



Agenda for Prince George's County Housing Committee Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm via [Zoom](#)

Present: Rob Malone, John Sheridan, Amy Jean Chung Fry, Lori Sedlezky, Jolene Ivey, Susie McClannahan, Chelsea Hayman, Chaunita Clardy, Stephanie Jones, Tim Wiens, Lauren Silverstone, Andy Krauss, Sharonda Huffman, Tierra Medley, Terri Bradford

1. Welcome by Chair – Chaunita Clardy
 - a. The committee members were welcomed by the chair. Chaunita went over the agenda for the meeting.
2. Review of Minutes
 - a. The minutes were reviewed by the committee. There were no changes.
3. Overview of MIH and Committee
 - a. MIH was founded by the MDDA as part of their transition plan to begin transitioning housing from a group home model to a supported living model. We have 3 full-time people (and have trained over 50 more) to provide housing support services. Our housing committee work is partnering with counties and cities and housing developers to create more affordable housing and to make sure people with disabilities have access to that housing.
4. Prince George's City Council Member Jolene Ivey
 - a. The universal design bill (currently in committee and believed to pass this session) is going to dramatically increase the number of new homes that are built in the county.
 - i. Zero entry, levers on doors instead of doorknobs, bathroom on first floor, reinforcements in bathroom walls for grab bars to be installed, have an outlet within 4 feet of stairwell so it's easy to install a chair lift later.
 - ii. A work group is planned to spend next year working on snags or details that need to be worked out (permitting for example).
 - iii. Councilmember Ivey encouraged us to contact council members that we know to tell them how much we support this bill.
 - iv. A committee member had a question about the number of people with disabilities who are moving into their own home.
 1. It was suggested that PG county look into the community choice home program that is done in Montgomery County to expand access to individuals with disabilities. This program is funded through county transfer taxes.
5. Susie McClannahan, Senior Manager of the Fair Housing Rights Program [Equal Rights Center](#)



- a. Introduced the mission and purposes of the Equal Rights Center.
 - i. They perform civil rights testing in apartment complexes and all related housing transactions rental, sales, lending, insurance and homeowners' associations. They want to ensure that the Fair housing act applies equally to all the protected classes (race, color, national origin, family status, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identify, age, occupation, political opinion, personal appearance and source of income)
 - ii. Advocacy with housing provider to address possible discrimination.
 - iii. Assist people with disabilities with submitting reasonable accommodation or reasonable modification requests to housing providers.
 1. ESA allowed into a "no pets" building, assigned reserved, accessible parking space, transfer to more accessible unit, changing the date of rent payment to match when person receives their monthly disability income, not consider criminal conviction directly related to a person's disability.
 - iv. Assist with submitting housing discrimination complaint with Maryland Commission on Civil Rights or HUD and serving as person's advocate.
 - v. Civil rights testing
 - vi. Accessibility site surveys
 - vii. Call 202-234-3062 or email info@equalrightscenter.org for more information.
6. DDA, Stephanie Jones
 - a. Celebrating one year anniversary for being a technology first state at the meeting house In Columbia from 10:00-3:00. There will be food trucks, virtual reality truck to help Individual's try out new technologies.
 - b. Going through the applications on the rent subsidy to set the priorities for awarding them.
7. Updates from Department of Disabilities
 - a. MFP bridge subsidy in the Community Choice homes program in Montgomery County. Leasing for 2 turnovers at Burger Square and Homes at Johnson Pond and additional properties in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Gateway at Peerless is fully leased.
 - b. There are some construction delays in the newer Howard and Anne Arundel County projects.
 - c. They are trying to set up meetings with different counties to target new agreements for the MFP bridge subsidy slots.
 - i. Funded for 3 years by the state; then person goes into a housing choice voucher provided by the housing authority.
 - d. No Weinberg apartments leasing in PG county.
 - e. MDOD sent a comment letter for the section 504 update at the end of July.
 - f. Just starting the slots for the DDA rent subsidy program.
 - g. On October 5 from 10-2:00 pm at MDOT headquarters in Hanover for annual property manager and case manager meeting.



- h. Tenant training 101 in person in September. Waiting to hear on location to set the date.
- i. A committee member reiterated the it's important to have a housing support specialist to try to find housing not just through the Housing Choice voucher but using project-based vouchers.
- j. [Mailing list](#) for those interested

8. Legislative Priorities

- a. Increase funding for DDA rent subsidy program.
- b. Support additional funding for the Maryland DHCD.
- c. Support for National Housing trust funds.
- d. Support for DHCD HomeAbility Program.
- e. Reaching out to local governments.
- f. Support Maryland Department of Health capital bond program.
- g. Support enhanced participation in MDHousingSearch.com

9. Next Meeting (virtual)

- a. October 24 from 3:00-4:30 pm.