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**Department of Human Services
Office of the Director 64 | New York Avenue N.E., Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20002**

Ward 3 Short-term Family Housing – Advisory Team Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, March 7, 2017
 LOCATION: John Eaton Elementary School
 3301 Lowell Street NW-2nd Floor Library
 TIME: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Ward 3 Advisory Team Members

Name	Inviting Organization	Affiliations	Attendance
Nancy MacWood	ANC 3C	ANC 3C Chairperson, Advisory Team Co-Chair	Present
Margaret Siegel	ANC 3C	Community Representative	Present
Angela Bradbery	ANC 3C	ANC 3C Treasurer, SMD 3C05 Commissioner	Present
Melody Molinoff	ANC 3C	John Eaton Elementary, LSAT Chair	Not present
Ann Scoffier	ANC 3C	Community Representative	Present
Ruth Caplan	Cleveland Park Citizens Association	Cleveland Park Citizens Association, President; Community Representative	Present
Pamela Korbel	Cleveland Park Citizens Association	Cleveland Park Citizens Association; Community Representative	Present
Ann Hamilton	Cleveland Park Citizens Association	Cleveland Park Citizens Association; Community Representative	Not Present
Mary Cheh	Councilmember Cheh's Office	Ward 3 Councilmember	Not Present
Jeffrey Davis	Councilmember Cheh's Office	Community Representative	Present
Deborah Linde	Department of Human Services (DHS)	Community Representative; 30-year resident of McLean Gardens	Present
Rabbi Aaron Alexander	Department of Human Services (DHS)	Community Representative; Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation	Not Present
Kelly McShane	Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)	Ward 3 Resident; President and CEO, Community of Hope	Not Present
Melvin Gresham	Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)	Commander, 2nd District MPD	Present
Laura Zeilinger	Department of Human Services (DHS)	DHS Director; Advisory Team Co-Chair; Ward 3 Resident	Present



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Agyei Hargrove	Department of General Services (DGS)	DGS Project Manager	Present
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Additional Support Staff Present

Phil Thomas	Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCR)	Ward 3 Community Liaison
Ian Maggard	Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCR)	Ward 3 Community Liaison
Kandis Driscoll	Department of Human Services (DHS)	Special Assistant
Dale Mann	John Eaton Elementary	Principal
Sakina Thompson	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services	Senior Policy Advisor
Carla Watson	District of Columbia Public Schools	Chief Operating Officer

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions – Laura Zeilinger (5 minutes)

Director Zeilinger reviewed the purpose of the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to continue to share information with the Advisory Team about the Ward 3 Short-term Family Housing program. This meeting focused specifically on the neighborhood schools.

2. Update on the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) Hearing – Laura Zeilinger (5 minutes)

Director Zeilinger informed the group that the BZA provided the relief necessary for the Short-term Family Housing site in Ward 6. A decision on Wards 3 and 5 would be made on March 22nd (Update: As of March 14, the decision date was moved to April 5th).

Director Zeilinger also announced that DGS was still working on an alternative parking proposal for the Ward 3 site. The plan was to have an update by March 11.

3. Schools Discussion/Q & A – Carla Watson (45 minutes)

Carla Watson opened the conversation by acknowledging the concerns of families in the area who worry that more families in the neighborhood will over-extend staff capacity at John Eaton Elementary. Director Zeilinger informed the group that the Short-term Family Housing in Ward 3 is one of the last sites to open. Given the timing, Ms. Watson added that DCPS will be able to rely on the experience of other wards as students transition in and out of school across the District.



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Ms. Watson informed the group that each school in DCPS has a homeless liaison that provides support to teachers, guidance counselors, staff and students. Children in emergency shelter in Ward 3 would be considered in-boundary and parents could enroll their child(ren) in the neighborhood school if desired. However, transition of this type is not new to DCPS, and the District's funding structure and process for allocating resources is well-equipped to support schools as necessary.

Advisory Team Question: There was a discussion about having some shelters cater to specific populations. Is this still true?

Director Zeilinger: The Short-term Family Housing site in Ward 2 is dedicated to single women. Last year, Councilmember Cheh asked if the Short-term Family Housing site in Ward 3 could be dedicated to families without school-age children, however, the District will not be able to accommodate this request.

Advisory Team Question: John Eaton has a great Pre-K program. How will that be affected?

Dale Mann: The Pre-K program works on a lottery system and children in the neighborhood are not guaranteed slots; some in-boundary families often get denied since John Eaton only has 36 slots available. Fifty families will be turned away next year.

Advisory Team Question: Is there data on where families experiencing homelessness enroll their children in school?

Carla Watson: Data on children who experience homelessness is self-reported. During the enrollment process, families can submit paperwork showing that they are experiencing homelessness.

Director Zeilinger: DHS collected data last year showing that four percent of families at D.C. General enroll their children in neighborhood schools. It is also important to understand that the school system and homeless services system use different definitions of homelessness. The definition used in the school system is much broader in order to protect educational rights.

Advisory Team Question: How are resources allocated by DCPS for each child?

Carla Watson: DCPS allocates resources based on need. Schools can reach out to DCPS' Central Office for additional support and resources. DCPS has a certain amount of flexibility to pool resources when necessary based on the need of schools (e.g. social workers, additional capacity for special needs children, etc.). Resources can also be pulled in from other District agencies (e.g. DOH, DBH) when necessary through partnerships. The District has the ability to reallocate resources when necessary.

Advisory Team Question: Will DCPS request additional budget for program and staff resources to meet the needs of students we come from the Short-term Family Housing program?

Carla Watson: DCPS has a comprehensive staffing model which accounts for the varying needs of students in all our schools, as well as provides for some fluctuation in enrollment. We continually monitor the enrollment and needs of students in our schools throughout the school year and will add resources when necessary.

Advisory Team Question: How many students are currently enrolled at John Eaton Elementary?



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Dale Mann: Currently, 483 students are enrolled at John Eaton, and we have capacity for 405 students. During my six year tenure, the enrollment of in-boundary students increased from 31 percent more than 50 percent.

Advisory Team Question: Do children in emergency shelter stay enrolled in neighborhood schools?

Carla Watson: DCPS allows families experiencing homelessness to stay in the same feeder pattern of the school they are enrolled in. After the programs are in operation for a period of time, DCPS could revisit the policy if children who experience homelessness stay in the feeder system in greater numbers than anticipated and there are resulting capacity issues.

4. Summary of Next Steps & Adjourn – Nancy MacWood (5 minutes)

DHS will provide data on how many families experiencing homelessness enroll in neighborhood schools based on the behavior of families at D.C. General.

Angela Bradbery requested a written description of DCPS' policy on allocating resources to schools specific to students experiencing homelessness. Carla Watson planned to reach out to the Chief of Schools to determine if this has already been drafted.