

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Interagency Council on Homelessness



Notes from the Meeting of the Interagency Council of Homelessness (ICH)

Date and Time: February, 24 2011 3:00pm-4:30pm

Location: N Street Village, 1333 N Street Washington, DC 20005

Approximate Attendance: 87

Welcome and Introductions

Allen Y. Lew, City Administrator, called the meeting to order and ICH members introduced themselves, the meeting was then opened up for comments from the public.

Public Comment Period

- A meeting attendee spoke of problems that she was experiencing at the Open Door Shelter during hypothermia season, In order to gain additional information on the clients issues, Fred Swan referred the client to DHS staff.
- Another speaker voiced his concern regarding the lack of affordable housing in the District.

Summary of the Pre Meeting Discussion

N/A

ICH Committee Reports

Executive Committee-Scott McNeilly, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (WLCH)

- The Executive Committee has been focused on the planning and coordination of ICH meeting and events, the committee chair requested three things from the City Administrator:
 - A sit down to discuss ICH updates and major challenges (present and future)
 - Designation of a ICH contact within the City Administrators office
 - Scheduling of ICH meetings for the entire year

Operations and Logistics Committee- Chapman Todd, Catholic Charities

- The Operations and Logistics Committee has been working on the 2011 workplan, in addition the focus of the committee's work has been to track the implementation of the 2011 Winter Plan. A challenge with that has been that the Winter Plan has been implemented differently than the approved plan.
- Additional concerns include:
 - Pressure to provide shelter in the Columbia Heights neighborhood
 - Calling of Hypothermia Alerts

Shelter Capacity Subcommittee-Michael Ferrell, Coalition for the Homeless

- The Shelter Capacity Subcommittee has been focusing on monitoring the year round utilization of the low barrier shelter capacity, as well as, the capacity of transitional programs. As it stands, the District continues to struggle to meet the needs regarding family shelter. Moving forward, the subcommittee is looking into what will happen after hypothermia season, which is scheduled to end March 31st.

Strategic Planning Committee- Kelly Sweeney-McShane, Community of Hope

- The Strategic Planning Committee has been focusing on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan to End Homelessness, some of the key factors for success include:
 - Creation of Affordable Housing
 - Financial Resources
 - Collaboration with mainstream resources
 - Measuring outcomes and evaluation
- The Committee is currently preparing for the implementation of HEARTH (Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing) Act, a federal act that outlines key measures to gauge system effectiveness.
 - Key measurements include the reduction of:
 - Length of homeless episodes
 - Number of people that return to homelessness
 - Overall number of homeless persons in the District
- In order to prepare for the HEARTH Act, the Strategic Planning Committee is currently gathering data regarding the key measurements. On March 30th 9am-1pm at N Street Village, the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) is sponsoring a HEARTH Academy in which they will present on the following information:
 - Background information on the HEARTH Act
 - Specific Measurement
 - Implication of the Act
 - Release Dates
- From April-June, the Strategic Plan will look at the information from the HEARTH Act, and draft recommendations on the next steps of implementation to the full ICH, and provide opportunities for public feedback.

Youth Subcommittee-Sue Marshall, The Community Partnership

- The Youth Subcommittee conducted a half day retreat which included participation from various government agencies, youth service providers and youth clients. The focus of the retreat was to discuss priority issue areas and recommendations that will shape the focus of the group moving forward.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)/Production Committee

- The PSH Committee has recently focused on pushing forward to monitor and identify additional housing units that are available for homeless in the District. The group has three basic deliverables:
 - Production of annual plan
 - PSH Tracking Report (number of units in stock)
 - Creation of a Consolidated Plan (RFP that would combine all necessary resources-capital resources, operating subsidy and service subsidy)

DHS Updates

- TANF Employment Program Updates
Over the past year, DHS has conducted a series of roundtable discussions with various community stakeholders to gain information regarding the TANF Employment Program (TEP). As a result of the discussions, DHS has decided to retool the current contracts, the new/updated contracts will focus on the specific needs of the individuals as opposed to a one size fits all program.

Updates on the TEP redesign will be provided at ICH meetings throughout the year.

- Procurement Updates
 - Management-procurement has closed and is in the final stages of execution
 - Outreach- procurement has closed and is in the final stages of execution
 - Hotline- procurement has closed and is in the final stages of execution
 - VA Williams/DC General-pending
 - STI/Case Management-pending
 - Individual Assessment Center-pending

Council Committee on Human Services Announcements/Updates

- John DeTaeye represented Councilmember Jim Graham, and he announced that the DHS Oversight hearing is scheduled for March 11, 10am in Room 123.

Public Comment Period

- A meeting attendee voiced his pleasure with the new City Administrator; in addition he mentioned that he is very displeased with the lack of affordable housing in the District.
- A woman speaker questioned and expressed her frustration with the lack of affordable housing, and the eligibility of the current housing programs.