

**Providence Housing Authority  
CNI: HUD Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
August 23, 2012**

PHA STAFF	Title	On Call
Melissa Sanzaro	Special Projects Manager	Y
Sorrel Devine	Director of Resident Services	Y
Leigh Gammino	Special Projects Officer	Y
PARTNERS	Title	Attended
Frank Shea	Olneyville Housing Corporation	Y
Caroline Clayton	HUD-Washington, D.C.	Y
Maura O'Brien	HUD-Boston, MA	Y
William Morales	HUD-Boston, MA	Y

This meeting was held on August 23, 2012 and was called to order at 11:09 a.m. There were seven members present on the conference call.

**Conference Call Highlights:**

- Ms. Clayton announced that the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Conference has been confirmed and announced for November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of 2012. Further information and link will become available in the near future.
- Ms. Clayton asked the call participants if there were any suggestions for topics for the upcoming CNI Conference. Some of the various topics suggested were:
  - Expectation from HUD
  - Table discussions between applicants
  - Applicable speakers with best practice advice
  - Technical aspects regarding financial and economic development and engagement strategies
  - Tax credit information
- Ms. Clayton requested feedback from the August 1<sup>st</sup> CNI Forum and UNCA's 2012 Neighborhood Revitalization Conference that was attended by various CNI principals. Frank S. from OHC spoke for Jennifer H. (present at the Forum) who stated that she appreciated meeting other CNI awardees as well as hearing different HUD expectations. Richard W. of the PHA also attended the forum but was not on the conference call in order to provide his feedback.
- Mr. Shea informed call participants that Meeting Street's Child Development Study Report is available and looked great. He promised to send the email the PDF report of the team's review.
- Mr. Shea confirmed that Corcoran Jennison has been identified to be the for profit partner to review the Manton Heights and adjacent Imperial Knife land areas to break down and evaluate the current physical barriers. OHC met with the Mayor's office to keep them abreast of progress and updates of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative.
- Ms. Sanzaro mentioned that a Manton Heights Needs Assessment was discussed and developed by PHA and The American City Coalition (TACC). The Needs Assessment questions and approach as well as identification of important demographic information needed to further develop accurate information for site plans were discussed at a meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. It is believed that two additional meetings between both parties will be needed to effectively plan and coordinate the Needs Assessment which will then be brought to a Manton Heights Resident Meeting in October. This meeting will

include an explanation/announcement of the Needs Assessment, a CNI update, and opportunity for household leaders to bring their feedback.

- Mr. Shea of OHC updated call members of the Transformation Grant Activities such as: (1) a 9% tax credit program to deal with Olneyville's vast foreclosure problem, (2) a newly created Nuisance Task Force designed to better community relations through relevant neighborhood concerns (Mayor walked the neighborhood regarding this effort), (3) recent legislative changes made in Providence's homeownership and foreclosures, (4) a new economic development program in conjunction with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), (5) the national team for Urban Land Institute will visit RI the week of 8/26/12, (5) the City of Providence Planning Department's Challenge Grant specific to the Manton Height's corridor is moving along very well, and (6) BYRNE grant award should be announced the week of 8/26/12.
- HUD members gave principals feedback on the Transformation Plan Outline submitted on 6/29/12. Written feedback will be provided by HUD in a letter format in the near future. HUD's verbal feedback was given in three categories: Housing, Neighborhood, and People. The overall consensus of HUD team members was that the outline did contain more information that was required for that particular outline, but that the information's presentation was found to be somewhat disjointed and much of the information was overlapping in nature. Moreover, the overarching element or evidence of comprehensive planning *seemed* to be lacking (even though they realize that the Providence team has great things happening in this neighborhood). A new outline is due on 9/27/12 and the principals are confident that the extensive material/details collected coupled with how these valuable activities tie together will be clearly demonstrated in their September submission to address these deficiencies.
- Ms. Sanzaro mentioned that various Transformation Grant budget line items are in need of adjusting/moved but this should be addressed when the PHA's Interim Executive Director is appointed (expected to be in September). Ms. Devine expressed PHA's interest in their staff attending the upcoming CNI Conference in November of 2012.

#### **Closing Comments**

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**The next conference call has been scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.**