community Connections) Gail Avent (TFCC)	Ishan Heru (Community Connections) Jazmine Brazier (Healthy Babies) Jessica Yepez Rufino (LAYC) Jorge Membreño (ICH) Kandice Louis (DASH) Kass Greene (DHS) Larry Villegas-Perez (OHR) Leslie-Ann Byam (DBH) Makenna Osborn (CLC) Marquita Smith (DHS) Nicole Broome (CFSA) Nicole Lee-Mwandha (OSSE) Nineeka Phillips (Salvation Army) Pam Cary (HER Resiliency Center) Rachel White (DC Kids) Rachelle Ellison (PFFC) Reginald Black (PCCF)	Regine Elie (Health Babies) Robert Jordan (CSWPBC) Robert Warren (PFFC) Robyn Clegg (DC Doors) Roslyn Roberts (Housing Up) Roxanne Murray (Echelon) Sabrina Burrell (DHS) Samantha Nolet (TCP) Sarah Lovett (Sasha Bruce) Sarah Roenfeldt (COH) Sheila Clark (DHS) Synina Pugh (ICH) Tasheen Stallings (OSSE) Taylor Pinckney (LAYC) Tyvon Hewitt (LAYC) 2023****31 2026****20