

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

FINAL

**Meeting Minutes
Committee on Resident Services
Executive Director's Conference Room
Wednesday November 30, 2016**

Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri, Chairman
Commissioner Kenneth Council
Commissioner Frank Lancaster
Commissioner Shelore Fisher
Commissioner Bill Slover

**COMMITTEE
COMMISSIONER
MEMBERS
PRESENT**

None

**COMMITTEE
COMMISSIONER
MEMBER ABSENT**

Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones

**OTHER
COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri opened the meeting at 12:17 pm and read the function of the Committee of Resident Services.

**MINUTES: OCTOBER 27,
2016**

The minutes of October 27, 2016 were reviewed and accepted.

**BRIEFINGS: LITTLE
LIGHTS URBAN
MINISTRIES**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri asked for a moment of silence in honor of the late Linda Miller who was a former Barry Farm Resident Council President. Chairman Vann-Ghasri then read the function statement of the Committee on Resident Services and asked that everyone present introduce themselves. Chairman Vann-Ghasri asked Director Todman to explain to the guests present what a Moving to Work Housing Authority is. Chairman Vann-Ghasri stated that she invited two service providers to come in and share what they do to assist DCHA families and community. Chairman Vann-Ghasri added that DCHA has service providers with a goal in mind of helping families and individuals improve their lives and that it requires more than affordable housing. Mr. Steve Park, the Founder and Executive Director of Little Lights Urban Ministries stated that Little Lights serves the communities of Potomac Gardens and Hopkins with tutoring, youth development, hot meals and mentoring. He stated that the family center is located at Potomac Gardens and they also assist in employment research and have a program called Clean Green that provides job training for landscaping and has hired a lot of residents for its various programs. Ms. Gail Avent of Total Family Care Coalition stated that she is the Executive Director and Founder of the program. She stated that the program was founded based on her personal family need when she felt resources were not available. Total Family Care has been located at Potomac Gardens since 2009 and works to educate families and communities on having access to mental healthcare assistance. They also provide peer support, help raise money for families in crises and focus on resources that build family.

**TOTAL FAMILY CARE
COALITION**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri recommended that ORS assist in finding fathers from the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Public Housing to attend the annual Daddy University held in Philadelphia.

Both Mr. Park and Ms. Avent expressed her concerns regarding safety and her commitment to the families she serves. Mr. Park expressed his dedication to the community but indicated his greatest concern currently is safety in light of recent shootings. There was discussion regarding police jurisdiction and protocol for Potomac Gardens and contacting 911 immediately whenever there is any illegal activity witnessed. Director Todman stated that she would speak to the DCHA Police Chief regarding additional safety precautions and stated that she knows that they are working with Metropolitan Police on deterrents in areas where a lot of crime takes place on the property. Mr. Park asked to receive more updates from ORS regarding activities that would assist the families they serve and a service provider meeting calendar. Commissioner Lancaster thanked Ms. Avent and Mr. Park for the work their organizations do to assist DCHA families and thanked Chairman Vann-Ghasri for inviting them. Commissioner Neal Jones also thanked Ms. Avent and Mr. Park and asked if the work completed by the Urban Institute would be used to connect the needs of the communities with the services providers. Director Todman stated that that was the intent and that she would provide the presentation that the Urban Institute reviewed with the Board to her.

The Office of Resident Services provided the Committee with a service provider listing and described the role of the Community Navigators. They also gave a summary of specific activities the department is working on with Resident Councils, special events for residents, target dates for projects and the reorganization of the department.

None.

It was announced that on December 9, 2016 the annual holiday luncheon celebration for resident leaders will be held at the Renaissance Hotel at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 pm.

**OFFICE OF RESIDENT
SERVICES UPDATE**

**COMMISSIONERS'
ISSUES**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND ADJOURNMENT**