Montgomery County Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 3:30 – 5:00 pm Hybrid meeting

**Present**: Larry Bram, John Bogasky, Rebecca Grayson, Rick Callahan, Rita Harris, Diane Dressler, Sabria Still, Sharon Cichy, Chelsea Hayman, Dean Packard, Scott Bruton, Beth Bullard, Steve Keener, Tim Wiens, Sharonda Huffman, Andy Krauss, Terri Bradford, Tierra Medley, Laura Silverstone

1. Welcome and Introduction
   1. Sharonda welcomed the committee members and had everyone introduce themself.
2. Review of minutes from meeting March 15, 2023
   1. The minutes were reviewed and no changes were made.
3. Expanding Affordable Housing for People with Disabilities in Montgomery County; A Discussion
   1. Scott Bruton, Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Acting Director
      1. He is happy to join the committee today and is interested in listening and learning from us.
   2. Rebecca Grayson and Rita Harris, HOC talking about Community Choice Homes
      1. [Community choice homes](https://mdod.maryland.gov/housing/Pages/CCH.aspx) is a transit-oriented development. There are a number of features that are in the community including a dog wash, swimming pools, etc. There are 40 units currently but they plan to add more.
      2. CCH is designed for people coming out of nursing homes or rehabilitation centers. There is an annual recertification.
      3. If you have clients that have experienced homelessness, check the box for HMI (homeless management information) so that they might get special attention.
         1. Priority groups: actually homeless, imminent risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence. Link to [HUD definitions of homelessness](https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/hearth-act/) and [HSS.gov definitions of homelessness](https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/homelessness/index.html).
         2. They try to be flexible with the definition. They will accept documentation from doctors, etc.
      4. Community choice homes are funded from the county recordation funds.
      5. The new director is receptive to hearing community needs and wants.
      6. There are project-based units. They applied for NED vouchers as well. They are usually awarded a fair number of them.
      7. Howard county has Disability Housing Income Units. Read about it [here](file:///C:/Users/terri/Downloads/DIHUFinalVersion4.28.20.pdf).
      8. Parkside Landing has 14 apartments set aside for those with DDA services. They pay 30% of their income in rent.
      9. [theKelsey.org](http://theKelsey.org) has a learn center. Sign up with your email to access the resources. They’re very helpful. They also have housing design standards to assist builders in making units fully accessible.
      10. VITAL program. A bill has been introduced in Congress to [produce more accessible, affordable housing](https://www.casey.senate.gov/news/releases/casey-introduces-bill-to-produce-more-accessible-affordable-housing).
4. Rockville Project – Lauren Silverstone and Andy Krauss
   1. Tried to narrow down targeted questions for moderately priced units to get their process and sent to 5 complexes. Examples:
      1. Can you apply online or do you have to apply by paper?
      2. Please walk us through the application process.
      3. Do you need to pay to apply?
      4. Is there a waitlist?
      5. etc.
   2. They have one response so far.
5. 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.
6. Open Forum
   1. At 12:00 pm on 5/30/23, Stephanie and Diane will be talking about the DDA rental subsidy program and the changes that have happened. Registration opens soon.
7. Next meeting - Virtual
   1. July 12, 2023 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm