

## Interagency Council on Affordable Housing

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Lyceum

227 Lawrence Street

Hartford, Connecticut

**Members Present:** Anne Foley (Chair), Lisa Tepper Bates (Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness), Eric Chatman (Connecticut Housing Finance Authority), Betsy Crum (Connecticut Housing Coalition), Rebecca Fleming (Department of Correction), Cathy Branch Stebbins for Kate Forcier (Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials), Daisy Franklin (Council Appointee), Barbara Geller (Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services), Josh Scalora for Commissioner Terrence Macy (Department of Developmental Services), Joseph Martel (Council Appointee), Commissioner Edith Prague (State Department on Aging), Sarah Ratchford (Council Appointee), Howard Rifkin (Partnership for Strong Communities), Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez (Department of Children and Families), and Louis Tallarita (State Department of Education).

**Additional Participants:** Commissioner Evonne Klein (Department of Housing), Deputy Commissioner Nick Lundgren (Department of Housing), Delbe Spath (Connecticut Housing Finance Authority), and Erin Kemple (Connecticut Fair Housing Center).

### I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 9:08 a.m. Members introduced themselves. Josh Scalora represented the Department of Developmental Services for Commissioner Terrence Macy and Cathy Branch Stebbins represented the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials for Kate Forcier.

### II. Approval of the December 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The Chair announced that the draft [minutes](#) from the December 3, 2013 meeting were e-mailed to the Council and that a copy of the minutes was located in their meeting packet. Howard Rifkin moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. The Council approved the minutes unanimously on a voice vote.

### **III. Department of Housing Update - Commissioner Klein**

Commissioner Evonne Klein gave a brief update on the Department of Housing's work since the last meeting. She noted that the CHAMP IV round had received sixteen applications, and that the deficiency process was eliminated from the application as a result of a LEAN analysis. The Commissioner also reminded the Council about the special upcoming funding round in March.

The Chair asked Lisa Tepper Bates to give an update on the emergency protocol that has been in place due to the extremely cold weather conditions. She reported that shelters were up to 120% capacity in some areas, and explained the protocol used if an individual presented at a shelter and could not be accommodated. Commissioner Klein added that municipalities had been notified about the emergency protocol through email blasts to ensure shelter information was widely disseminated.

### **IV. Brief Updates**

#### **a. Analysis of Impediments - Erin Kemple**

Erin Kemple (Connecticut Fair Housing Center) gave an overview of the information the completed Analysis of Impediments (AI) would contain. She anticipates that the report will be completed shortly, within the next few weeks. Based on its findings, the AI will include action steps to overcome the identified impediments and promote integration.

#### **b. Effectiveness of State Housing Programs - Nick Lundgren**

Deputy Commissioner Nick Lundgren (Department of Housing) gave a brief update on the Department's progress in completing the data matrix. He anticipates that the data may be available for review at the joint meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, but, if not, it will be completed and disseminated shortly after to give members an opportunity to review in advance of the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **V. 2014 Qualified Allocation Plan - CHFA presentation**

Eric Chatman (Connecticut Housing Finance Authority) gave a brief overview of the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and introduced Delbe Spath, who delivered a detailed Powerpoint [presentation](#) on the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and the role the [Qualified Allocation Plan \(QAP\)](#) plays in the selection of projects for that program.

Council members discussed potential feedback for CHFA, and agreed to express the following ideas at the joint meeting:

- Encourage including more points or a preference to those applications that produce housing outside of high poverty concentrated areas.
- Support the current points awarded for mixed income housing, financial sustainability, and job training.

## **VI. Review of the Draft 2013 Annual Report**

Kelly Sinko (Office of Policy and Management) briefly summarized the [draft report](#) with members, indicating the new recommendations and changes based on the last meeting's discussions. The following changes were recommended by Council members:

- Add a recommendation: "Ensure sufficient capacity exists at the Department of Housing to perform its required duties."
- Adjust recommendation #11: "Target funding for veterans and very-low income households in a future DOH funding rounds."
- Adjust recommendation #20: "Educate landlords about federal and state laws and regulations regarding housing and right and responsibilities of tenants ~~the Section 8 program and property management.~~"

The Chair directed Council members to submit further comments and proposed changes to Council staff before the next meeting. Council staff will send a follow-up email with a timeline.

## **VII. Next Steps**

The Chair notified the Council of the next regularly scheduled meeting date of April 8, 2014. She also notified the Council of the special joint meeting of the Board of CHFA and the Council scheduled for January 23, 2014. Further information about the agenda and time of the meeting will be sent to members by email.

Daisy Franklin informed Council members of the March 8, 2014 Public Housing Resident Network meeting being held in Wallingford, CT.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The Council adjourned at 11:00 a.m.