Howard County Housing Committee

**Notes**

Thursday March 16th 3:30 – 5:00

**In Attendance**: Lauren Silverstone, Diane Dressler, Katie Collins-Ihrke, Matthew Plantz, Grace Morris, Nannette Livadas, Pat Sylvester, Mark Dunham, Tim Wiens, Terri Bradford

1. Welcome
2. Review of updates
3. New MIH work
   1. Three new full-time positions
      1. Director of Housing
      2. Director of Communications
      3. 2nd Community Living Coordinator focused on Baltimore Region
   2. New Communications work
      1. Parent friendly information to navigate affordable housing resources
      2. A State-wide legislative advocacy page
      3. Technology
4. Housing Authority updates:

* Has had some staffing changes.
* Mainstream vouchers have been leased or almost leased. 15 vouchers have been issued to the coordinated entry system and they are waiting for them to be assigned.
* No new funding unfortunately.
* Housing authorities can update Maryland Housing Search website as the units become available. [If you have any tax credits, you must list your unit on there.]
* HHP said their properties are in the system. They get emails reminding them to update the site.
* HoCo could do a better job of creating lists of MIHUs so people can find them.
* All zip codes in HoCo are small area FMRs.
  + Question: Are they higher so that people with a mainstream voucher could rent a newer unit that is accessible? The answer appears to be yes, but they can’t say if it’s a newer unit or not.
* HUD sets the FMRs.
* As of May 1, in HoCo about 19-22% are paying over 30% of their income to rent.
* HoCo is required by HUD to do small area FMRs.
* It can go 120% above the FMR without going to HUD if there’s an accommodation being made for someone with a disability.

1. Update – pilot for program which sets into motion the APFO waiver. Support from the council as expected plus good discussion from other members. Council member expressed interest in housing set asides for those with disabilities. Monday night is the meeting. Testimony is encouraged. An amendment to the original bill segregating some funds is expected.
2. Changes in leadership at Humanim and The Arc Howard County
   1. Cindy Parr, The Arc/HC, will be retiring at the end of summer
   2. Judi Olinger, Humanim, went to the Arc of Central Chesapeake
   3. Adding members – Nannette will try to find someone at Humanim.
3. Future Agenda & Meetings
   1. State-wide meetings
      1. The Kelsey
      2. MD Affordable Housing Coalition; Miranda Darden
   2. County
      1. Stage legislation introduced for HoCo to create a housing trust fund and seems to be moving through general assembly. Goal to get HoCo county executive to fund a trust fund. The county council disrupted plans last year for the trust fund that the CE included in his budget.
   3. Next meeting: May 12,2022 from 3:30-5:00 pm