

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

**FINAL Meeting Minutes  
Committee on Resident Services  
Executive Director's Conference Room  
Thursday, August 9, 2018**

Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri, Chairman  
Commissioner Kenneth Council  
Commissioner Frank Lancaster  
Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones

**COMMITTEE  
COMMISSIONER  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Commissioner Bill Slover  
Commissioner Franselene St. Jean

**COMMITTEE  
COMMISSIONER  
MEMBER ABSENT**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri opened the meeting at 11:09am and provided a brief history of the Committee on Resident Services stating that it was formed by former DCHA Board Chairman LaRuby May. She also read the Committee profile.

The minutes of June 28, 2018 were addressed. Commissioner Neal Jones requested the question she asked in the meeting to the service providers asking them what they thought would help them be more successful beyond physical space is added to the minutes. There were no other amendments.

**MINUTES OF JUNE 28,  
2018**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri asked each member of the Collaboratives to introduce themselves. In attendance was Perry Moon of the *Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative*, Sharon Crytzer of *Edgewood Brookland Family Strengthening Collaborative* and Arthur Dade as well as Faith Williams and Pat Felipe of *Collaborative Solutions for Communities*. All of the Collaboratives were noted and the Wards they represent: *East River Collaborative*, Ward 7; *Edgewood Brookland*, Wards 5 & 7; *Georgia Avenue Family Strengthening Collaborative*, Ward 4; *Far South East Family Strengthening Collaborative*, Ward 8; and *Collaborative Solutions for Communities*, Wards 1, 2 & 3.

**INTRODUCTIONS OF  
THE COLLABORATIVES**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri asked if there is a *Collaborative Council*. Mr. Moon stated that the *Collaborative Council* will close out business by the end of the fiscal year. The *Council* has been around since 2000 and each Collaborative has grown and are now able to transition and work together and that it is not a negative transition just a new phase. Mr. Moon stated that they have a physical office at Barry Farm and serves Ward 8, Woodland and Highland. They also manage the *Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center* and had positive contact with Mr. Friday and other DCHA staff throughout the years. Ms. Crytzer stated that the *Edgewood Brookland Collaborative* does not have physical space at DCHA properties but has resources available for James Creek and Montana Terrace. Chairman Vann-Ghasri stated that she was interested in having them occupy space at Potomac Gardens. Chairman

**CHALLENGES/  
STRENGTHS  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
DCHA**

Vann-Ghasri added that Mr. Moon provided valuable information at a Resident Council retreat as a participant and would like to see the Collaboratives participate again at a future retreat. Chairman Vann-Ghasri asked what DCHA could do to improve the relationship with the Collaboratives. Ms. Crytzer stated that they are a referral source and would like more referrals to increase the connection to the needs and services they could help with. She gave examples of parenting classes, workforce development and TANF support information and referral. Mr. Moon stated that they have been on site at Barry Farm for 12 years and said that he would like to strengthen the relationship with management to get more residents aware of the services and wants to empower the residents to set goals and achieve them. There was discussion regarding the Ross Grant and a connection with the Ross grant Coordinators and how it would benefit the community. There was also discussion regarding DCHA resident Board members on the Board of many of the Collaboratives.

The Community Navigators of the Office of Resident Services (ORS) , Ron Friday, Deborah Jackson, and Monique Scott stated which DCHA properties they were worked with and Byron Pugh the Partnership and Community Relations Coordinator all introduced themselves to the Collaboratives. Mr. Moon stated that the Collaboratives were formed in 1996 originally cultured around the child welfare system to develop community organization, family preservation, financial education, housing support and truancy work. Ms. Crytzer added that specialty programs, youth programs and workforce development as well as mental health work. There was discussion regarding capacity and reduction in funding and looking for other ways to support work in the communities. Commissioner Neal Jones asked if they ask families what other systems they are involved in during the intake process to get a sense of the types of services that are in demand. It was stated that the question is asked during intake and may not come out initially but does when working closely with the families.

Next steps and goals were discussed regarding capacity building and grants that have a huge impact on programming that are not an option in 2019. Chairman Vann-Ghasri asked if any DCHA residents are employed with the Collaboratives. Mr. Moon stated yes and others did not know but said they would check. Chairman Vann-Ghasri also suggested Ameri-Corp Vista volunteers as a resource. Commissioner Neal-Jones added a program with the Department of Employment Service (DOES) has a service year alliance that maybe a valuable resource. Commissioner Lancaster stated that he became more familiar with Collaboratives through Chairman Vann-Ghasri and Mr. Bridgewater and added that Chairman Vann-Ghasri was instrumental in bridging partnerships with DCHA and Collaboratives. There was a discussion regarding with the coordination of services with Social Workers to meet family needs and work to serve long term problems. Commissioner Council stated that he sat of the East River Family Strengthening Collaborative for 11 years. Mr. Friday asked who the current Director of the Far Southeast and the Edgewood Collaborative is. It was stated that Christine Dupree is the Director of Edgewood and Vera Johnson is the current on site manager of Far Southeast. Ms. Scott asked if seniors would be within their case management. Mr. Moon stated that a

## GOALS/NEXT STEPS

requirement is that a minor is in the home through funding received from Child and Family Services but added they added they also run the Congress Heights Wellness Center for Seniors. Ms. Jackson stated that Highland is interested in having Far Southeast on site or in some sort of capacity to try to work with residents. Commissioner Council asked if they all shared the same mission. It was stated that they all have different mission statements but have similar goals. Commissioner Council also asked if the Collaboratives could sustain themselves without the *Collaborative Council*. Mr. Moon stated yes – just working closely and Ms. Crytzer added they will have monthly meetings and talk almost daily to stay connected. There was discussion regarding Board members and the number of seats and vacancies. Mr. Moon stated that it was all of their responsibility to keep children safe and added that they make it clear to families that they are mandated reporters. Commissioner Council requested the most recent annual reports of the Collaboratives and their mission statements. Mr. Larry Williams, Director of ORS stated that Kristen Bell of the ORS will be the liaison with the Collaboratives and have regular meetings with discussions on how DCHA can be supportive and provide some follow up for this meeting.

Faith Williams of the *Collaborative Solutions for Communities* announced that there will be a backpack giveaway Friday, August 10, 2018 from 12pm to 5pm at 2325 Reynolds Place in Woodland. Chairman Vann-Ghasri made the suggestion that some backpacks be set aside for the Park Morton and Garfield families. It was stated that due to the close time frame and the logistics that may not be possible but would be considered for future events and giveaways.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm