

## Interagency Council on Affordable Housing

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lyceum

227 Lawrence Street

Hartford, Connecticut

**Members Present:** Anne Foley (Chair), Barbara Geller (DMHAS), Howard Rifkin (Partnership for Strong Communities), Betsy Crum (Connecticut Housing Coalition), Eric Chatman (Connecticut Housing Finance Authority), Joseph Martel (Council Appointee), Rebecca Flemming (DOC), Barbara Geller (DMHAS), Nick Lundgren (DECD) and Kim Somaroo-Rodriquez (DCF).

**Additional Attendees:** Neil Griffin (Conn-NAHRO), Peg Fitzgerald (CHFA), Erin Boggs (CHFA), Dara Kovel (CHFA), Amy Filotto (DECD), John Dunne (CSH) and Kate Robinson (Betty Gallo and Co.).

### I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 10:10 a.m. by the Chair, Anne Foley. The Chair welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves. The Chair reminded the Council that they are statutorily required to appoint three members to the Council: two who are residents receiving state housing assistance and one who is eligible to receive state housing assistance. The Chair further noted that the Council appointed Daisy Franklin and Joseph Martel to the Council. The Chair introduced Dr. Martel as a new member of the Council. She reviewed his background as a tenant organization's representative at the statewide Public Housing Resident Network (PHRN). The Chair noted that the appointment letters for Ms. Franklin and Dr. Martel were in their information packets.

Ms. Somaroo-Rodriquez, noted that Tasha Delgado, the nominee for the Council's third statutorily required member, was unable to attend the meeting today.

### II. Approval of the July 2012 Minutes

The Chair announced that the draft minutes for the July 2012 meeting were e-mailed to the Council and that a copy of the minutes is located in their meeting packet. Howard Rifkin moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Eric Chatman. The Council unanimously approved the minutes on a voice vote.

### **III. Review Revised Rules of Procedures**

The Chair reviewed the changes to the rules of procedures that were voted on at the last Council meeting:

- The first change was to acknowledge that the Council will attempt to reach decisions by consensus.
- The second change was to ensure that all meetings of the Council would adhere to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. The Chair further noted that, according to the Freedom of Information Commission, voting by email violates the requirement of CGS Sec 1-225 that all meetings “be open to the public”.

### **IV. Appoint New Council Member**

As Ms. Delgado was unable to attend the meeting, the vote on her nomination was tabled for the next Council meeting.

### **V. Review Revised Work Plan**

The Chair reviewed the Council’s revised work plan and noted the following changes:

- DECD, CHFA, and Partnership for Strong Communities will prepare and present information to the Council on the housing needs of low income individuals and families.
- Information on the effectiveness of existing state housing programs in meeting the needs of low income individuals and families will be postponed until the Council receives information from state agencies and input from outside experts at the September meeting.
- The Connecticut Housing Coalition and Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness will prepare and present information to the Council on barriers to effective housing delivery systems in meeting the needs of low income individuals and families.
- The Council should examine the organizational structure of housing agencies in other states.

### **VI. Presentations**

The Committee heard presentations on the housing needs of low income individuals and the barriers to effective housing delivery systems in meeting the need of low income individuals and families.

The following presentations were made to the Council:

Nick Lungen, Howard Rifkin and Eric Chatman presented on the housing needs of low income individuals and families. All presenters cited the lack of affordability of low income housing and the growing demands in the future.

The full presentation is available at the following link:

[http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/hhs/interagency\\_council\\_on\\_affordable\\_housing/affordable\\_housing\\_8-14-12\\_housing\\_needs.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/hhs/interagency_council_on_affordable_housing/affordable_housing_8-14-12_housing_needs.pdf)

Betsy Crum and Carol Walter presented on the barriers to effective housing delivery systems. The presentation recommended a comprehensive system that should: (1) focus on fully developed solutions and outcomes; (2) bring together all of the available resources; (3) be predictable; (4) be transparent and aligned in policy priorities; (5) meet the housing needs of the community and serves the people with those needs; and (6) be positioned to be a partner with other agencies and with community interest.

The full presentations are available at the following links:

[http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/hhs/interagency\\_council\\_on\\_affordable\\_housing/affordable\\_housing\\_8-14-12\\_housing\\_barriers.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/hhs/interagency_council_on_affordable_housing/affordable_housing_8-14-12_housing_barriers.pdf)

[http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/hhs/interagency\\_council\\_on\\_affordable\\_housing/affordable\\_housing\\_8-14-12\\_housing\\_barriers\\_chc.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/hhs/interagency_council_on_affordable_housing/affordable_housing_8-14-12_housing_barriers_chc.pdf)

## **VIII. Next Steps**

### **A. Review List of Housing Experts**

The Council reviewed a brief description of the experts they want to present to the group. The Chair suggested inviting Conn-NAHRO, Corporation for Supportive Housing, National Governors Association, Council of State Governments and Department of Housing and Urban Development – Julie Fagan. Members of the Council suggested getting input from MA experts.

### **B. Organizational Structure of State Housing Agencies**

The Chair expressed that Council staff members are gathering information on organizational structures in other states.

### C. Review Summary of Housing Inventory Revisions

A summary of the revisions made of the inventory based on comments by state agencies was included in the Council's packet. The document had been updated from the one e-mailed to the Council with the following changes: DOC added the January Center, OPM added the STEAP and the Incentive Housing Zone Program, DMHAS removed three programs from the list and Howard Rifkin moved to add the Incentive Housing Zone. The updated document had been emailed to the Council before the meeting.

The summary identifies the specific changes to each of the programs reported by the agencies. Most of the revisions were technical changes – updating the program summary, statutory authority, eligible uses, population served and eligible applicant. Additional information was submitted on the programs' funding source, FY13 appropriation and the number of clients served.

The Chair further noted that documents information from several agencies is pending. Those who have yet to submit revisions should send to Pam Trotman or David Krause as soon as possible.

### D. **Next Meeting**

The next two meetings will be held on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Lyceum. The agenda for the September 7<sup>th</sup> special meeting will be a review of best practices by state and national experts.