Montgomery County Housing Committee

**Minutes**

Wednesday May 18th 3:30 – 5:00

Main Street Connect

50 Monroe Place, Rockville, MD 20850

**Present**: Jillian Copeland, Sharonda Huffman, Lauren Silverstone, Sarah Hochbaum, Andy Krauss, Tigest Almeu, Tim Wiens, Terri Bradford, Diane Dressler, Sabria Still, Larry Bram, Rick Callahan, Fred Swan, Sharon Cichy, John Bogasky, Steve Keener

1. Welcome and Introduction to Main Street Connect, Jillian Copeland
2. Introduction to new MIH employees
   1. New full-time positions
      1. Director of Housing, Sharonda Huffman
      2. Director of Communications, Andy Krauss
3. New Communications work
   * 1. Information should be published in different languages, using closed captioning, etc.
        1. DDA needs to have a system to translate things upon request in a timely manner.
     2. Parent friendly information to navigate affordable housing resources (and get developers to build family friendly properties.)
        1. Ex: MPDUs – someone can find out what units are MDPUs but they don’t know which ones they might qualify for.
           1. Each property manages their own waitlist and has nuances.
           2. It would be great to try to get all MPDUs to do their process the same way to make it simpler for families.
        2. Have a parent “panel” composed of parents who have experience with housing options (not group homes) for their children with IDD. Like a transition panel.
        3. Create a single portal and based on answers get directed to appropriate services.
           1. This suggestion seemed like a lot so maybe we should educate people on the complexity of the process, share some success stories and send them to suggested places to get help. Focus on the people who are eligible first.
     3. A State-wide legislative advocacy page
        1. 2022 Elections
           1. What shall we ask for?

Tax credits

* + - 1. DDA Rental Subsidy Program
      2. Other ideas
         1. Be sure that the “disability” piece is included in all the conversations.

Minimum standards for accessibility. Mobility, HVAC, sound, etc.

* 1. Focus on the getting the money set aside in the budgets.
  2. Collaborate with groups like Arc, CILs, Main Street, etc so that we are talking with a unified voice on the same priorities.
  3. Advocate with property managers about how housing works for IDD.
  4. QAP talks about universal design but doesn’t list what features must be included.
     1. NCSU website has a good resource listing.
  5. Develop the “cornerstone” of being able to explain how the money is helping current clients. Share resources and challenges with families.

Peer support for families would be great.

Should be targeted to specific disabilities and not too “broad” as some things that apply to one group don’t apply to others.

Ask what people want/need to be educated on and then creating a series of those presentations.

* 1. Inclusive zoning requirements in Howard County (MIHU) and Montgomery County (MPDU).
  2. Look at Montgomery County council work and see what they have discovered.
  3. Increase education of employees and families

The communications piece will be very important to the education of people.

People don’t know about waiting lists, vouchers, etc.

1. Technology
2. Next meeting
   1. Skip summer meeting during vacation.
   2. September 21, 2022 3:30-5:00 pm
   3. In person at Jubilee; hybrid option will also be available.
3. Happy Hour and tour of Main Street