



## HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPSPC)

July 28, 2017

12:00 P.M.

Walter A. Scheiber Board Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

### MEETING MINUTES

#### 1. WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENT(S), AND APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

*Co-Chair Tierney, Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee*

Co-Chair Tierney called the meeting to order, announced that Chair Toles is in-route to the meeting, requested participants to introduce themselves, and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Co-Chair Tierney requested and received motion to approve the April 21, 2017 HSPSPC draft meeting summary.

Co-Chair Tierney opened the floor to MWCOCG Transportation Planner, Sergio Ritacco, who announced an upcoming solicitation for applications for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to enhance mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities grant program.

- MWCOCG Transportation Planning Board is the designated administrator for DC, Maryland, and Virginia urbanized areas.
- This FTA solicitation is a two-year matching grant opportunity with \$5.5M available in federal funding. The application process will run from August 14, 2017 through November 3, 2017, and the grant focus will be to remove barriers to transportation services and expand available transportation options that will exceed traditional public transit and paratransit services. Interested parties are asked to attend one of the already scheduled five pre-application conferences; the first session will be held next week (August 3) in Falls Church, Virginia. To register for pre-certification sessions and to learn more, visit [tpbcoordination.org](http://tpbcoordination.org).

#### 2. CHANGES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR HOUSING?

*Richard Michael Price, Partner, Nixon Peabody*

Chair Toles recognized Attorney Richard Price to present on housing and how changes at the federal level have caused uncertainty regarding the future of housing programs, and the ability of jurisdictions in the NCR to continue making progress on goals to expand housing affordability, end homelessness, and how the evolving financial picture relates to the housing program.

Attorney Richard Price shared an overview of potential impacts to housing programs from the federal FY18 budget perspective. The HUD appropriations bill particularly from the housing and community development context shows an overall 14 percent reduction in FY2018; part of this impulse is to avoid the elimination of the HOME program.

#### Action:

- a) There is interest in revisiting rural single family home funding.
- b) Forward to HSPSPC rural area specific opportunities for water and sewage development.

### **3. UPDATE ON PAY FOR SUCCESS: REGIONAL INNOVATIONS IN PROVIDING PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR PERSONS AT THE INTERSECTION OF HOMELESSNESS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

*Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee member*

Chair Toles gave a brief overview of the Pay for Success (PFS) initiative, noting that Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in collaboration with grant recipients, the American Institutes of Research (AIR) will work together on this initiative that intersects the criminal justice and homelessness systems. The grant was jointly awarded in June of 2016 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Ahluwalia introduced guest Amanda Harris, Chief of Special Needs Housing for Montgomery County. Ms. Harris specializes in housing and works in areas specific to homeless individuals. Ms. Ahluwalia went on to share a brief overview of the new initiative, which is currently in its very early stages of development. Additionally, Ms. Ahluwalia gave an update on the collaborative's preliminary efforts to examine the feasibility of implementing a Pay for Success model to finance permanent supportive housing in the two counties.

- a) The PFS is jointly funded by HUD and the Department of Justice with a total of \$8.7M awarded nationwide. The award to AIR was \$1.3 million for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The initiative targets services to individuals cycling between the criminal justice and homelessness systems.
- b) The goal for Pay for Success is to reduce chronic homelessness and provide interventions for at least one-hundred individuals. This is a demonstration program to test a new model in the region for attracting new local and national investors to fund permanent supportive housing.
- c) The planning portion for funding is slated to be completed within the next 12-months, which will include putting the design together and working closely with the budget office to determine the obligation(s). After the planning is completed a proposal will then need to be submitted for the implementation aspect of the grant.
- d) To improve programming, AIR's Data Driven Justice Initiative will be used to get better data on homelessness, particularly for individuals cycling through the criminal justice system. Housing options will be made available to individuals released with non-felony offenses.

#### **Action:**

- a) Identify ways to sustain individuals who go through the Pay for Success initiative. Some obstacles are identifying the best financing model; finding ways to attract capital financing; determining if there is an opportunity for tax credit housing; and deciding if work will be done with subsidies rather than real-estate assets, etc.
- b) Forward detail of the Pay for Success initiative to MWCOG for distribution to HSPSPC members.

### **4. COLLABORATING ON A REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF FAIR HOUSING: MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITY IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION**

*Hilary Chapman, COG Housing Program Manager*

Chair Toles introduced Hilary Chapman, COG Housing Program Manager, who shared an overview of a regional collaboration on conducting an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). In August 2015, HUD published an updated rule on how jurisdictions must analyze and address their duty to affirmatively further fair housing. The new tool – the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) – presents a unique opportunity to collaborate regionally to assess chances to strengthen inclusive communities and remove barriers to housing opportunities. Ms. Chapman went on to explain the new rule, why it matters, and how the NCR is coming together in a concrete, substantive way to make a difference for creating inclusive communities region-wide.

- a) The rationale for a regional collaboration is to assist local jurisdictions to meet the new fair housing requirements in a way that not only saves time and money, but also deepens the impact of the required process.
- b) The new rule requires that the AFH be incorporated into the local jurisdictions' five-year consolidated plans, which is a key piece that makes the rule new and different from what was done in the past. The planning will feed directly into investments being generated with the use of federal dollars in respective jurisdictions.



- c) The major components of an AFH include a robust community participation and a comment process that allows for meaningful dialogue, an assessment of past goals and actions, an analysis of data, issues that impact fair housing, and an establishment of measureable fair housing goals and priorities.
- d) The AFH is a planning process that is locally driven, designed to inform decisions at the local level around affirmatively furthering fair housing. The new rule provides program participants with a framework to increase integration, and increases access to opportunities such as in public schools, transportation, and jobs for community residents.
- e) The AFH tool is a data and community driven approach to gauge segregation, expand opportunities, and is designed to aide local leaders and community developers improve fair housing priorities and goals that will ultimately increase fair housing choices, opportunities and strengthen communities.
- f) There are currently 18 entities intending to collaborate, which will make it one of the larger collaborations throughout the U.S. and only the second that crosses state lines.

Collaborating is encouraged, but is not required by HUD, however, a new change to AFH is that there still needs to be an integrated regional analysis with local plans. Thus working together will conclude with one regional analysis, which makes it easier to complete the requirements as opposed to having eleven or so jurisdictions tackle the same task separately. Consultant costs will be shared across the region (staff time and public resources); cost savings will be feasible in both the short and long-term. Collaboration will also ensure that goals are consistent, collaborative, innovative, and therefore more likely to be effective. Avoiding duplication of efforts and streamlining efforts is optimal. Additionally, in the broader context, collaborating may result in HUD bonus points in funding for future funding competitions and potentially additional resources to jurisdictions. Collaborating in our region may result in establishing national best practices as well as finding creative solutions to housing challenges.

**Discussion:**

Each jurisdiction may already have independent data at the local level, however, the combined data collection process has not begun; DC is considering serving as the lead agency (a requirement of HUD). The AFH has a GIS mapping tool, which will provide a fair amount of existing data.

- If DC agrees to be the lead agency, the expectation is that good data will be collected in 2019. If DC chooses not to take the lead, then Prince George’s county may serve as the lead agency with data expected by 2018. Deadline for completion is 2020 if the District of Columbia serves as the lead agency.

**5. HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS? – KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2017 REPORT**

*Kurt Erickson, President Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP)*

Chair Toles acknowledged that the How Safe Are Our Roads presentation was deferred from a previous meeting held earlier this spring and went on to introduce guest speaker Kurt Erickson who provided a briefing on the key findings from the 2017 annual report on the impact of drunk driving on road safety in the Washington, DC metropolitan region.

- a) The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) has been in existence for 35-years, is designed to offer alternatives to drunk driving, and partners with public and private stakeholders.
- b) Collaboration of efforts were also done with the 2016 Checkpoint Strickforce Campaign that celebrates real-time cab-drivers as being designated sober drivers, and the campaign is also designed to identify and apprehend drunk drivers, etc. Additionally, WRAP is well-known for “Safe Ride” services provided for over 24 years with a purpose for providing free rides on various holidays; this program offers alternatives to drunk and/or impaired driving.
- c) WRAP has worked with COG for approximately 24 years and COG provides regional aggregated data collection, where the outcomes convey specifics to the progress being made in terms of drunk driving incidents, fatalities, and arrest. WRAP defines the greater Washington area as Montgomery County and Prince George’s Counties in Maryland; the District of Columbia; and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties in Virginia.
- d) In Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia, anyone convicted of a DUI is now required to have an in-car breathalyzer (ignition antilock that prevents car from becoming operational without first breathing into the device).



**Action:**

- a) MWCOG Transportation to connect with WRAP for potential data collection collaboration.
- b) Suggest that the BWI Parkway be considered for better lighting at dusk; night-time driving is impaired because the roads are too dark in long stretches. Noted that there is an existing citizen-driven taskforce scheduled to meet next week charged with looking at beltway and parkway improvements. Will keep the HSPSPC abreast of activities.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS / JURISDICTIONAL ROUNDTABLE**

Chair Toles introduced Nicole McCall, COG Senior Regional Planner, and invited her to share HSPSPC member survey results that were conducted in the spring 2017. The HSPSPC consensus is to:

- a) Continue with bi-monthly meetings;
- b) Continue to address issues surrounding affordable housing and homelessness;
- c) Consider having a special meeting in-between the two already scheduled meetings.
  - If a special event is held ensure that the meeting follows a purpose that will enhance stakeholder and public interest;
  - Recommendation to avoid hosting a two or three day special event; stay with a one-day event, and
  - Suggest hosting a forum (i.e., mental health) on one of already scheduled meeting dates; perhaps extend meeting time to accommodate such a forum.
- d) Upcoming meetings: September HSPSPC will focus on juvenile justice and gang activity (consider impact on community); November meeting will focus on mental health.

**Action:**

- a) There was a motion to postpone a special meeting/forum until next year. The motion was second and unanimously approved.
- b) There was a motion to differ COG Board Retreat recommendations to the next HSPSPC meeting in September; Stuart Freudberg will present. The motion was second and unanimously approved.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.  
The next HSPSPC meeting is September 15, 2017.

**Attachments:**

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2017
3. Amendments Adopted to the GTransportation/HUD Appropriations Bill for FHY 2018
4. AFFH Fact Sheet
5. HSPSPC 2017 Priorities and Operational Enhancement Survey Results Dated 7/28/2017
6. June 1017 Guidebook for Increasing Housing Affordability in the Greater Washington Region
7. HUD Appropriations: A Quick Overview
8. Appropriations: SubCommittee Approves FY2018 Transportation, HUD Appropriations Bill

A list of reference materials and detailed reports can be obtained from the on-line library link:

[https://www.mwco.org/events/2016/?F\\_committee=128](https://www.mwco.org/events/2016/?F_committee=128); Click Login Button at Upper Right and use Username: your email address; Password: your personal password provided by COG.

