

TLC - Eviction Reduction Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Eviction Reduction Subcommittee meeting which took place on 10/21/19 from 7:29 PM until 7:45 PM.

Attendees: Lucy Yohn, Matthew Whitfield, David Timm, and Kellen MacBeth.

- **Landlord Eviction Prevention Best Practices: Next Steps** - The attendees discussed next steps to disseminate eviction prevention best practices to Arlington landlords based on the presentations from AHC, APAH, and Wesley nonprofit housing providers. David stated that without staff, the TLC is not in a position to develop a new best practice document themselves. Instead, it was suggested that the TLC identify what already may already exist in the County and work with staff to revise or update, if needed. It was also suggested that the TLC reach out to landlord lawyers to get their perspective on the eviction process and prevention opportunities.
- **General District Court Proposal: Next Steps** - Kellen stated that he had reached out to the County Board, per the discussion at the last subcommittee meeting, to ask for the Board's endorsement of the Eviction Reduction proposal. He will follow-up with the Board. The attendees discussed that Heather Venner from DHS was a critical partner for moving forward and that not much can be done with the Judges until she is back in the office. Lucy agreed to follow-up to see when Heather will be returning to the office. Matthew agreed to reply to the Judges' email letting them know that the TLC endorsed the Eviction Reduction proposal and that we will be in contact soon about another meeting. Matthew also provided an update about Richmond's implementation of the Eviction Diversion Pilot Program. Since the state program does not take effect until summer 2020, Richmond has begun using a voluntary court rent payment program. Richmond has also begun attaching information about the eviction diversion program to the unlawful detainer notices sent to tenants. Matthew also shared that he spoke with the Legal Services attorneys practicing in Fairfax who said that having the 1st eviction hearings on the same day of the week has been working well for a while.