

**Arlington County Tenant – Landlord Commission
Eviction Reduction Subcommittee
Meeting Notes, April 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Conference Room 715**

Zachary Buttler (TLC), Lucy Yohn (DHS), Bismah Ahmed (TLC), Matt Whitfield (TLC), David Tim, Kellen MacBeth (TLC), Hector Mercado (CPHD)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair MacBeth.

Public Comment: No Public comment

Discussion:

- A representative of the Department of Human Services (DHS) gave a short presentation of their programs and relationship with the courts. She also responded to some clarification questions of other members.
- There was a discussion about measures the state was taking regarding eviction prevention and about the eviction diversion program, the conclusions were that the program could be opted in, but there should be no variation from the original. The county is already using programs that deal with eviction prevention but not in a direct relationship with the courts. The conclusion was that there is not enough information available to tenants and to seek ways improve communication.
- There was also a discussion about ways to provide information of services before eviction is started, looking at lists of filings or having outreach through landlords. Other proposal is to have eviction hearings on one day of the week only to better help constituents.
- The education of landlords not subject to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (VRLTA) was also considered.
- Consider the possibility of changes on the Arlington courts to better help tenants facing eviction, develop a proposal that will be presented to the courts.
- Other considerations were to see if there were other options to see persons that are probably facing an eviction like the loss of a job, also about using all their resources before getting assistance, also the creation of a resource center that people could use to get informed before reaching for assistance.
- Commissioner Ahmed will develop a draft proposal for the courts with the help of the other members, also do research on other jurisdictions regarding eviction information and programs, and the creation of a dedicated webpage regarding eviction.
- The subcommittee decided to meet the second Monday of each month for the time is necessary.

Notes were recorded by H. Mercado of Arlington County. Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m. The next scheduled meeting is May 13, 2019, same time and location.