



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Housing Access and Support Alliance Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Love Columbia (1209 E Walnut St, Columbia MO) and via [Zoom](#)

Meeting Objective: To prepare for the Columbia Apartment Association Landlord Meeting January 14, 2026

Attendees: Enola-Riann White (facilitator, Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Becca Jones (Voluntary Action Center (VAC)), Tionna Lawson (VAC), Jessica McNear (VAC Opportunity Campus), Nick Foster (City of Columbia), Carter Stephenson (Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services), Randy Cole (Columbia Housing Authority), Lori Action (Love Columbia), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Alice Leeper (Columbia Board of Realtors), Onni Flint (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Brandon Shults (Burrell Behavioral Health), Reva Whisenhunt (Salvation Army Harbor House), Scott Buis (Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital)

1. Welcome
 - a. Enola started the meeting by welcoming everyone. She introduced a new sign in method via QR code and provided an overview of the new “Workgroup Wednesday” meeting structure. Enola had everyone introduce themselves.
2. Follow up from last meeting
 - a. Shared Document updates
 - i. Enola provided a recap on the work done and presented a draft of the landlord handout.
 - ii. Randy Cole (CHA) provided an overview of the structure of the Real Estate Investors (REI)/Columbia Apartment Association (CAA) meetings.
3. Columbia Apartment Association Landlord Meeting
 - i. The group discussed delivering a brief, high-level presentation to REI/CAA group on January 14th using the shared document. A conversation about the need to standardize formatting and distinguish between internal and public-facing information, recognizing that different audiences (workgroup members, landlord and housing providers, and clients) may require different version and levels of program detail.
 - ii. To finalize the document for landlords, workgroup members should update the shared document by noon on Monday, January 12th. Then Enola will standardize formatting, confirm content, and send a final draft for review on Tuesday January 13th.
4. Partner Updates
 - a. Boone County Community Services Department
 - i. The Affordable Housing Coalition (AHC) workgroup is investigating a book club to discuss “*There Is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America*” by Brian Goldstone. Housing Access and Support Alliance members are encouraged to join. More information will be shared following the AHC January meeting.
 - b. Columbia Housing Authority (Randy Cole)
 - i. Randy reported that CHA had reduced the Housing Choice Voucher payment standard to 100% of the HUD fair market rent (FMR). However, after reviewing their budget, CHA may be able to raise the payment standard to 110% of FMR following approval at the January board meeting with



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implementation likely in February. Randy also invited the workgroup to the ribbon cutting and dedication event at Kinney Point on January 27, he will share more details once timing is finalized.

- c. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital (Scott Buis)
 - i. Scott shared the VA is piloting a shared housing model that pairs veterans in a two-bedroom unit, each renting one bedroom. They are seeking feedback from other agencies and recruiting landlords. Workgroup participants shared potential landlords and property managers who may be interested in the model or could provide advice.
- d. Central Missouri Community Action (Onni Flint)
 - i. Onni shared that CMCA is hopeful to reopen its Housing Choice Voucher list within the next 1-2 months. The vouchers do not cover Boone County, but they do cover Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Howard, Moniteau, and Osage counties. If homelessness can be verified (from a pastor, police officer, etc.) that can move applicants to the top of the list.
- e. Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services (Carter Stephenson)
 - i. Carter provided an update on Project Homeless Connect on January 29th from 11:00am – 2:00pm at the Missouri United Methodist Church. Planning is complete and the event is fully funded. They are seeking a team leader for backpacks. Enola volunteered to serve as team leader. He also shared in March the State of Homelessness report will be released. Past versions are housed on Public Health & Human Services social services page.
 - ii. Carter shared information about his practicum project that analyzes Heart of Missouri United Way, City of Columbia, and Boone County funding related to basic needs and homelessness, focusing on how funds are allocated and outcomes.
- f. Columbia Board of Realtors (Alice Leeper)
 - i. Alice shared that the Columbia Board of Realtors is officially changing its name to the Mid-Missouri Board of Realtors in recognition of the broader regional service beyond the city of Columbia. The change was approved at the November national conference. They are rebranding and communications with the new name/brand will start soon.

5. Next Steps

- a. Shared Document Update
 - i. Workgroup members will update the shared document with revisions by noon Monday, January 12th.
 - ii. Enola will standardize formatting and resend a final draft for review on Tuesday, January 13th.

6. Closing

- a. Enola closed the meeting with a recap, reminder of the next workgroup meeting date, and thanked the workgroup for their time.

Next Workgroup Meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 3:00pm – 4:30pm at Love Columbia (1209 E Walnut St, Columbia MO) and via [Zoom](#)