

CRC 9/29/2021 – meeting notes

Speaker notes (in order of speaker):

1. A staff representative from HIP Housing, a Home sharing program: HIP Housing is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and their archives show housing challenges from 20-30 years ago that are still relevant today. It takes a variety of housing choices to address housing needs, which the Home Sharing program provides. About 30% of Home Share matches in their program are in San Mateo. About 50% of home share seekers state that their reason for using the program was that the client needed a place to stay near family or caregivers. The coronavirus pandemic posed additional challenges due to loss of income and home owners used Home Sharing as a way to keep their housing costs below 30% of their monthly income. Most of Home Share owners were in the older age group (90 yrs +). They hope home sharing can remain a housing program of San Mateo.
2. A staff representative from Mid-Pen Housing, an affordable housing developer: Mid Pen is breaking ground soon on Downtown affordable housing project (Kiku Crossing) which has 225 affordable housing units. Mid-Pen operates three properties in the city and there are approximately 18,000 people on the wait list in the County. There are approximately 25,000 low-income people in the County who do not have access to housing. Studies have shown that the high housing costs have disproportionately affected people of color. Historically, resources have not been shared equally; affordable housing can and should be in San Mateo's future.
3. A staff representative from Housing Choice: There are 817 residents in San Mateo with developmental disabilities and many live with their parents due to lack of housing. The best way to address this need is to use CDBG funds to incentivize developers to include units for people with severe disabilities. Cities can grant additional points for housing or services in developments for people with developmental disabilities.
4. A regional center client of Housing Choice: Speaking as a representative of someone with developmental disabilities, the city has a hammer to make developers build affordable housing and should use it wisely and firmly. Cities need to ask the following questions: 1) If there are \$5,000/month units, why not have 1-2 units for \$1,000-2,000/month? 2) Where are people supposed to park? His place has a fire hydrant in front of the building, so there is no ability for handicapped parking or loading zone for residents/people with disabilities.