

**MINUTES**  
**HOUSING WORK GROUP**  
**April 19, 2017**

**Vision:** All persons in Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties have safe, appropriate and affordable housing.

**Mission:** To foster availability of housing through education and advocacy.

**In attendance:** Mark Baker ( Landlord and City Council), Kristen Gingery (Family Resource Network of the Panhandle), Ellie Johnson & Jason Mansfield (WV Coalition to End Homelessness), Heather Hoelscher (Legal Aid of WV), Robin Kees, Susan Kershner, Jennifer Painter & LaDonna Weller ( Telamon ), Nan Stevens (Partnership for Affordable Housing), Dan VanBelleghem (GSCG), Ken Walker (Trinity United Methodist Church), and Aaron Puller (Telamon)

**Facilitator:** Nan Stevens

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION STEPS/WHEN/WHO
<b>Welcome/Introductions</b>	See attendance list above.	
<b>Minutes</b>	Minutes from February HWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes were approved</li> </ul>
<b>Reports/Updates</b>	<p><b>Community Veterans Engagement Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next CVEB meeting will take place on 4/28 @ 10:30am at Hospice.</li> <li>• There is a Farmer’s Market at the VA Medical Center on Tuesdays from 9-1 during April-August. They will double SNAP dollars.</li> <li>• There is an upcoming VA Community Open House on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm. This is open to Veterans, their families and the community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mark Baker: Tiny House Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are currently finishing house number 3 &amp; 4. House number 3 will be shipped between May 10-15<sup>th</sup>. House number 4 will go to Ranson on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>• There will be an Open House at Rumsey on 5/20 and an Auction on 5/27<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Rumsey has agreed to build a couple Tiny Houses each year</li> <li>• Rumsey is currently in the process of applying for a grant to get a larger door to accommodate the moving of finished Tiny Homes.</li> <li>• Visitors are welcome to stop by Rumsey any Mon-Friday from 8-3, please contact Mark Baker prior to visiting at 304-671-3562.</li> <li>• Habitat has been given 2 lots to build 2 Tiny Homes that will be larger at 15 by 30 feet and “fancier” in design.</li> <li>• Mark reported that the new Tiny Homes for Ranson will be up to code at 600 sq. ft., with mortgages around \$300.00 (This is significantly less than rental options).</li> <li>• Nan: The city of Ranson has lots available that are considered infill housing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Work Plan Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nan: In our February meeting the group discussed the Challenges, Opportunities, and Action Steps in our Work Plan.</li> <li>• <u>In the Work Plan the group made the following changes under <b>Opportunities:</b></u> look for unrestricted funds, private sector, HAP, First Front Door Program, WV Affordable Housing Trust Fund (link in agenda), availability of Financial Literacy/Education programs, education for landlords, participation of landlords, community involvement,</li> </ul>	

	<p>broadening discussion of addiction and poverty, connect with the HHSC Behavioral Health Work Group, employment, Successful Renters Program, home ownership mentors, location, engage businesses, public and private partnerships, and numerous local higher education opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>In the Work Plan the group made the following changes under <b>Challenges</b></u>: location, lacking safe decent affordable housing (rentals), and ever changing government policies.</li> <li>• <u>The group made the following changes under <b>Action Plan</b></u>: willingness to private sectors to invest in non-profits &amp; community, rehabbing homes (especially for older adults), advocates, affordable housing developments, single room occupancy (SRO's), using vacant buildings to build housing stock, rehabbing downtown apartments, parking options, expanding public transportation, one stop shopping for non-profits and other resources, getting housing and financial literacy programs to the students in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in Eastern Panhandle high schools, and build the block (block by block).</li> </ul> <p><b>Martinsburg Housing Commissioner Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Martinsburg Housing Authority</b>: no report</li> </ul> <p><b>Berkeley County Cold Weather Shelter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ken: We are still having meetings and pursuing the Berkeley County Cold Weather Shelter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing Prioritization Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report</li> </ul> <p><b>Martinsburg Property Owner Ordinance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no update to report</li> </ul>	<p>Action item 1: Make the Housing Authority Commission Meetings a regular Agenda item Have at least one member from the Housing Work Group Attend the Housing Authority meetings each time</p>
<p><b>Community Awareness – Housing Work Group Member Organizations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Job Opportunities:</b></li> <li>• There will be a new Amazon plant built right over the VA line off of I-81. Procter and Gamble is still looking to fill 300-600 local positions by fall.</li> <li>• Berkeley County Development Authority has not applied any job required restrictions associated with plot land sales.</li> <li>• Nan will reach out to Kathy Mason</li> </ul>	
<p><b>April Calendar Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing Prioritization Meetings</b></li> <li>• <b>Successful Renters Program</b></li> <li>• <b>Money Matters</b></li> <li>• <b>Homebuyer Education and Credit</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Money Matters</b> – Classes are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month from 5:30-7:30 pm, at Telamon Corporation, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at Catholic Charities. <b>Classes held previously held at the Library will now be held at Telamon.</b> – PRIOR REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED</li> </ul> <p><b>Homebuyer Education and Credit Counseling Classes –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Telamon Corporation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HBE is held the first Saturday of the month, from 9:00 am-4:30 pm, at Telamon</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<p><b>Counseling Classes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Important Dates and Events in the Eastern Panhandle</b></li> </ul>	<p>Corporation. Please call or email Jennie Shriner, at Telamon (304.263.0916 or <a href="mailto:jshriner@telamon.org">jshriner@telamon.org</a>) to register. The cost is \$25.00 per household. <b>Classes are offered in both English and Spanish.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partnership for Affordable Housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>HBE is held the third Saturday of the month</b>, at the Partnership for Affordable Housing. Call Rosa Eggleton (787.298.3722) to register. Cost is \$25.00 per household. Bi-lingual class is available.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Telamon Corporation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheduling now for budget and credit counseling, foreclosure intervention, post-purchase counseling, rental counseling, homeless counseling, and banking basics. Call Jennie to schedule an appointment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Partnership for Affordable Housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheduling now for budget and credit counseling. Please call Rosa to set up a time. Bi-lingual counseling is available.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Telamon:</b> is hosting an Open House on May 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 11am-6pm at their office in celebration of Community Action Agency for Berkeley and Jefferson Counties.</li> <li>• <b>Operation Heal Our Patriots</b> has opened up applications for this summer’s trip. For more information please go online to <a href="https://www.samaritanspurse.org/education-2/ohop-application/">https://www.samaritanspurse.org/education-2/ohop-application/</a> .</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>The Next Housing Workgroup will be held on <b>Tuesday May 16, 2017 at 2:00pm</b>, in the conference room at Telamon, 67 Aikens Center.  Please note the change in the meeting date</p>	