

Housing Discrimination Subcommittee Meeting notes 6.17.19

Recap of the Tenant-Landlord Commission's (TLC) Housing Discrimination Subcommittee meeting which took place on 6/17/19 with Nicole Harmon, Michael Pruitt, Kirit Mookerjee, and Kellen MacBeth in attendance:

- **FHAIR Proposal Update** - Kellen provided an update on efforts to engage with Arlington landlords following the TLC meeting last Wednesday. He has reached out to multiple landlords as well as CPHD staff and BUGATA to request recommendations for landlords to meet with to discuss the Furthering Housing Accessibility for Income-Assisted Renters (FHAIR) proposal. Michael is working to set up meetings and based on emails last week, it appears that Bismah and Kristin are performing outreach as well. Kellen also provided a brief update from the presentation to the Human Rights Commission last week who would like to get involved with the Housing Discrimination subcommittee.
- **Housing Matters Forum (September)** - The group discussed broadening the focus of the landlord-specific segment of the next Housing Matters Forum to focus on landlord feedback to a number of housing discrimination/protected classes programs/efforts instead of focusing solely on accepting Housing Choice Vouchers. Nicole mentioned Virginia's ongoing efforts to address housing opportunities for those with serious mental illness and how that could be included as well. Nicole also brought up the work being done through the Bridges Out of Poverty initiative to better engage with landlords on the variety of Federal/state/local/nonprofit programs and the creation of a landlord cheatsheet. The group discussed ways to make it easier for landlords to participate in various programs by reducing the administrative burdens, streamlining communication, and performing outreach. The group agreed to use the upcoming meetings with landlords to help shape discussion questions by mid-July for the September Housing Matters Forum to ensure meaningful participation.
- **Criminal History Housing Discrimination** - The group discussed the work done by the community to create the Arlington Landlord Partnership (ALP) in 2014 and the importance of not recreating the wheel. Kellen will reach out to Lucy Yohn to learn more about their findings and plan to address an upcoming meeting of the Continuum of Care's Housing Subcommittee (likely 7/1) and see how the TLC can work with the ALP community to explore additional ways to ensure the housing needs of those with criminal history are being met. The group felt that the Arlington community would likely be willing to do more to address barriers to housing for those with criminal history as the environment has shifted a lot on criminal justice reform recently. Kellen had also invited Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) to attend the meeting but due to a scheduling conflict they were unable to attend but would like to participate in future meetings.