

## **Minutes**

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Group Home Replacement**

**November 23, 2015**

Alan Naylor called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Present at the meeting were Bob Boydston, James Gottstein, Anita Hartman, Jim Huffman and Barbara Griggs of Concerned Care, Joan Ibale of TNC Julie Grower of Immacolata and Brian O'Malley.

Alan indicated the purpose of the meeting was to get the sense of the committee regarding the visit with Rainbow Village. Should we follow up with a site visit to St. Louis? There were several comments from the group that were much in favor of the methods used by Mike Rea and Rainbow Village that may be applicable to Clay County. As such, the committee recommended that Brian and Alan go to St. Louis and try to gain a greater understanding of how Rainbow Village works, see some of the property and review the paperwork from start to finish for residents.

Alan then asked were there other organizations worth investigating and the answer was yes. The two organizations included Emmaus House and Missouri Affordable Housing Corporation. Contact with these two groups will take place in the months following the visit with Rainbow Village.

Alan then asked the group to discuss the urgency of need for additional housing. He recognized that more and more apartments are addressing the need for accessible housing in new developments. Barbara noted the need for space that works with those who need almost 24hour care is different than just an ordinary apartment with a few grab bars. There is a full conversion to baths, kitchens, radius for wheelchairs, thresholds and the like. Anita reminded the group that earlier meetings had discussed the lack of housing for persons with mental health disabilities such as autism as landlords were not willing to rent to volatile behaviors.

Alan asked that we try to capture some report on the need to give us some numbers to work with as we address the problem. Since there is a significant lack of affordable housing in Clay County Barbara felt the answer to the question was well known. Alan asked how many of those with low income were also disabled there was no study to point to. How can we get the answer to this question? Anita and Brian offered to research what is available for the Committee.

Alan said that his main question, "shall we go forward?" had been addressed so we would wait until after the visit to St. Louis to meet again. With that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian O'Malley