

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FINAL Meeting Minutes
Committee on Resident Services
Executive Director's Conference Room
Thursday, June 28, 2018**

Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri, Chairman
Commissioner Kenneth Council (via telephone)
Commissioner Frank Lancaster
Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones (via telephone)
Commissioner Franselene St. Jean

**COMMITTEE
COMMISSIONER
MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Commissioner Bill Slover

**COMMITTEE
COMMISSIONER
MEMBER ABSENT**

Larry Williams, Director of Resident Services started with his own introduction and opened the meeting at 12:13 pm asking everyone present to start with introductions. Each service provider in attendance introduced themselves as well as other DCHA staff, Board members both present and via phone as well as Executive Director Garrett. Representatives for the following service providers were present:

**INTRODUCTION OF
PROVIDER &
SPECIALIZED SERVICES
OVERVIEW**

- Sasha Bruce Youthwork
- Can I Live
- Homes for Hope
- The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington
- Urban Institute
- Exodus Treatment Center
- Training Grounds
- Smart From the Start
- Howard University Center for Urban Progress
- East River Family Strengthening Collaborative
- United Medical Center
- Housing Opportunities Unlimited
- Oye Palaver Hut
- Howard University Television
- Bright Lights
- Project Reboot
- Total Family Care
- Byte Back
- DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- Little Lights

The minutes of April 26, 2018 were addressed. Commissioner Lancaster stated that when he stated a concern about a resident at Judiciary he was referring to a *she* not a *he*. That change will be made in the minutes of April 26, 2018.

**MINUTES OF APRIL 26,
2018**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri read the Committee profile and provided a brief history of the Committee and its' founding members that consist of both former and current Board members.

Each service provider was asked to describe in one word what makes their programs successful. Some of the words used were: consistency, resident engagement, trust, building strength, training, love, stability, mental health, self-empowerment, well trained staff, and community.

Additionally the service providers were asked to state some of the obstacles or challenges they face. Many of them stated money or funding was a big challenge, also some other challenges that were stated were non-participation of parents or guardians, transportation, inventory, trust building and safety. Specifically, Ms. Fletcher of *Bright Lights* at Park Morton stated that she was in need of office space. She stated that this would help facilitate the ease of providing information regarding the mentors and the youth they serve. Commissioner Council stated that Ben Carson mandated to help families to become more self-sufficient at the opening of the EnVision center at the Southwest Family Enhancement Center. He also stated that providers should seek additional sponsorship with companies or organizations that they spend money with. Commissioner St. Jean asked how the service providers could assist Housing Choice Voucher residents. It was recommended that more outreach be done expanding to the communities beyond the public housing sites. A particular program that was highlighted was a summer sports league at the ARC, 1901 Mississippi Ave, SE for ages 11 to 27 year old through the Boys and Girls Club. This seven week program begins on July 13, 2018 from 8pm to midnight. The representative from Sasha Bruce also suggested there should be an exchange of resources and information to help promote services but there is also a need for additional funding when services are expanded. Mika Taylor stated that it would be helpful to share service provider information on the DCHA website and that this is a wonderful opportunity to spearhead a collaborative of service providers.

Larry Williams stated that he intended on hearing more from the service providers on a monthly basis and indicated that a survey would be sent to the providers present regarding this session to get their feedback. The goal for the ongoing conversations will be to determine how to effectively evaluate the services at the properties and to continue the dialog. Commissioner Council suggested ongoing roundtable discussions to stay connected. Commissioner Neal Jones added that frequent communication would be beneficial for all parties and asked what the providers thought would help them be more successful beyond physical space. Chairman Vann-Ghasri added that she would like to see providers extend their core hours through 9pm in the evening when youth at most at risk.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 pm.

SUCCESSSES/WHAT WORKS WELL

CHALLENGES/ ADDITIONAL SERVICES NEEDED

GOALS/NEXT STEPS

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT