



## Howard County Housing Committee

### Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2022 3:30 PM

**Present:** Sharonda Huffman, Diane Dressler, Pat Sylvester, Sarah Hochbaum, Marge Gold, Michelle Henry, Andy Krauss, Dorothy Plants, Grace Morris, Katie Collins-Ihrke, Melissa Gibson, Stephanie Jones, Theresa Ballinger, Dorothy Plants, Matthew Plantz, Erin Ashinghurst, Tim Wiens, Terri Bradford

- I. Welcome
- I. Review of minutes from the May 2022 meeting and updates
- II. Introduction to New Howard County Committee Member
  - a. Welcome to Marge Gold! Marge is a long-time advocate and she has a son with IDD who is supported by the Arc and is living in the community.
- III. Michele Henry, Howard County ADA Coordinator, Office of ADA Coordination, Department of Community Resources and Services
  - a. The commission is charged to look at the status of people with disabilities in various areas in the county including housing. Lack of affordable housing for people with disabilities was identified as a particular problem.
    - i. The commission made recommendations to encourage the county government to partner with, fund and make available housing that is more affordable to people with disabilities.
  - b. Lead agencies for accommodations are the housing department and the office of human rights. The commission's goal is to provide informal guidance to people. They may reach out to landlords or condo associations as needed. They want to promote the county's compliance with ADA and fair housing laws.
- IV. MIH Statewide Funding and Advocacy Priorities



- a. MIH has been refining our statewide funding and advocacy priorities for FY23 that was shared with the group.
  - i. First priority is securing additional funding for the Md DDA rent subsidy program in FY24. Estimated average cost is \$12,000 per person annually.
    - 1. Average cost is an estimate. Some areas in Maryland will be more, some will be less. Using the HUD fair market rent guidelines for the calculation.
    - 2. DDA has prioritized people on the waitlist for the subsidy. It is difficult to predict how many people in Howard County could be served by this program.
  - ii. Advocate for DHCD funding
    - 1. State funded gap financing; have 10% of tax credits units go to people with disabilities; collaborate with MAHC on this priority.
  - iii. Utilize DHCD/NHTF for units for Marylanders with disabilities that have incomes at/below 20% AMI (lower 30% -> 20% for people with disabilities)
    - 1. Should fall on government, not the developer.
    - 2. Reword this to make it clearer. Run by Pat Sylvester when it is reworded.
  - iv. Increase funding for DHCD HomeAbility Mortgage Program.
    - 1. For purchases, there is a need to make this more accessible to people with disabilities. Increase funding.
  - v. Encourage local governments to set aside units for people with disabilities when government funding is used. Advocate for incentives to create more uniform federal accessibility standards (UFAS) accessible units than required by HUD.
    - 1. Reword this statement and run it by Pat Sylvester when it's done.
  - vi. Advocate for DHCD Qualified Allocation Plans QAP.



1. Strengthen universal design requirements, demand responsive transit be required in all projects that receive points for being transit oriented.
  - vii. Support enhanced participation in and utilization of MDHousingSearch.com with the goal of matching households with accessible units that meet their needs.
- V. The Housing Opportunities Trust Fund for Howard County
- a. Report on status after meeting with Director Cimino
    - a. County has approved \$5,000,000 for the trust. Information will go out in January. There will be a review committee to help distribute the funds. Ideally, we'd like to have someone on the committee. Some jurisdictions that have this funding have it in their budget.
  - b. Next Steps
    - a. Will make a recommendation to Kelly.
- VI. Technology and DDA
- a. Maryland technology first state kickoff event on 8/15. MIH will be attending to meet with vendors and experience technology used by people with disabilities.
  - b. Register at [link](#)
- VII. Future Agenda and Meetings
- a. Next meeting September 8 from 3:30-5:00 pm in person. It will be a hybrid meeting with both in person and zoom options. People planning on attending in person should go to The Arc of Howard County 11735 Homewood Road Ellicott City, MD 21042. Masking is required in The Arc building.
- VIII. Send out document to committee members and MIH for Erin Ashinghurst to gather feedback.

