

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CONSUMER RELATIONS COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING
January 29, 2021**



ATTENDEES: M. Pickett, A. Haniotis, D. Hagler. Staff: Eddie Martin, Jr., Malcolm Williams, Katherine Cavanaugh, Kevin Feldt, Lauren Talley, Danielle McDonald

I. NHCHC Update: Katherine Cavanaugh reported

- The Council is concerned about the rollout of the COVID vaccine, given the issues of safety, trust, and access that exist in the community of people without homes, historically marginalized communities, and towards the COVID pandemic generally. In January, they began monthly focus groups to hear from consumers about their concerns and solutions to address these problems for the HCH Community.
- The monthly focus groups will take place on the second Wednesday of the month from January – March at 2pm Eastern on our zoom
<http://zoom.us/j/94277784189?pwd=cjlvdlYyM25pSyszcEYOWHFKV2N4QT09>
 (Meeting ID: 942 7778 4189; Passcode: 865620; Find your local number:
<https://zoom.us/j/94277784189?pwd=cjlvdlYyM25pSyszcEYOWHFKV2N4QT09>.)
- This July, NCAB began a monthly advocacy meeting as a space for consumers to discuss the issues at the root of housing and health care inequities, and develop strategies to advocate for human rights. The Advocacy Committee is currently looking at how racism impacts health care, and what we can do to impact this systemic racism. Our monthly advocacy committee meets on fourth Wednesday of the month at 6pm Eastern on our zoom link:
<https://zoom.us/j/92377367991?pwd=ZHVJbVIRKMcZ2ekhKTjE5NzZrcVZlVXQ09> (Meeting ID: 923 7736 7991; Passcode: 655488; Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/92377367991?pwd=ZHVJbVIRKMcZ2ekhKTjE5NzZrcVZlVXQ09>)

II. 2021 CHOCOLATE AFFAIR: Kevin Feldt reported.

Traditionally, the Chocolate Affair is an in-person gathering with dinner and desserts from local Baltimore restaurants and caterers. A little over half the people that attend come through corporate sponsorships, and the event raises about \$300,000 per year that goes towards direct services.

With the threat of COVID, the development team had to totally reimagine the event. Knowing that the agency wants to focus on trying to raise significant resources to help people and showcase the mission and work of the agency, the event is virtual this year:

- The event will continue with the short film that has been the centerpiece of the event program for several years. HCH have partnered with a local production company to make a short 15 minute film and also included a short film festival that include short films relevant to the issues of homelessness and poverty and all together programmed to be about an hour of short documentary that a person can watch.
- The event will continue the go-fund-me option, which is an auction where people are asked to make donations, putting that in the framework of what HCH does and how many people can be impacted by that scale.

Asking for people to volunteer by calling folks who are making donations to thank them for being a part of the event and investing in the mission.

Suggestions:

- Give the option of sending thank-you notes as well.
- Respecting donor's privacy by not making their personal information public.
- Creating a video thanking donors

III. REFLECTION OF CURRENT EVENTS: The committee reflected and shared their views regarding racism, President Biden Inauguration, former President Impeachment, Capital riots, COVID, etc. Eddie ask the committee to continue these conversations at future meeting and to also discuss racial equity inclusion that is taking place at the agency.