

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Interagency Council on Homelessness

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

Date and Time: August 20, 2013 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Location: SOME – 71 O Street, NW Washington, DC

Approximate Attendance: 125

Welcome and Introductions

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

Public Comment Period

- One attendee commented on the Winter Plan – ICH needs to involve the homeless community in the effort to complete the plan. DHS should consider extending low-barrier shelter services by two hours. ICH needs to discuss the CCNV property taskforce immediately.
- Another attendee pointed out that he believes erroneous homeless rates that have been reported; he wants to get the real numbers and conduct outreach by the formerly homeless community. Funds should be allocated to those grassroots organizations that can provide more reliable numbers pertaining to the homeless population.
- A lawyer who attended the meeting announced that there is a lawsuit out that deals with proper wages being paid to homeless workers who perform evictions for eviction companies. These companies are paying less than minimum wage to their employees.

ICH Committee Reports

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

- The Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month. – next meeting is 9/3 at DHS
- There is another meeting on September 10th to discuss the ICH's responsibility under the HEARTH Act
- There are some vacancies available to be a part of this committee; applications can be submitted to Darrell Cason (darrell.cason3@dc.gov)

Operations and Logistics Committee – Chapman Todd, Catholic Charities

- The Operations and Logistics Committee continues to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month
- There is a federal initiative to end veterans homelessness by 2015 ;there is a team of individuals in this City that is working toward this goal: 225 DC veterans to be housed by November 2013

Shelter Capacity Subcommittee – Michael Ferrell, Coalition for the Homeless

- Primary goal: Monitor shelter utilization for men, women and families
- Meets Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 9am at SOME
- Meets this Thursday, Sept 19th at 9am at SOME
- This subcommittee submitted recommendations to be included in the 2014 Winter Plan

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

- The Committee is working on developing a workplan for FY14 and beyond
- A workgroup has been working on a coordinated entry system for homeless individuals, and will create a selection tool; establishing partnerships with housing provider, etc.
- Another group has been working on the ERAP program for FY14 – a roundtable met in July on this effort
- The committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month – Next meeting is September 24th at DHS
- Mr. Lew announced that an email will be sent to all agency leaders requesting their commitments to the ICH for FY14

Youth – Steve Baron & Sue Marshall

- No August meeting
- Youth transitional program at 801 East was discussed at the last meeting
- Thirty 18-24 youth are engaged in the program so far – looking at ways to engage more youth
- Consultation with CFSA to discuss protocols for youth under age 18
- Still lacking data on this demographic of the homeless community
- September 11th at 2pm is the next meeting

PSH Update – Polly Donaldson & Michael Kelly

- Next meeting October 3rd
- The Mayor committed \$100M to PSH – the subcommittee will meet to decide on how to utilize this money
- The committee will soon begin to look at new federal legislation to see how that can correlate with PSH initiatives

Winter Plan Presentation – Chapman Todd

- The 2014 Winter Plan was presented to the ICH meeting attendees; copies of this presentation can be provided by contacting Darrell Cason (darrell.cason3@dc.gov)
- Vote: The vote was decided based on a separated vote among the following ICH committee member classifications: Advocates/formerly homeless; Provider; Government- the plan was passed
- Comment: there is need for greater outreach to young people so they can be aware of the services being provided
- Committee members who serve youth were asked to submit their turn-away rates for consideration for the 2014 Winter Plan
- Comment: ICH should add a plan for the youth placement as an addendum to the 2014 Winter Plan

Family Shelter (Winter Plan)

- The District continues to experience high volumes in the shelter system and length of stays
- A detailed assessment was conducted this fiscal year to get to the root of issues for each homeless family
- Currently looking at what is working at DC General and what isn't working – working on a team-based approach to providing greater support
- Looking at finding housing to help the families exit the shelter system
- Looking at the housing process – mapped and will finalize a simplified housing approach to assist families exit the system.
- Announcement: David Berns announced a partnership with CFSA will assist in finding placements for homeless youth

Update on HEARTH Act – Sue Marshall

- Handouts were passed out to the ICH; copies can be accessed by contacting Darrell Cason (darrell.cason3@dc.gov)

Meeting Adjourned.