



October 9, 2020



**“EnVisioning” New Opportunities for Communities & Residents**

You all know that I love a good road trip. And earlier this week, I found myself wrapping up a 17-hour day which took me from Philly to Charlotte, North Carolina to Huntington, West Virginia by plane and then then down King Cole Highway to Williamson by car. All with the intent of **launching West Virginia’s first U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) EnVision Center with the Housing Authority of the City of Williamson (HACW) and their leader, Executive Director Pauline Sturgill.**



Joining Charleston Field Office Director Julie Alston and me for the announcement at the Williamson Family Resource Center-FRC were community partners, residents and representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III (D-WV), U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and U.S. Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV-3rd District).

EnVision Centers offer HUD-assisted families access to support services that can help them achieve self-sufficiency, thereby making scarce federal resources more readily available to a greater number of households currently waiting to receive HUD assistance.

While the work we do at HUD to provide public housing is absolutely critical, one of our key priorities is to help the individuals and families we serve become economically independent and self-sufficient. Secretary Carson has long said that our measure of success is not how many people we can get into our programs, but how many people we can graduate out of them.

Joining me for a photo (above) to celebrate the event were Alex Vaughn, Senator Capito’s office; Terri Booth, Congresswoman Miller’s office; Michael Browning, Senator Manchin’s office; Pauline Sturgill, HACW Executive Director; me; Jackie Branch, Chair, HACW Board of Commissioners; City of Williamson Mayor Charles Hatfield and David Childress, public housing resident. Podium photo courtesy of Mingo Messenger.

Then, it was back into the car. After a brief tour through Eastern Kentucky, I hopped on the Crooked Road via the Trail of the Lonesome Pint making my way to Lebanon, Virginia where Cumberland

Plateau Regional Housing Authority (CPRHA) Executive Director Keith Viers was waiting for my arrival. And yes, we were on hand to announce a new EnVision Center demonstration at the CPRHA's offices at Fox Meadows. Good news is this was a second first for the day. This is the **first EnVision Center in the Mid-Atlantic that will serve residents in not just one, but residents in four rural counties in the Commonwealth—Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell and Buchanan**. Joining us for the late-day celebration were U.S. Congressman Morgan Griffith Representing Virginia's 9th District, Town of Lebanon Mayor Tony Dodi, and leaders from partnering organizations, Southwest Virginia Community College and Southwest Virginia Workforce.



Pictured (left to right): Melody Johnson, CPRHA; Lonzo Lester, Russell County Administrator; Tony Dodi, Mayor, Lebanon; Rebecca Dye, Chairperson, Russell County; me; Congressman Morgan Griffith, 9th District; LaVonda Wood, CPRHA; Keith L. Viers, CPRHA and Pam Whited, CPRHA; performed the ceremonial ribbon-cutting during the announcement of the new EnVision Center opening in Lebanon. Then I headed up Interstate-81 aka the Virginia Creeper Trail to Staunton, Virginia to call it a day. Photo courtesy of Preston Ball Photography.

The next morning, I joined Richmond Field Office Director Carrie Schmidt and Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) Chief Executive Officer Steven Benham and City of Hopewell Mayor Jasmine E. Gore to officially announce the new HUD EnVision Center demonstration in Hopewell, Virginia.



Following the announcement, I joined community partners Tarvaris McCoy, Chief Development Officer, HRHA; Carrie Coyner, State Delegate, 62nd District which includes Hopewell; Sophenia Pierce, Executive Director, Crater Regional Workforce Development Board; Randy Moore, Senator Mark Warner's office; Taylor Thornhill, Senator Tim Kaine's office; Carrie Schmidt, Director, HUD Richmond Field Office; Mayor Jasmine E. Gore, City of Hopewell, Virginia; Shamika Lewis, HRHA Commissioner; Kathryn Thompson, Executive Director, STORY; me; Steven Benham, CEO, HRHA; Valerie Liggins, Program Officer, Cameron Foundation; Kevin Foster, Program Officer, John Randolph Foundation and CaMicha Robertson, Property Manager, Davisville Community, HRHA for a celebration photograph at the Davisville Community Center. Photo courtesy of the City of Hopewell.

With the designation of the Hopewell EnVision Center, the Mid-Atlantic region now has 10 sites. The other centers are located in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pa., Wilmington, Del., Williamson, W.Va. and Newport News, Norfolk, Roanoke, Bristol and Lebanon, Va. Nationwide, there are 60 centers. For more information about HUD's EnVision Centers, [click here](#).



### ICYMI: OPPORTUNITY ZONES, McKeesport explores federal resources for economic growth

In Case You Missed It, you may want to take a few minutes to check out this story about our visit to western Pennsylvania that appeared in an earlier edition of the *Region III Recap*. My federal counterparts EPA Region III Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio and USDA-RD Pennsylvania Director Curt Coccodrilli joined me for a visit with City of McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko, business owners, elected officials, community leaders and members of his team. The topics? Economic development and Opportunity Zones. While in McKeesport, I posed for a photo with Mayor Michael Cherepko that landed on the cover of their local publication, *IN McKeesport Area*. Many thanks to Mayor Cherepko for a great visit and some great photos! To check out the story, [click here](#).



### Rebuilding His Life & Home with Section 3

HUD's [latest story](#) in the "[Humans of HUD](#)" campaign is about Gary Hugley, a recipient of HUD's Section 3 Program. Gary shares the struggles he faced after losing his mother and how Section 3 helped him find employment, allowing him to take on the responsibility of caring for his younger siblings. "You just have to try," he said. "Nothing is going to happen to someone who doesn't try." Hugley, who started off as laborer rebuilding the public housing complex where he once lived, aspires to become a licensed plumber. Last month, Secretary Ben Carson [announced](#) the Department's revised Section 3 rule. The final rule helps bring economic opportunities to HUD-assisted families through sustainable jobs while reducing regulatory barriers on the communities who receive the funds.

### NEWS YOU CAN USE NOW

#### Expansion of Foster Youth to Independence initiative Announced

Since the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative was launched in June of 2019, 31 states and 91 Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) have received FYI funding, totaling over \$6.8 million in funds to prevent or end homelessness among **844 young adults under the age of 25 who are in, or have recently left, the foster care system without a home to go to.** Through a [new notice](#), HUD is **announcing an expansion of the FYI initiative while also creating new opportunities for communities to leverage this resource.** Specifically, the new notice makes several changes that HUD hopes will increase participation in the FYI Initiative, including open up the opportunity to request vouchers to every public housing agency (PHA) that administers an Housing Choice Voucher program, include those PHAs that have a 90 percent utilization rate of their Family Unification Program; will increase the maximum award from 25 to a maximum cap of 50 vouchers per fiscal year

for those PHAs that have an FYI voucher utilization rate of 90 percent or greater and will recognize the importance of community partners by encouraging partnerships with state, local, philanthropic, or faith-based organizations as well as Continuum or Cares (CoCs). For additional details, [click here](#).

**SAVE THE DATE! PLEASE JOIN US for a Webinar on “Making Your House A Home and Keeping it Lead Safe” on October 29!** In collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment, HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) invites you to an interactive virtual webinar on **Federal and State of Maryland Lead-Based Paint Regulations on Thursday, October 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Designed for contractors, do-it-yourselfers, REALTORS®, consumers, homeowners or first-time homebuyers**, you’ll learn why lead is so dangerous and what you can do to assure your home remains lead safe, especially if renovations involve housing built before 1978, the year lead-based paint was banned. To register, [click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. We are very excited about this upcoming opportunity to work with our Free State partners to “spread the word” about how we can create Lead-Safe Housing. So, REGISTER NOW!

#### **UPDATES from HUD’s Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Team**

HUD has posted updated versions of the [RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide](#) and the [RAD PBRA Quick Reference Guide](#). These guides provide PHAs who are converting public housing properties through RAD with guidance and references to prepare for the Section 8 PBV or PBRA programs following conversion. The guides have been updated to reflect program changes and to incorporate frequently asked questions received over the last few years. HUD has also posted a recording of a [webinar](#) providing an overview and responding to questions about [H-2020-09/ Notice PIH-2020-26](#), the RAD COVID-19 Supplemental Notice. The Notice and Webinar describe the availability of Operating Fund CARES Act funds for public housing properties that have converted or that will convert in Calendar Year 2020 and provides guidance to PHAs and owners planning RAD-related meetings with residents while following social distancing guidelines.

**I look forward to the time when we can be together again, and I can thank each one of you personally. We will get through this difficult time together.**

Stay safe, stay sane and be well.



Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Region III Recap, October 9, 2020

#### **Region III Recap & HUDLines, HUD’s Region III e-News Brief**

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at [lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov](mailto:lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov). If you know anyone who would like to receive our new Region III Recap or our quarterly HUDLines, please feel free to share. We safeguard and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists. To subscribe, visit [HUDLines](#). You may also [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

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