# Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

# Joint Housing Directors Advisory Committee & Homeless Services Committee Meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, September 17, 2015

**TIME: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**PLACE:** COG Meeting Rooms 4 & 5 at 777 N. Capitol Street, NE

Washington, DC  20002

***Please pick up your lunch upon arrival. Conference call information: 800-987-7464, access code 7270541.***

Complimentary wireless access provided to MWCOG guests!

1. Open up your device’s wireless connection settings
2. Connect to **COG-Guest**
3. Enter in the passkey **regionforward**
4. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements** 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Jesse Buggs, Chair, HDAC and Michael Ferrell, Chair, Homeless Services Committee

Chair Buggs will welcome HDAC and Homeless Services Committee members and share any announcements.

1. **Social Impact Bonds** 10:45 a.m. –11:15 a.m.

Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Planner and Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE) Cohort 12 participant

Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, National Low Income Housing Coalition and Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE) Cohort 12 participant

What if there was a solution to solving shrinking budgets and social problems at the same time? Social impact bonds, or SIB’s are a financial tool that brings in outside funding to pay for proven interventions with little risk to government. Over time, real change can save money, but governments often lack the upfront capital to invest in problems like homelessness, teen pregnancy, prison recidivism, or access to early childhood education. Through an SIB, governments can scale up a successful program, reduce long term costs, and attract investors who can earn a modest return. Amanda Campbell and Renee Willis will describe their IRE project exploration into this unique funding model.

*Brief Bio: Amanda Campbell has served as an Environmental Planner at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) for four years, focusing on climate, energy, and sustainability. In 2014, Ms. Campbell participated in the Institute for Regional Excellence where she applied her policy analysis skills to a team project on Social Impact Bonds. Ms. Campbell received a Master’s of City and Regional Planning with a Land Use/Environment specialization from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an Environmental Studies minor from James Madison University. In the first part of her career, she was a natural science educator, most notably as a Park Naturalist for Arlington County, VA.*

*Brief Bio: Renee M. Willis joined NLIHC in June 2015 as the new Vice President for Field and Communications. Renee brings more than fifteen years of experience in affordable housing, including establishing and leading successful community and region-wide initiatives. Renee has extensive experience in strategic planning, financial management, marketing, organizational development, staff management, and program operations. Renee served as Housing Services Chief with Arlington County, VA from 2008 to 2015. Prior to her work in Arlington, she served as the Administrator of the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs for Montgomery County, MD from 1999 to 2004 and as an Advocate and Manager for the Public Justice Center’s Tenant Advocacy Project in Baltimore, MD from 1993 to 1999.  Renee earned dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Spanish from the University of Maryland. She also holds a Certificate in Public Management from George Washington University.*

1. **Family Options Study: Short-Term Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families** 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Michelle Wood, Principal Associate and Project Director, Abt Associates

In 2008, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development began the *Family Options Study.* It is a multi-site randomized control study designed to study the impact of various housing and services interventions for homeless families. The goal of the study is to learn more about the effects of different housing and services interventions for homeless families.  An interim report was released in March 2013. The July 2015 report documents the impact of the various interventions and relative costs at the 18-month follow-up period. A final report will be released in 2017 documenting the impacts at the 36-month period.

Between September 2010 and January 2012, a total of 2,282 families (including over 5,000 children) were enrolled into the study from emergency shelters across twelve communities nationwide and were randomly assigned to one of four interventions: 1) subsidy-only – defined as a permanent housing subsidy with no supportive services attached, typically delivered in the form of a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV); 2) project-based transitional housing – defined as temporary housing for up to 24 months with an intensive package of supportive services offered on-site; 3) community-based rapid re-housing– defined as temporary rental assistance, potentially renewable for up to 18 months with limited, housing-focused services; or 4) usual care –  defined as any housing or services that a family accesses in the absence of immediate referral to the other interventions.

Families are being tracked for a minimum of three years, and were extensively interviewed at baseline/random assignment, 18-months after random assignment, and 36 months after random assignment. Extensive data is collected from both the head of household, as well as from children directly, through surveys or direct child and parent observations in the home. Primary outcomes of interest fall under five domains: housing stability; family preservation; adult well-being; child well-being; and self-sufficiency. In addition to family outcomes, extensive cost data was also collected in order to help contextualize the outcomes.

*Brief Bio: Michelle Wood is a Principal Associate and Project Director at Abt Associates. Ms. Wood specializes in directing large scale national program evaluations that use random assignment methods. Ms. Wood manages large teams of researchers to design and implement rigorous evaluations of social policies, focusing on housing, economic self-sufficiency, and family well-being. Since 2008 Ms. Wood has led Abt’s work for HUD on the* ***Family Options Study****. The study tests alternative housing and service interventions for homeless families using an experimental research design. Ms. Wood also served as Project Director for the* ***Effects of Housing Vouchers on Welfare Families,*** *a random assignment study of Housing Choice Vouchers that Abt completed for HUD in 2006. Ms. Wood also leads a nine-year social experiment that Abt Associates is implementing and evaluating for the Social Security Administration--the Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND).*

Link to more information about the Family Options Study on the HUD website: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/family_options_study.html>

Not able to attend today’s meeting? You can still hear from the authors of the Family Options Study on Monday, September 21st from 9am-12pm at the Newseum. Registration information here: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/is-housing-stability-essential-for-family-well-being-a-forum-on-the-implications-of-the-family-registration-17981803057>

1. **Committee Member Jurisdictional Roundtable and Announcements**

All Participants12:15 p.m.-12:30 p.m.

Committee members will have an opportunity to share announcements, updates, and other current activities in their jurisdictions.

**\*\*\*SURVEY MONKEY \*\*\* Meeting Evaluation link \*\*\*** Your feedback is invaluable to planning future meetings!

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XXKR7FJ**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XXKR7FJ)

***Upcoming HDAC and Homeless Services Committee Meetings:***

* ***Next Homeless Services Committee Meeting – October 7th or 9th (Doodle Poll here:*** [**https://mwcog.doodle.com/9ssxqafvmg8ar87z**](https://mwcog.doodle.com/9ssxqafvmg8ar87z) **- please vote!** Featuring the District of Columbia Continuum of Care (meeting at the offices of The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE).
* ***Next HDAC Meeting - Thursday, November 12th, featuring the City of Falls Church and Fairfax County!***

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. Click here for information: [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).