



THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL

YEAR 1

INTERNAL – REVITALIZATION

- ICH re-established after six year dormancy literally from cardboard boxes.
- ICH reconfirms membership of 18 federal departments and agencies and adds 2 White House initiatives, Office of Community and Faith Based Initiatives and USA Freedom Corps.
- ICH reconvenes first full Council meeting since 1996. The Inaugural Meeting of the full Council takes place at the White House on July 18, 2002, a date chosen to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the passing of the McKinney Act in 1987. Dr. Dennis Culhane presents his policy informing research.
- Second full meeting is convened on December 5, 2002 at the White House Conference Center and includes endorsements of the Administration's efforts to end chronic homelessness by leading national homeless advocates.
- ICH establishes structure to include bimonthly meetings of Senior Policy Representatives from all member agencies and Program Managers Working Group. Senior Policy Representatives asked to serve on either a Prevention or Intervention Task Force. ICH Executive Manager Mangano initiates monthly one on one meetings with key Senior Policy Representatives.
- Central federal website on homelessness policy and initiatives established at www.ich.gov
- Contact re-established with all 50 Governors who are asked to designate point persons to work with the Council – 75% complete
- Contact established with mayors of 100 largest cities who are asked to designate point person - 80% complete
- With the support of HUD Secretary Martinez and Assistant Deputy Secretary Pam Patenaude, ICH begins the process of designating Interagency Council Coordinators for each of the 10 regions.

- Congress enacts FY '03 appropriations which increases funding for ICH from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million and instructs HUD to work in consultation with the ICH to implement a \$10 million two-year demonstration to test innovative approaches and document best practices for ending homelessness, “particularly for those suffering from the co-morbidity of mental disorders and substance addiction.”
- Legislation proposed to change the name of the Council to United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to more accurately reflect the mission of the Council.
- Third full Council meeting scheduled for March 28th, 2003 at which time the chair will rotate as required by Congress. HHS Secretary Thompson will be sworn in as chair and VA Secretary Principi as vice-chair for 2003-2004.

EXTERNAL- FEDERAL

- ICH announces historic joint funding initiative by three of its members- HUD, HHS and the VA to provide \$35 million in housing and supportive services to move persons experiencing chronic homelessness off the streets and out of shelters into permanent housing. Response from the field has been overwhelming. Expect grant announcements to be made by September.
- ICH works within the Administration to unlock \$140 million in emergency food and shelter funding, which had been held up by Continuing Resolution funding restrictions, to ensure timely release for winter months.
- President's '04 budget proposal includes new “Samaritan Initiative” to succeed \$35 million HUD/HHS/VA Council initiative.
- ICH Executive Director testifies before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on implementation of PL 107-95, the Comprehensive Veterans Homeless Assistance Act of 2001.
- Strengthening existing intra-agency, interagency and intergovernmental collaborations and fostering new ones to ensure homelessness focus and strategy:
 - Working with Social Security Administration on plan for effective utilization of the \$8 million Congress appropriated in FY '03 for SSI outreach
 - Encouraging Jobs Corps- Foster Care Initiative
 - Promoting Policy Academies
 - 10 agency Re-entry Initiative led by Justice Department

EXTERNAL – CITY

- During National Conference of Mayors winter 2003 meeting, ICH Executive Director Mangano challenges 100 cities to develop 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness over the coming year. Cites example of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley’s endorsement of a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness for his city, the third largest in the nation, as evidence that doing so is not just doable but desirable.

EXTERNAL – COMMUNITY FOCUS

- Between March 15, 2002 and March 14, 2003 ICH Executive Director addressed 82 groups across the country building support for the Administration’s efforts to end chronic homelessness.
- ICH initiates a series of Focus Groups to inform the Council’s deliberations on policy initiatives to prevent homelessness, end chronic homelessness, strengthen collaboration among federal, state and local agencies, access mainstream resources and innovate solutions.
 - City Homeless Officials: September 13, 2002 (DC)
 March 14, 2003 (Indianapolis)
 July 16, 2003 (DC)
 - Innovative Housing Providers: November 1, 2002 (NYC)
 - Faith Based Organizations Nov15,2002 (Indian Treaty Room)
 - Family Feb 21,2003 (Indian Treaty Room)
 - Other Focus Groups to be scheduled: rural
 researchers
 foster care
 prisoner re-entry
- ICH establishes working relationship with International Downtown Association to address chronic street homelessness in communities.
- To gain a better understanding of the issues involved in counting homeless people, the Executive Director and a member of the Council staff participated in a street count of homeless people in New York City in February 2003.
- ICH Executive Director has met with and spoken to national homeless advocacy groups, staff conferences and boards on numerous occasions. Groups include the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans, the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and the National Law Center on Homelessness.