



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Interagency Council on Homelessness

Notes from Meeting of the Interagency Council on Homeless (ICH)

Date and Time: April 23, 2013 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Location: Thrive DC 1525 Newton Street, NW Washington, DC

Approximate Attendance: 125

**Welcome and Introductions**

Allen Y. Lew, City Administrator, called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment Period**

- A meeting attendee noted that there is no need to tell the mayor that we need housing right away. There is a need for more programs and he should not consider cutting funds for programs
- Another speaker mentioned that there is a real need for legislation that brings the rent down to prevent homelessness
- A meeting attendee mentioned that some people are upset by the fact that homeless individuals continue to be ignored, noting the recent decision by the Mayor not to fund the individual resource center.
- Another speaker reiterated his concern about improving the shelter transportation system so that the clients can be protected from inclement weather while they wait for shuttles (will be discussed at the next operations and logistics meeting)

**Summary of Pre Meeting Discussion**

- Schroeder Stribling provided the summary of the pre-meeting, which discussed the Housing Strategy Task Force summary report. Sue Marshall gave an overview of the report. General feedback from the attendees primarily focused on the heightened sense of urgency about the length of time it's taking for real solutions, especially for the elderly and the chronically homeless. Additional concerns were included about ongoing discrimination toward older individuals and certain members of the homeless community. There were comments of capitalizing on a lawsuit surrounding the acquisition of vacant properties throughout DC, which would allow the city to build more housing for the homeless.

**ICH Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee – Scott McNeilly, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (WLCH) & David A. Berns, DC Department of Human Services (DHS)**

- There are two ICH membership vacancies that the committee is now looking to fill; the slots were once held by providers and advocates. Anyone who is interested in applying for one of the open slots should visit the Office of Boards and Commissions website ([www.obc.dc.gov](http://www.obc.dc.gov)), fill out an application, and copy Darrell Cason ([darrell.cason3@dc.gov](mailto:darrell.cason3@dc.gov)), so that the application can be reviewed.

- The committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30pm at 64 NY Ave., NE
- DHS and the ICH has been asked to develop a plan to reduce the need for homeless shelters and come up with another way to assist homeless families - the plan is in development and a rough draft was provided for review. Anyone is welcome to join this development/planning process.

#### **Strategic Planning Committee – Kelly Sweeney McShane**

- The Committee met on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and is currently working on a restructuring plan, which will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The committee has had an assessment and resource center discussion, and there is a need to create a work group to look at best practices around assessment and resources – the work group will come back with their ideas to the executive committee and the entire ICH at a later date.
- A rapid rehousing round table was held on April 10<sup>th</sup> - there was good attendance from agencies citywide; discussed local and national best practices and data; a summary about the session is also available, the committee is looking to continue round table sessions in the future
- Next meeting is April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm at DHS at 64 NY Ave, NE

#### **Operations and Logistics Committee – Chapman Todd, Catholic Charities**

- The Committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month – Next meeting will be 4/24 at 1pm
- If you would like to be added to the email list, contact Chapman Todd.
- At the last meeting, the DHS Homeless Services Monitoring Unit (HSMU) presented their annual monitoring.
- The contact information for this monitoring system will be publicized soon
- Agenda for the next meeting will include a debriefing on the Winter Plan and the hypothermia season. The meeting will be held at N Street Village on April 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Shelter Capacity Subcommittee – Michael Ferrell, Coalition for the Homeless**

- The subcommittee meets continually to discuss the monitoring of the low-barrier shelters and family shelters.
- Hypothermia season just ended March 31, 2013.
- Year-round, the shelter facilities have operated within their designated capacity for both the men and women shelters
- The overflow facilities did exceed their respective contractual capacities, all the facilities did have additional space so they were able to extend their capacity in order to serve the extra men and women needing assistance.
- 509 placements were expected this year, but the actual number was 463 families for this year
- 228 placements were in DC General, some were placed in hotels (not as many as last year)
- 120 families have received permanent housing
- Next meeting is 5/16 at 9am at SOME (71 O Street, NW)

### **Youth Subcommittee – Sue Marshall & Steve Baron**

- The committee has been meeting regularly and has added members from CFSA and DYRS.
- Deputy Mayor BB Otero has charged this subcommittee with refocusing its work to describe what the services for youth over 18 will look like
- The group will also focus on best practices, particularly with regard to the LGBTQ community
- Subcommittee will report and make recommendations by the end of June
- The subcommittee will be meeting biweekly starting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at COH, will include some youth as a focus group to inform the data

### **PSH Committee – Michael Kelly**

- The committee meets on the first Tuesday of every even month and the meeting is open to the public.
- Next meeting will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> at DHCD (1800 Martin Luther King Jr, Ave SE)

### **PSH Production Committee Presentation – Michael P. Kelly & Sue Marshall**

- The presentation was distributed at the meeting - copies can be made available by contacting Darrell Cason at [Darrell.cason3@dc.gov](mailto:Darrell.cason3@dc.gov)

### **2013 Point in Time Update – Sue Marshall**

- The PIT count was conducted on January 31<sup>st</sup>
- A fact sheet was made available on the ICH website, some highlights include:
  - The growth has stopped and leveled off
  - Small declines in the overall population
  - 6800 homeless persons were counted, 1.4% decline from the 2012 count
  - 4000 were in emergency shelters
  - Larger families are accounting for most of the population, this demographic is difficult to house due to capacity issues
  - 1700+ unaccompanied individuals have been chronically homeless

### **Public Comments**

- One attendee was really impressed with the PIT count, wants the margin of error to see about how many were missed during the count. Noted that the protocol used to collect the data was difficult to navigate (murky).

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at N Street Village (1333 N Street, NW)**