**Baltimore City Housing Committee Meeting Notes**

**May 10, 2021, 3 – 4:30 PM**

1. Introduction to the Committee
   1. Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over the agenda. He spoke about the history of moving away from group homes and into the supported living model, and how MIH came out of recommendations to DDA. He spoke about the three goals of MIH – the housing committees, the information clearinghouse, and the housing support services.
   2. Tim spoke about the partnerships with five CILs across the state, naming Mike Bullis, CEO at the Image Center and invited Mike to speak about his work.
      1. Mike spoke about Money Follows the Person and the Image Center trying to get people out of nursing facilities and into the community. They believe fundamentally – the best place, most integrated, least expensive place, is the community. They work in all of the nursing facilities in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Hartford County. Their staff goes into nursing facilities and work with people to develop the plan for transitioning out of the nursing facility. They also send peers around to nursing facilities – their philosophy is that if peers can explain the process, others will want to follow and be mentored as they start the process. They help people get on housing lists and under Section 811, if people are eligible, they have to be in some sort of case management, and The Image Center provides that.
      2. The Image center signed a MOU with the state in 2014 to provide housing case management under Section 811 and still offer this service. They are applying for more funding for this service and currently have 2 people doing this service.
2. Introductions of Committee Members
   1. Mike Bullis: Moved to Maryland in 2002 from Oregon. He lives with his wife Linda in the city and have some chickens and has been director of the Image Center since 2010, and previously there were no organizations like this. His background is primarily in business, but really liked CILs once he learned about them.
   2. Lauren Jackson: Works with the Baltimore Office of Equity and Civil Rights where she investigates housing and employment discrimination and manages HUD outreach grant. Prior to working for the city, she worked for Baltimore fair housing. Her educational background is city planning. She lives in Charles area with her roommate and loves her community.
   3. Ami Taubenfeld: Ami is ED and co-founder of Itineris, supporting adults 21+ with autism. Her daughter Annie was inspiration for Itineris. She is located in Woodberry, with access to residential areas, public transportation and the light rail. They just opened up supported living at Itineris and she has a lot of questions about supported living and funding. She lives in Stevenson off the Baltimore Beltway, 20 minutes from everything. Ami is looking forward to learning from other experts.
   4. Dianne Blevin: Volunteers at Office of Equity and Civil Rights and has a cognitive disability. She has also been part of the nonprofit advocacy group, leaders in disability advocacy. She had applied for housing when she was 18 and wasn't able to get it and was going from place to place. Through her leaders in disability policy program, she helped a friend out of a nursing home and likes to advocate and is good at it. She is also the mayor’s disability commission. She lives by herself with a cat and likes her community.
   5. Monica McCall: She is the ED of Creative Options, a community-based organization for people with IDD with co-occurring mental illness. She has always been interested in housing. Most of the housing is funded with DDA, supporting adults and children. About 18 of their homes are in Baltimore City, and some in Baltimore County and Howard County. She lives in Rosedale. She is the past president of MACS.
   6. David Prater: He is the Managing Attorney at Disability Rights Maryland, a protection and advocacy organization for Maryland. They are mandated by Congress to advance civil and human rights for people with disabilities. He lives in Baltimore in Patterson Park with his wife and his two cats and houseplants. He likes that it’s a block from the park and very helpful during the pandemic.
   7. Kaitlin Krug – Program Director at Abilities Network, which covers the entire state of Maryland. She focuses on Baltimore and they do not have a supported living component, but help people with their independent living. Advocating for the individuals they work with. She gets to work with a lot of residential providers. She was born and raised in Timonium MD and lives by herself.
   8. Lauren Silverstone: Previously worked at Montgomery County's housing initiative program for people with chronic medical conditions. She holds a BA from UMBC and Masters from Hood College and lives with her husband and three cats in Gaithersburg.
3. Ideas for Goals of the Committee
   1. Mike Bullis talked about the Rebalancing Initiative to get funding for housing case management. The broad goal is affordable, accessible, integrated housing and the short-term goals are happening now. He thinks the state should provide housing case management.
      1. Also note: He prefers Word documents rather than PDFs for accessibility.
   2. Tim spoke about the Montgomery County Committee and the American Rescue Act – there is a lot of money available to state and local jurisdictions that they weren’t counting on. Can some of the money go to the things we’re interested in – housing case management?
   3. Ami: From a parent and ED point of view, where do we look? What relationships have been set up and built? Is there a clearinghouse somewhere? Are there relationships with developers and apartment owners? There are no relationships with apartment owners. Is there an apartment/property manager consortium that could be part of a committee to advocate for housing for people with disabilities? She hopes for relationship building, contractors, developers.
   4. Education for parents about supported living.
   5. Tim said Lauren Silverstone will be working on these issues, along with hopefully 3 more people. Part of the agenda of the committee will deal with political considerations of affordable housing.
   6. Mike: The municipalities league reported that there is $678 million available for funding, and the Baltimore sun reported that there is $559 million.
      1. Money for distribution – what we can get that’s stable and usable?
   7. David: Seize any opportunity for federal funding. Think about what the state or local jurisdictions could be doing for affordable housing.
   8. Lauren Jackson: Her office has a grant from HUD. Education should be a big part of this and their next application is coming up soon. If this group wants to do something tied to outreach around discrimination and IDD, she is willing to help. Lauren wants to connect people to the resources. The application is due June 14.
4. Potential Committee Members
   1. Tim: Stephanie Smith, a delegate for District 45. She was previously a commissioner with the community relations commission. She’s doing equity and inclusion work for the City/ She has helped push civil rights laws through and would be a great addition to the Committee. We will see if she would agree to speak to the Committee at its next meeting. Lauren will make an introduction.
   2. Mike: Local leadership would be helpful, and an activist with significant physical needs. He will think of some potential candidates.
   3. Ami: Remington Properties, who is already doing affordable housing. Specifically: Conor Creaney and Pat Creaney. Larry Jennings at Bowstone Properties.
   4. Lauren: Amy Wilkinson at the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, and Odette Ramos, her delegate on the city council.
5. Next Steps
   1. Next Meeting – July 12, 2021
   2. For the meeting schedule, it would be every other month over Zoom and potentially in person later.