



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Housing Access and Support Alliance Workgroup Minutes

June 26, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM

Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) and virtually via Zoom

Meeting Objective: Make progress on 2025 workgroup plans

Attendees: Andrew Grabau (William Guitar Little (WGL) Foundation), Carter Stephenson (Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services), Evan Lawrence (4-A Change), Lori Acton (Love Columbia), Senica Smith (Voluntary Action Center (VAC)), Becca Jones (VAC), Garnett Matthews (Mid Missouri Legal Services), James Bayless (Fresh Start), Brandon Shults (Burrell Behavioral Health), Scott Buis (Truman VA), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Verna Laboy (BCCSD)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Verna started the meeting, with those present providing introductions.

2. Follow up from last meeting

Items which were included as part of the next steps identified during the May workgroup meeting were briefly reviewed. One item attributed to a specific workgroup member who was not present at this meeting was noted as something for future follow-up when she is available to share any updates.

3. Action on 2025 workgroup plans

a. Portable Tenant Screening Report System crosswalk collaboration

The workgroup reviewed progress on the shared document and discussed how to use the information going forward, emphasizing the value of housing provider input. They explored outreach strategies, such as involving existing groups and key individuals, and acknowledged the need for a more formalized plan.

The workgroup identified internal steps to take before outreach, including further evaluation of the various systems, with the goal of narrowing the options to about three for closer consideration. The workgroup recognized the importance of software compatibility while keeping in mind the variability in what housing providers might look for based on how many properties they oversee. The potential for piloting prior to more widespread community use of a system was suggested as something to consider incorporating into plans.

Verna mentioned an [article about tenant screening systems](#) which describes challenges with their utilization which could negatively impact those seeking rental housing.

b. Information sheets

The workgroup reviewed rough drafts of information sheets being developed for move-in and move-out days, identifying areas needing further input. No changes were suggested to the Picture Checklist, which will supplement both sheets.

The workgroup discussed developing future information sheets and considered incorporating links to existing resources, such as [brief videos on topics](#) like housekeeping, being a good neighbor, and having [crucial conversations with landlords](#).

c. Timeline

After reviewing past discussions about engaging housing providers on a Portable Tenant Screening Report System, the workgroup agreed that further planning is needed. The workgroup chose to cancel



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the regular July meeting and will instead have an in-person working session for anyone interested in narrowing the list to about three top screening system choices and helping further develop a potential timeline for the workgroup.

4. Next Steps

Verna shared that this would be her last workgroup meeting since her last day would be July 11 and that Enola White will begin as the new Program Manager next week.

- The workgroup meeting scheduled for July 24 will be canceled.
- Gina will update the information sheets in progress based on workgroup feedback in preparation for the potential final versions to be reviewed by the workgroup prior to distribution.
- The article Verna mentioned during the meeting will be shared with the workgroup.
- Scott and Lori will share links to videos that might be helpful for future information sheets.
- Workgroup participants will continue to use the Portable Tenant Screening Report Crosswalk [shared document](#) to add research and any thoughts on systems that rise to the top for further consideration, including any specific things you like or dislike about each system.
- A work session will be attended by those interested in contributing to further planning efforts on July 15 at 3:00pm at Boone County Community Services Department (107 N 7th Street, Columbia, MO). Individuals attending will have reviewed the content on the Portable Tenant Screening Report Crosswalk shared document prior to the work session.

5. Closing

a. Partner Updates

- Carter provided an update on planning in progress for [Project Homeless Connect](#) happening July 10 given the anticipated attendance and his presentation on housing and homelessness later in the day as part of the [Let's Talk Local event](#) organized by the City of Columbia. An update of applications for funding the City of Columbia has pursued included an expectation they will know more about the decision on the Bloomberg Idea Exchange funding opportunity mentioned at a [previous meeting](#) in August.
- Scott shared about upcoming surge support to local veterans experiencing homelessness. Plans for expanded landlord engagement will take place.
- Payment standard changes related within the Columbia Housing Authority [Housing Choice Voucher program](#) were mentioned, noting the drop to 100% of Fair Market Rent currently applied.

b. Comments and Questions

The workgroup meeting ended with a reminder of the next workgroup meeting date and location.

Next Workgroup Meeting: August 28, 2025, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM at Boone Electric Community Building – Volt Room or virtually [via Zoom](#)

The workgroup meeting, originally scheduled for July 24, 2025, has been cancelled.