District of Columbia Stabilization Center Community Engagement Meeting (Virtual)
Summary | September 28, 2026

Presenters:

Barbara J. Bazron, Ph.D., Director Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)
Sharon Hunt, Ph.D., Interim Director of Adult Services, DBH
Sean Morgan, MD, Director, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS)
Turkessa Parker, Senior PM - CCD, Department of General Services (DGS)
Saad Moussamim, Atmos Solutions, Inc., DGS contractor
Brianne Nadeau, Councilmember Ward 1

Community Engagement

The Park Road Stabilization Center, located at 1338 Park Road NW, will provide 24/7 immediate stabilization services for adults experiencing substance use-related crises. The District Government is committed to communication and responsiveness to minimize the impact of the construction activities on the safety and wellbeing of the surrounding community, and to timely address issues from the community. DBH and Councilmember Nadeau held the first community engagement meeting in May 2024, before the start of construction. The September 28 meeting is the fifth meeting held to provide updates on construction progress, planned operations, safety measures, identify next steps, and to hear from neighbors and the community.

Operations and Community Impact

DBH outlined several measures intended to minimize neighborhood impacts, including:

- 24/7 security presence
- Staff trained on de-escalation techniques
- Medical screening before admission
- Coordination with emergency services when needed
- Ongoing neighborhood monitoring and outreach

DBH also noted that ambulances are not expected to use lights and sirens except in emergency situations, and individuals may be diverted to other facilities if the Center reaches capacity.

Project Updates

Construction Progress

- Design, demolition, environmental abatement, utilities, roof work, and sidewalk restoration are complete.
- Current work includes interior finishes, telecommunications, landscaping, lighting, signage, and final inspections.
- Target completion: Late 2026, pending inspections, and operational readiness.

Community Engagement

- DBH reaffirmed its commitment to being a good neighbor through ongoing communication and responsiveness. DBH was able to add some suggestions received from the community to the pending Request for Proposal to operate the center (e.g., outreach, transportation). DBH will continue to hold regular community engagement meetings.
- Adina Madden will serve as the primary on-site contact for community concerns. You can reach her through the e-mail address for the Center: DBH.ParkRoadDCSC@dc.gov.
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A passed R26-0035, which forms a community steering committee that will facilitate further discussion and engagement regarding the stabilization center. DBH, FEMS, DGS and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will be invited to attend all steering committee meetings as ex officio members, and minutes will be regularly provided to these agencies.

Community Questions and Concerns

Good Neighbor Agreement: Residents requested updates on the proposed Good Neighbor Agreement. DBH shared that the agreement is currently on hold while efforts focus on strengthening direct communication, responsiveness, and ongoing community engagement from the steering committee.

Post-Discharge Outcomes: Residents asked what happens after individuals leave the Center. DBH stated that transportation assistance and referrals to treatment, housing, shelter, and community services will be available. However, participation in services remains voluntary.

Neighborhood Impacts: Community members raised concerns about substance use activity, loitering, and public safety. DBH emphasized that outreach services will continue in the area and that the stabilization center provider contract will include community engagement and neighborhood outreach requirements.

Next Steps

Before opening, the following steps will need to occur:

- Complete remaining construction activities.
- Obtain a certificate of occupancy.
- Select and onboard a certified substance use disorder provider.
- Finalize operational readiness activities.

DBH committed to continuing community meetings, participating in ANC and stakeholder discussions, sharing project updates, and reviewing feedback from the future community steering committee.

Contact Information

For any concerns or questions, please contact DBH.ParkRoadDCSC@dc.gov.

Resources

The video and transcript of the community engagement can be found here:

- **Shareable link:** https://theclearing.zoom.us/rec/share/NltvOWJ58JO6r7acux_tK5wHsX6-lKfjdEefPRE9sSG9AqCSya3bxzVkXtgKasT5.WLkKpEE7Loy0qdSj
    - **Passcode:** GTXc7@PF

About the Crisis Stabilization Center

The Park Road Stabilization Center, located at 1338 Park Road NW, will provide 24/7 crisis stabilization services for adults experiencing substance use-related crises. The facility is designed to offer immediate behavioral health and limited medical support as an alternative to emergency departments and law enforcement intervention. The Center builds on the experience of the District's existing stabilization center at 35 K Street NE, which has served more than 3,700 individuals while addressing specific issues and concerns unique to this location.

Planned Operations

Services

- 24/7 crisis stabilization and monitoring
- Medical and behavioral health assessments
- Peer recovery support and treatment navigation
- Care coordination and discharge planning
- Connections to housing, treatment, and community services

Facility Capacity

- 14 stabilization recliners
- 2 observation beds
- As a point of reference, the average length of stay at 35 K Street is approximately 14 hours

Admissions: Individuals may arrive through FEMS , community providers, family or friends, walk-ins, and limited law enforcement referrals when appropriate.