**Eastern Shore’s Housing Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM via [Zoom](#,,,,*036661# US (Washington DC) +16469313860,,84452740087#,,,,*036661# US  ---  Dial by your location • +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) • +1 646 931 3860 US • +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) • +1 305 224 1968 US • +1 309 205 3325 US • +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) • +1 719 359 4580 US • +1 253 205 0468 US • +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) • +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) • +1 360 209 5623 US • +1 386 347 5053 US • +1 507 473 4847 US • +1 564 217 2000 US • +1 669 444 9171 US • +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) • +1 689 278 1000 US  Meeting ID: 844 5274 0087 Passcode: 036661  Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcVCfj0SuI)

**Present**: Vonnette Harris, Rachel White, Diane Dressler, Chelsea Hayman, Tim Wiens, Char McCready, Andy Krauss, Lauren Silverstone, Tierra Medley, Terri Bradford

1. Welcome and Introduction
   1. Each member in attendance introduced themselves.
2. Review of minutes from meeting October 31, 2023
   1. There were no changes to the minutes from the last meeting.
3. Assistive Technology (AT) Navigator, Andy Krauss, Director of Communications Maryland Inclusive Housing
   1. The Assistive Technology [Navigator](https://mih-inc.org/assistive-technology-navigator/) can be found on our website.
   2. Andy shared the navigator's history and took the meeting participants on a virtual tour of it.
   3. Diane stressed the importance of these types of assistance to help people live independently.
4. Maryland Department of Disabilities Updates & Legislative Priorities with Chelsea Hayman, Director of Housing Policy, and Programs
   1. Some pre-filed bills have been dropped. There is a lot of legislation coming out regarding:
      1. land use and zoning policies. Look at preemption for manufactured homes including more construction of manufactured homes.
      2. Renters and Tenants rights focused legislation. They are trying to raise the filing fee for landlords who file against a tenant for eviction as a way of revenue funding for the state housing voucher program.
      3. Prioritization of families for the section 8 voucher program. FYI Persons with disabilities are still prioritized for the program.
      4. Look out for opportunities where disability is NOT included in legislation.
   2. There is a bill tracker in the department through an organization called Advocate.
   3. The 811 Grant had a change in staffing in MD DHCD (Department of Housing and Community Development). They are working on getting it across the finish line. The hope is to finish it in the next week and a half.
   4. Developers receive unit funding for the 811 units on an ongoing basis. They get an initial award and enter into an agreement for providing rental assistance. Congress must keep reauthorizing the program.
   5. RACS and ARACS [Training link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWTTGSauJiI&ab_channel=MarylandDepartmentofDisabilities)
5. Open Forum
   1. On 1/18/24, the Maryland Department of Disabilities will have a town hall meeting at 10:00 am, for Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The Disability Plan is a guiding policy document and vision for Marylanders with disabilities to ensure that we are providing the most inclusive and equitable environments for people to thrive in their chosen community or living situation.
      1. The old plan can be found [here](https://mdod.maryland.gov/pub/Documents/MDOD_StateDisabilitiesPlan_062321_COPY%20(1).pdf).
      2. The purpose of these outcomes is to give the agency a focus for the next three years.
      3. Char will attend the meeting in person.
      4. Andy will distribute the flyer online and Char will send it to the Eastern Shore Housing Committee.
      5. 
   2. Dates for your calendar
      1. Housing day will occur over two days, on 2/14/24, and in-person on 2/15/24. Registration will open in a week or so.
      2. DDA (Developmental Disabilities Administrations) Day at the legislature is on 2/21/24, and registration is forthcoming.
      3. DDA Budget hearing day 2/22/24.
      4. DDA Budget hearing in the Senate on 2/23/24
      5. Crossover Day is 3/18
      6. World Down Syndrome Day is 3/21/24
      7. Autism Acceptance Celebration 4/2/24
      8. Primary election day is 5/14/24.
   3. We have been struggling to get Eastern Shore leaders to join us. How can we get organizations on the shore more engaged?
      1. There has been quite a bit of staff turnover at several organizations.
      2. Suggestions:
         1. Send something to Rachel White with the MD DOD, so that she can share information about MIH at the next provider meeting that is on 1/18/24. Or alternatively, Tim may attend the meeting.
   4. MIH (Maryland Inclusive Housing) has signed a letter of intent with [Kairos Development Corporation](https://kairosdevelopmentcorp.com/), where they would set aside 10% of their units in Baltimore City for MIH clients in return for MIH support. Kairos is looking to expand these opportunities to other areas in Maryland.
6. Next Meeting
   1. A poll will be sent out.