

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Community Revitalization Subcommittee Governor's Commission on Housing Policy

Members:

Chair Secretary Victor L. Hoskins, DHCD
Vice Chair: Assistant Secretary, Brian McLaughlin, DHCD, Neighborhood Revitalization

Commissioners: Delegate Doyle Niemann
Amy Johanson, Community Capital of Maryland, Inc.
Dale McArdle, Catholic Charities
Clarence Snuggs, Enterprise Foundation
Thomas Michael Thompson, DHCD, Prince George's County
Cathleen Vitales, Anne Arundel County Commissioner

At Large Members: Noreen Beatley, Enterprise Foundation
Candace Donoho, Maryland Municipal League
Karen Forbes, Legal Aide Bureau
Nick Francis, Gateway CDC
Shonyah Hawkins, Maryland Statewide Resident Coalition
Betram McKeither
Charles Jones, Fannie Mae
George Kleb, Bon Secours Foundation
Amy Menzer, Citizens Planning and Housing Association
Mel Mintz
Kate O'Connor, Delegate Doyle Niemann's Office
Craig Pascal, BB&T
Becky Sherblom, Maryland Center for Community Development

DHCD Staff: Tara Clifford, Neighborhood Revitalization

Revised Mission:

“Review the effectiveness of existing policies and programs relating to community building/stabilization; assess the current and future needs of local governments and community development organizations and private groups involved in community building efforts; and propose ‘implementable’ policies and programs that respond to unmet needs.”

Revised List of Issues:

- *Location/distribution of low income and affordable housing*
- *Role of mixed use and mixed income projects*
- *Housing density*
- *Code enforcement*
- *Aging population*
- *Impact of gentrification*
- *Quality of infrastructure – water, sewer, streets, roads*
- *Access to public transportation*
- *Role of historic preservation – local and national historic districts*
- *Interrelationship between community undergoing revitalization and the large area/region*
- *Role of recreation, public place/spaces, cultural, and tourist attractions*
- *Expand ranges of choices and increase physical and social access for individuals*
- *Vacant/underutilized strip shopping centers and malls*
- *How to make the traditional “Main Street” competitive and attractive*
- *How to sustain community revitalization at the local level*

- *How to stimulate citizen/resident involvement/participation and develop local leadership for community revitalization – (Revised)*
- *How to develop and sustain the capacity of local organizations involved in community revitalization for self determination and ownership of initiatives – (Revised)*
- *Causes of disinvestment – level of crime, perception of crime, poor school quality, loss of businesses, declining property values, loss of major employers – (Revised)*
- *Vacant houses – (New)*
- *Access to medical/health facilities – (New)*
- *Concentration of poverty – (New)*
- *Race, ethnicity and immigration – (New)*
- *Access to Wealth Creation Tools - (New)*

Revised Goal:

“Recommend realistic strategies that will create livable and sustainable communities across the state by coordinating resources of all Departments within the State including, but not limited to, the MD DOT, MD DBED, MD DOP; by leveraging private resources; and by supporting other innovative solutions which may include Equity Funds, New Market Tax Credits, and Taxable Bonds.”

Draft Outcome:

“To strengthen capacity within Maryland’s communities to measurably address their unique revitalization challenges.”

Guest Presenters:

- *Michael Braswell, Executive Director, Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore*
- *Kathleen Koch, Executive Director, Arundel Community Development Services (ADCDC).*
- *The presenters discussed their organizations’ structure, approach and critical lessons learned as they work to revitalize communities in urban and rural areas. Chief challenges mentioned were:*
 - *the process of uncovering community needs;*
 - *building local capacity and private sector incentives to respond to needs;*
 - *closing the gap between community needs and “financiable” projects; and*
 - *understanding that revitalization strategies require a “one size doesn’t fit all” framework*

Structure for Sub-Committee’s Progress

The Sub-committee will categorize the list of issues and then create working groups to explore them in more detail. The working groups will be made up by members of the Sub-Committee and other interested parties. These working groups will convene during a portion of the time allotted for the Sub-Committee meeting and ultimately present and vet ideas to the larger Sub-Committee. The proposed working groups include:

- *Inter-agency Linkages and Coordination*
- *Financing Tools (equity funds, leveraging private resources, taxable bonds, other)*
- *Community Revitalization Measurements and Outcomes*

Next Meeting

*February 3, 2004 or February 10, 2004 at 2:30 P.M.
DHCD, 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD*

Attachments:

November 4, 2003 Meeting Approved Minutes

Submitted by:

Brian McLaughlin, Vice Chair

Date :January 6, 2004