



**Prince George's County Housing Committee \*SPECIAL\* Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**  
**Via Zoom**  
**Agenda**

**1. Welcome/Introductions/Minutes Approval**

- No formal objections or concerns were raised regarding prior minutes during this portion of the discussion.

**2. Housing Authority Huddle Updates-**

**A.) Updated Timeline**

- The group shared updates from MIH's bi-weekly coordination with Nicole Garrett, Acting Executive Director of the Prince George's County Housing Authority.
- MIH reported the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist will officially be named the "Housing Choice Voucher Waitlist," and the term "Section 8" will be avoided due to negative connotations.
- The Housing Choice Voucher waitlist is scheduled to open **Monday, December 1** and remain open for **five days** through **Friday, December 5**.
- The process will be online and will use a lottery system; the Housing Authority is not planning to cap the number of applicants who apply during the open period.

**B.) Process**

- MIH explained the county has approximately **5,800 vouchers**, with about **800** currently tied to individuals from the prior waitlist, leaving roughly **5,000 available spots** in the new selection pool.
- The group noted that while many people may apply (potentially tens of thousands), the lottery selection is expected to generate approximately **5,000 names** to move forward.
- MIH stated selected applicants will be notified by **email and mail**, and the group flagged concerns that many individuals supported by provider agencies may not regularly use email.
- MIH shared that a key pending clarification is whether a **secondary contact** (e.g., provider staff or agency support) can be added and whether secondary contacts will also receive notifications.
- The group discussed that the first stage is a strict lottery with no preferences applied, while later stages will involve preference factors aligned with the Housing Authority's administrative plan (with disability and family-related preferences anticipated, pending confirmation).
- MIH reviewed the basic information applicants will need to submit, including date of birth, Social Security number, citizenship status, disability status, household income, and contact information.
- The group emphasized that household income should reflect the income of the household composition the applicant intends to live with (and clarified that people leaving group homes should generally not list other group home residents).
- MIH reported that in-person application assistance will be available at specified libraries during the open window, and that language access supports (including Spanish) are expected.

### **C.) Communications Flyer – Andy**

- Andy Krauss presented a one-page fact sheet/flyer created for broad distribution and reviewed that MIH developed two versions: one more visual with icons (better for attachment/sharing) and one more text-based (better for copying into emails or websites).
- The group agreed the visual version was more eye-catching, while the text-heavy version would be useful for email copy/paste.
- MIH confirmed the flyer would include a link to the Prince George’s County Housing Authority website once the official link is available; Andy noted he would add the link after the meeting.
- Feedback was provided to make “email address required” more explicit; the group agreed to split “home address and email address” into separate lines for clarity, and Andy agreed to revise both versions accordingly.
- Tim Wiens stated MIH’s plan is to share the flyer through MIH’s email list and website and encouraged provider partners (including Ardmore and the Provider Council) to distribute it widely across their networks.
- MIH stated the flyer would be shared with Nicole Garrett for review before broader distribution, as a final quality check.

### **3. Committee Member Updates-**

- Providers discussed strategies to “blitz” the information across families, staff, and networks, noting many people may not know the waitlist is opening due to it being closed for over ten years.
- Lori Sadlowski noted Ardmore plans to offer both webinar and in-person opportunities for families to receive information and application assistance, and Lauren Silverstone offered to participate as a presenter if helpful.

- Lillian Bradley raised a provider operations question about supporting multiple applications and whether using the same staff email for many applicants could create issues; MIH staff clarified that each applicant will need their own email to create an account in an online portal.
- Lauren Silverstone recommended setting up individual free email addresses (e.g., ProtonMail) for each person, with staff support as appropriate and with permission, and using an agency contact as a secondary contact once clarified.
- The group discussed the likely two-step email verification process (enter email on the portal, receive a link, then use it to open the application) and emphasized this will require hands-on support for many individuals with IDD.
- Lauren Silverstone reminded the group the voucher is federally funded and can become portable after one year, but noted people receiving DDA waiver services should consider remaining in Maryland to maintain those services.
- Ahmna Khan shared DDA data indicating **68 people** in Prince George’s County are receiving Housing Support Services and **18 people** are in Supported Living, which prompted discussion that these numbers are low and may reflect long-standing lack of voucher access.
- Members discussed broader system issues affecting families, including concerns about people losing Medicaid/waiver benefits, which multiple providers described as significant across Maryland.
- Tim Wiens shared that MIH recently released a podcast (“We Can’t Go Back”) about the history of IDD services in Maryland and encouraged partners to listen and share it within their networks.

#### **4. Next meeting-**

- The group discussed whether to hold the next meeting in December or January and agreed that December may be too busy given the waitlist opening and support needs.

- The next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, January 14 at 3:00 PM**, and Ahmna Khan confirmed she would send the Zoom link.