

RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 8, 2021 MINUTES

The Resident Advisory Board for the Housing Choice Voucher Program of the City of Virginia Beach met virtual on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Staff in Attendance: David Grigsby, Candace Blue, Marva Victor, Tana Minor, Shawnti Todd and Rokel Tabb.

David Grigsby introduced himself as the Rental Housing Administrator for the Department of Housing, Rental Housing Division. He also introduced his staff that was present at the virtual meeting. Candace Blue, Housing Program Coordinator, Shawnti Todd, Administrative Specialist/HCV Inspection Coordinator, Marva Victor & Tana Minor, Front desk Coordinators and Rokel Tabb, Administrative Assistant. Due to the pandemic, our RAB Meetings will be held virtual until further notice. Due to the pandemic, tonight's RAB Meeting is being held virtual for the first time. This will allow more people to attend the meetings instead of holding them at our office in the Municipal Center after hours. Approximately 30 participants signed up for tonight's meeting.

Topics Discussed:

- The Administrative Plan (is posted on our website: www.vbgov.com/housing) is updated and submitted to HUD annually. Before it can be submitted to HUD, the Board is given the opportunity to review the plan and provide feedback which will be included in the Admin Plan submission. The Five Year Plan which is more comprehensive than the Admin Plan was submitted to HUD in 2020. The Admin Plan is an update on any changes and progress we've made since last year.

- Eastern VA Medical School (EVMS) received a grant to conduct a study on the impact Covid-19 has had on the public housing population. As a result of the pandemic, many people are experiencing mental health issues (stress, anxiety, etc.). EVMS would like five tenants from our Section program to participate in the project. If anyone has an interest in being part of this project, please e-mail David @ DGrigsby@vbgov.com. He will forward your contact information to EVMS.

- David asked for comments from the group on "How we are doing administering the Program"? The majority of the feedback from the group was very positive. Most was very thankful for having this housing opportunity especially during the time of the pandemic. Some of the comments were: "Thank the Section 8 staff for working so hard to provide housing opportunities for our community", "I enjoy the program & it's a blessing" and "I'm very pleased & grateful for this program". There were some comments of problems reaching their housing

specialists. David explained that DHNP is starting a new on-line program called "Assistance Connect" that will allow tenants to communicate with their workers electronically. They will be able to receive their recertification packages on-line instead of waiting for them to be mailed. Interim changes, required documents requested by staff and inspection requests can be electronically upload to Staff thru Assistance Connect. The Owners/Landlords have been mailed information about "Assistance Connect" and how to register for it. The S8 participants will be the next groups to receive the information.

David thanked everyone for attending the virtual RAB meeting this evening. Stay safe and we will see you next time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m. The next RAB Meeting (virtual meeting) will be on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30 pm.