Baltimore City Housing Committee Notes

September 12, 2022 3:00 PM  - 4:30 PM

  Enoch Pratt Free Library

400 Cathedral St, Baltimore, MD 21201 and Zoom

**Present:** Senator Cory McCray, Stephanie Jones, Ami Taubenfeld, Dianne Blevins, Hugh Scoggins, David Prater, Monica McCall, Sharonda Huffman, Sarah Hochbaum, Tim Wiens, Andy Krauss, Terri Bradford and Diane Dressler.

1. Welcome
   1. Thank you for attending either in person or virtually!
2. Review of minutes from the June 13, 2022
   1. The minutes were emailed to the committee.
   2. No changes were noted.
3. Legislative and Funding Advocacy/Priorities for FY 23 & FY 24
   1. Document was shared with the committee. Tim will share these during his quarterly meeting with DDA. He hopes to be able to work with the new governor transition committee to make them aware of our issues.
   2. Sharonda shared our advocacy priorities with the Affordable Housing Coalition of Maryland.
4. Senator Cory McCray, Baltimore City – District 45, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
   1. Sharonda gave Senator McCray an overview of what MIH and the Baltimore City housing committee is working on to help individuals with IDD.
   2. Tim shared the MIH funding and advocacy priorities document with Senator McCray.
   3. She encouraged the city to think of going above the minimum. Sharonda shared the ideas of universal design and aging in place. The hope is that the universal design requirements will be included in design and construction.
   4. Background: Senator McCray serves East and Northeast Baltimore. He was born and raised in Baltimore. He’s an electrician by trade. Served in the house of delegates. He represents the district in the Senate. He’s on the budget and taxation committee. He chairs the Public Safety, Transportation and Environment Subcommittee.
   5. Capital Projects he is engaged in:
      1. Belair Rd Corridor. They support Benning, NEHI, ST Ambrose and Habitat for Humanity.
      2. Harbor Rd corridor Mainstreets and Sam Polekoff.
      3. Ella Jane at Central Baltimore partnership. Split between 43 and 45 district.
      4. Rebuilt metro in the Oliver and Johnson square community. PSO (Danny and Dana Henson) in somerset I and II.
      5. He doesn’t just focus on housing. Interested in additions that support a community (food, recreation, etc.)
      6. South Clifton park, Donleigh park, New Borough East are more challenging neighborhoods. Working with Hickman in new borough east but he works more slowly.
      7. East Baltimore development fund was given $1,000,000 dollars in 4 neighborhoods. He meets with them regularly for updates to see how they’re using the money.
      8. Sharonda explained that AMI might need to be lowered for people with IDD so that they can live in the new developments.
      9. Senator McCray encouraged MIH to continue competing for time with elected officials against the other issues that might be dominating the community (crime, education, etc).
         1. Senator Melanie Griffith of the Health committee and the chair of the finance committee.
5. Partner Highlight – Arc Baltimore
   1. Were not at the meeting but MIH will follow up.
6. Updates on DDA Rent Subsidy
   1. There are program standards. It’s for people supported by DDA (in any waiver programs, etc.) in various categories. You have to be an adult and there are priorities: people connect to housing support through DDA, homeless, transitioning out of institutions, living with an aging loved one. Waitlist should be giving out subsidies by the end of the calendar year. It is a relatively small waitlist of around 100 people.
   2. Question from David Prater: What if DDA is late on rent or there are DDA payments? There is a MOU with DHCD who will be administering the program. How will participant rights be protected? Stephanie said if is covered in the MOU. Stephanie will ask about sharing the documents and get back to us.
   3. Question: How are we getting the word out? CLCs at MIH are sharing with clients. In May and April, DDA did training on their website, sent out information through constant contact, met with providers, and special session for families.
7. Feedback Landlord Lunch & Learn
   1. Had landlords do the training. At the Q & A about the rent subsidy program landlords said it was a lot of information.
8. Update Transition Services Outreach – Baltimore City Schools
   1. Sharonda will reach out to special education departments to make them aware of the options for students who might get waiver services upon graduation.
   2. We are working on some targeted communications for the schools.
9. Diane updated the free market rent table. [Ask her for it so that we can send to landlords if it’s not on the MIH website]
10. Maryland is a Technology First State!
    1. Maryland is committed to providing technology options for people to allow them to move more independently.
    2. Some examples of technology that was displayed at the technology fair: Device to turn off stove if left on; medication dispenser that doesn’t need Wi-Fi, to give them out at the right time and if they’re not taken to notify appropriate people.
11. Two amendments: Require people providing HSS to have a bachelor’s degree to put them on par with CSS workers. Considering grandfathering people in that are already doing it. Also considering offering bill paying help for those people living on their own.
12. Future Agenda & Meetings
    1. November 14, 2022 Virtual meeting