



HOUSING TASK FORCE Draft Meeting Minutes August 10, 2010

Present:

Carol Brito, MSHDA
Cathy Odom, NMCAA
Cecil McNally, Goodwill
Christine Miller, MSHDA
David Dennison, Sen Levin office
Dee Wilkinson, Area Agency on Aging
Virginia Coulter, TC Housing Commission
Jim Carruthers, City of Traverse City
John Gray, First Community Bank
Julie Courtade, Whitewater Twp
Julie Gardner, MSHDA
Michael Long, USDA
Pat Hess, Northern Lakes Community Mental Health
Katy Bedard, NMCAA
Nan Smith, Grand Traverse Community Living Corp
Carol Moorman, Foundation for Mental Health
Cheryl Naperala, GT Continuum of Care
Shauna Fite, Michigan Land Use Institute

Staff:

Michelle Northrup, Grand Vision Internal Communications
Sarah Lucas, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Updates

a. Housing Trust Fund

S. Lucas updated that the Grand Traverse County Ways and Means Committee voted unanimously move forward with investigating a Housing Trust Fund and to retain revenues in the Foreclosure Fund. The Land Bank Authority will begin to set up an advisory committee with a meeting on July 14th. Mary Brooks from the Center for Community Change will be doing a work session with the Land Bank Authority concerning Housing Trust Funds.

b. Advocacy/Civic Engagement

S. Lucas noted that NorthSky Nonprofit Network is planning an advocacy training in September for nonprofits. Also, the Advocacy Committee is interested in planning a workshop that would inform organizations of the trends and issues associated with foreclosure. She is looking for lenders and realtors that would be good speakers on this topic.

C. Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Julie Gardner, Community Development Specialist, and Christine Miller from the Rental Development and Homeless Division, discussed MSHDA programs and policies including Community Development Block

Grants, HOME funds, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Members discussed opportunities for MSHDA support on various types of projects including the proposed county housing trust fund.

D. HUD Sustainable Communities Grant

S. Lucas updated that HUD just released the notice of funding availability for the Sustainable Communities planning grant, which is part of a partnership between HUD/ EPA/ DOT. They are funding projects for regional plans that address the three components of transportation, housing, and energy. The applications are due on August 23, 2010. NWMCOG will apply for the money focused on regional planning since the Grand Vision is not an adopted plan as defined by the funding announcement. The three focuses for the monies are: regional planning, implementation of regional plan and funding of capital projects for these plans. \$25 million will be distributed to rural areas nationwide.

E. Roundtable Discussion and Announcements

C. Brito noted that MSHDA is rolling out the Michigan Hardest Hit Program that helps homeowners stay in their homes. The program includes an unemployment mortgage subsidy program, a loan rescue program and a principal curtailment program. The hurdle is getting mortgagors to sign on to the program.

Marty Dillon of Common Sense Energy is encouraging homeowners to think renewable energy when making improvements to their home and to seek the guidance of professionally trained energy auditors when considering renewable energy systems.

Habitat for Humanity is working on refurbishing a foreclosed house. This is becoming more common with so many foreclosures on the market.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.