Howard County Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 19, 2023 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm Hybrid

**Present:** Melisaa Barbagallo, Kelly Cimino, Chris Kelter, Matt Plantz, Dorothy Plantz, Diane Dressler, Patrick Lloyd, Bita Dayhoff, Mark Dunham, Theresa Ballinger, Marge Gold, Chelsea Hayman, Tim Wiens, Sharonda Huffman, Terri Bradford, Sarah Hochbaum, Andy Krauss, Beth Bullard

1. Welcome and Introduction
   1. Sharonda welcomed the members of the committee and guest attendees to the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.
2. Review of minutes from meeting March 15, 2023
   1. There were no changes to the minutes from our last meeting.
3. Howard County Housing and Community Development - Kelly Cimino, Director
   1. The HOTF is a new source of funding for affordable housing. Started with $5,000,000. They have requested $10,000,000 this year.
      1. The HoCo HCD department has received more applications than funds. The $5,000,000 will be awarded sometime this summer.
   2. 50% of the money must be used for 40% or lower.
   3. HOTF money can be used to purchase land, construct new affordable housing, rehabilitate existing housing, help residents age in place, assist with purchase of for sale housing, provide rent subsidies to low-income households.
   4. The meeting is on 5/24/23. Send in your testimony to council members in support of this! Sharonda will send out the address where support letters can be sent. It will be helpful if committee members also attend the meetings. “We support the housing committee budget as proposed.” Suggestion was made to write to Yungman, Young and Walsh.
   5. Addresses priorities and recommendations as indicated in the housing opportunities master plan.
   6. It serves the housing needs as identified in the HUD consolidate plan.
   7. Maximizes the number of affordable, accessible units in HoCo.
   8. The Dept of housing community development has a budget of about $17,000,000.
   9. New units that enter the moderate income program when sold go to another moderate income family.
   10. Projects in progress that are funded: Patuxent Commons, Beech’s Farm, Ranleagh Ct. Money requested in FY24 for Waverly Winds.
   11. The vacancy rate for housing in HoCo is roughly 3%, which is very low.
   12. The DHCD provides grants: Community Development Block Grant (public facilities, public service, CHAI) and Home Partnership Grant. (Down payment assistance, community development housing organization, future housing initiatives.
   13. The DHCD does NOT do housing choice vouchers.
   14. The Grant team will have Needs hearings beginning in January. This is how they develop their funding plans so it’s important that people attend, share information and give their input.
4. Housing Opportunities Trust Fund – Marge Gold
   1. The HOTF made recommendations that they hope that the committee embraces and moves forward with.
5. Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition – Dana Sohr
   1. Dana did not attend the meeting but Sharonda will share their flyer.
   2. Anyone can join the coalition. They would like community organizations to be more involved in the coalition.
6. Maryland Department of Disabilities – Chelsea Hayman
   1. 811 and Weinberg Updates
      1. Now leasing at Ellicott Gardens 2.
      2. HUD is seeking comments on section 504 in general as well as regarding housing providers. An item of note that they are looking for comments on the use of assisted technology and acceptable documents.
      3. NOFO for section 811 program will be released this summer. Not sure of the exact amount. Project rental assistance or capital advance or combination of the two.
7. Safe In Home – Beth Bullard
   1. Recently licensed and funded under the CP and CS waivers in Maryland. They look forward to working through providers to provide services. They are actively looking for clients. They serve traditional and self-directed individuals.
   2. They work to support individuals as they move into their new housing. It helps to supplement services that are provided in their home and also close the gaps in services that might exist.
   3. They also provide technology like Ring doorbells to for safety or cameras that can be monitored remotely for those individuals that might have a fall risk. Medication management with alarms about when to take necessary medications.
8. Updates on DDA Rent Subsidy – Diane Dressler
   1. Eligible if enrolled in DDA waivers or on waitlist for services in crisis resolution category.
   2. Webinar will be on May 30th. They will update everyone on the eligibility changes. DDA will announce when they are opening the program. Sign up for the webinar!
   3. The State has issued a cap to $3.5 million dollars for projects coming from the CDA. Interest rates and material costs have risen. Patuxent Commons is reaching out to partners to try to make up the shortfall.
   4. Diane will look up the deadline for QAP comments. Listening sessions were held in the fall. Comments on the “community opportunity maps” are [due May 24](https://dhcd.maryland.gov/HousingDevelopment/RHF%20Current%20Notices/Notice23-03.pdf).
      1. School test scores (along with other things like community health and economic opportunity) are used as a measure to determine the community opportunity maps.
9. Open Forum
   1. MIH submitted a partnership proposal to the Wes Moore transition team.
      1. Our vision is to partner with developers across the state to find funding and help coordinate developments with 10-15% of the units for people with IDD.
      2. Social inclusion in the developments will also be a focus.
      3. We are asking Governor Moore to identify and secure national foundation funding to make this happen.
      4. MDD, MdDH and MdDHCD will likely be our partners.
   2. Check out the newly revamped MIH website clearinghouse to get information. We are adding more information to it all the time! Please [join our community](https://mih-inc.org/#join_our_community)! We are working with DDA to create an assistive technology page. We are working with the city of Rockville to create resources for parents to find out how to apply for apartment units.
10. Next meeting
    1. Tuesday July 18, 2023 from 3:30-5:00 pm.
    2. This meeting will be virtual.