



DC Department of Human Services

# PEP-V Stakeholder Briefing

Friday, October 30, 2020

# Purpose of this Meeting

- Continue ‘all hands in’ partnership to protect residents experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Gather input on methods to increase the ability of PEP-V to safeguard persons experiencing homelessness with increased risk of severe COVID-related health outcomes

# Agenda

1. PEP-V Overview
2. Key PEP-V Stats
3. Policy & Operational Updates
4. Feedback and Discussion

# PEP-V Overview

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- The **Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals** (PEP-V) provides hotel room accommodation for individuals experiencing homelessness thought to be at the greatest risk for severe complications and/or death if they contract COVID-19
- **Established pursuant to the Mayor's emergency powers** under DC Official Code §7-2304 under the Agency's Mass Care Emergency Support Function of the Mayor's emergency powers. The sites shelters are not related to a Continuum of Care shelters established under the HSRA.
- **Primary goal:** Reduce exposure to COVID-19 of elderly & medically vulnerable individuals residing in congregate shelters and unsheltered where risk of infection is high due to inability to quarantine

# PEP-V Overview (*cont.*)

- **Negative COVID test before placement:** Unity Health Care administers a rapid COVID-19 test on each person before they are placed in a PEP-V room. Individuals with a positive COVID test result are transported to an Isolation and Quarantine (ISAQ) site
- **Onsite services,** include medical (Unity Healthcare), behavioral health (MBI)
- **Not a substitute** for low barrier shelter, respite care, long-term health care, or a community residential facility

# Key PEP-V Stats

# PEP-V Capacity and Census



## PEP-V 1: Arboretum

**Opened:** March 2020

**Rooms for Client  
Occupancy:**

109 Rooms

**Census (as of 10/28):**

116 people



## PEP-V 2: Holiday Inn

**Opened:** May 2020

**Rooms for Client  
Occupancy:**

193 Rooms

**Census (as of 10/28):**

143 people



## PEP-V 3: Fairfield

**Opened:** Oct 12, 2020

**Rooms for Client  
Occupancy:**

115 Rooms

**Census (as of 10/28):**

109 people

We continue to take referrals for clients staying in shelter or who are unsheltered, via the [PEP-V Referral Form](#)

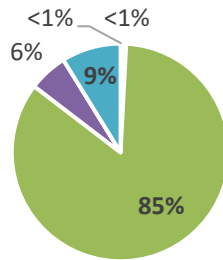


# PEP-V Metrics

Metric	
AVERAGE LOS at PEP-V	123 days
REFERRALS ON PEP-V WAITLIST <i>(as of 10/28)</i>	466 people
CLIENTS MATCHED TO PERMANENT HOUSING <i>(as of 10/28)</i>	249 people
CLIENTS EXITED TO PERMANENT HOUSING <i>(as of 10/28)</i>	55 people
TOTAL # OF CUSTOMERS SERVED <i>(as of 10/28)</i>	488 people

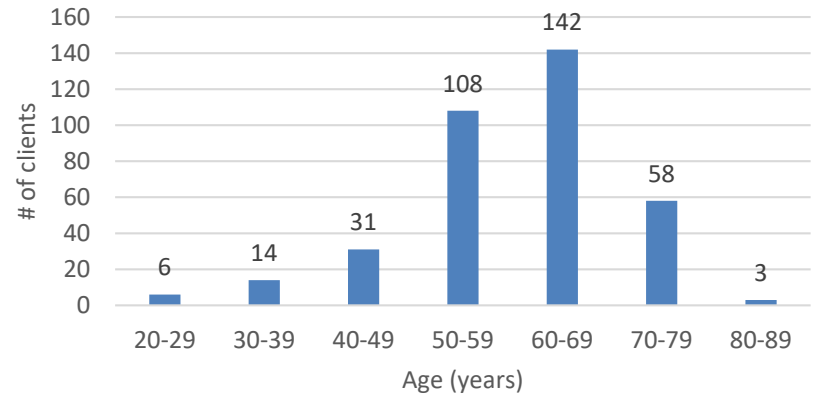
# PEP-V client demographics

PEP-V clients by race



- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- White
- Client refused

PEP-V clients by age



PEP-V clients by gender	
Gender	% clients
Male	71%
Female	23%
Trans	<1%
Refused	5%

# Policy & Operational Updates

## Election Day – November 3rd

- Starting Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, transportation to voting polls will be provided for PEP-V clients
- Transportation schedules will be posted at each PEP-V site.
- No PEP-V intakes

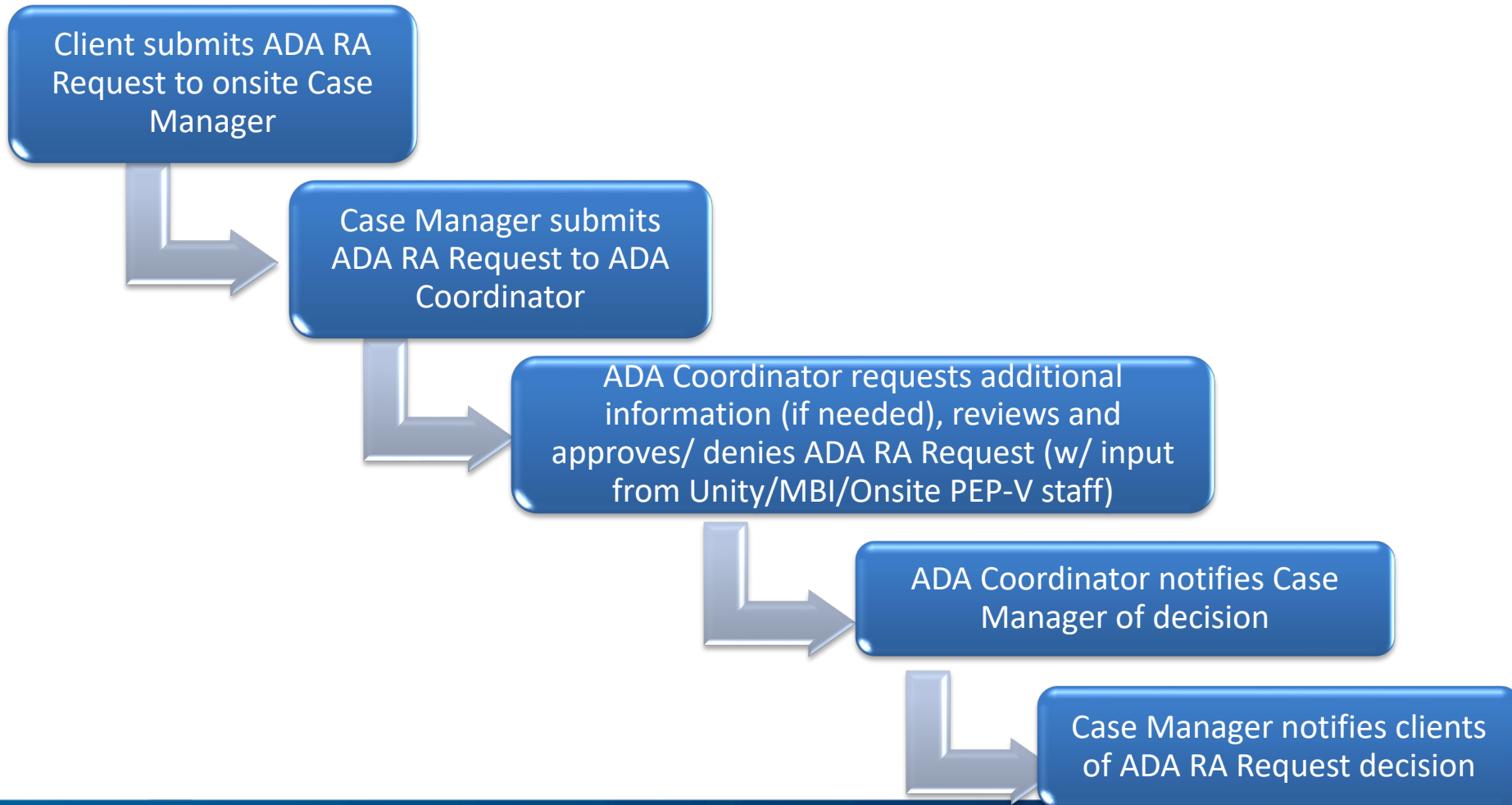
# Double Occupancy

- **Goal: Expand the number of persons at risk of severe health outcomes due to COVID-19 offered non-congregate housing**
- To fully leverage the space at each PEP-V site, current residents are paired with another person and all new intakes are paired with a roommate.
- Multi-disciplinary team supports PEP-V clients in determining who they will share a room with.
- Exceptions may be made to accommodate PEP-V residents with certain medical conditions or other factors subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Thus far, 91 PEP-V clients share a room with another client.

# Double Occupancy – Roommate Selection & Resolving Grievances

- Client preference, health conditions, substance use, behavioral history, and gender are considered in determining roommate matches
- Clients are encouraged to share with their case manager who they would prefer to share a room with
- If a client feels that their roommate match is not working out, they may request a room change by talking to their case manager
- Onsite behavioral health staff will support resolution of roommate disputes

# ADA Reasonable Accommodation (RA) Process



# Alcohol Policy

- Goal: Harm reduction / accommodate clients with alcohol dependency
- Policy based on medical guidance
- Maximum of two, 12-ounce bottles of beer or wine each day
- Researched practices from other states



# Operational Update: Onsite Unity Presence

- Starting this week, under the clinic-based model of care, Unity sees PEP-V residents at Holiday Inn, Fairfield and **Arboretum 8am-4pm Monday through Friday (except for Unity observed holidays).**
- Additionally, Unity has extended hours to deliver services to clients with complex health / medical respite needs that are all now placed at the Arboretum
- PEP-V intakes are between 10am - 2pm

<i>PEP-V Site</i>	<i>Hours and Clinical Roles</i>
<i>Holiday Inn</i>	<i>8am – 4pm (Mon-Fri): MD, RN</i>
<i>Fairfield</i>	<i>8am – 4pm (Mon-Fri): MD, RN</i>
<i>Arboretum</i>	<i>8am – 4pm (Mon-Sat): MD</i>
<i>Extended hours for Medical Respite Clients at Arboretum</i>	<i>7am – 9pm (Mon-Sun): RN, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA); 8am-4pm: MD</i>

# Discussion Topics

1. Are there other criteria that should be used for roommate matches?
2. What additional onsite activities would encourage clients to remain onsite?