Housing Access and Support Alliance Minutes
May 6, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Love Columbia (1209 E Walnut St, Columbia MO) and via Zoom

Attendees: Carter Stephenson (Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services), Becca Westhues (Voluntary Action Center (VAC)), Tionna Lawson (VAC), Scott Buis (Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital), Onni Flint (Central Missouri Community Action), Garnett Matthews (Mid-MO Legal Services), Jaymes Schrock (Como Comunidad), Lori Acton (Love Columbia), Gina Jenkins (Bonne County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Joanne Nelson (BCCSD)

1. Welcome
   Gina opened the meeting and noted Enola-Riann White was unable to attend.
2. Follow up from last meeting
   A summary of plans determined during the April workgroup meeting which will be used to guide the development of the landlord feedback survey and associated next steps for the group.
3. Partner updates
   - Onni shared about Central Missouri Community Action's current availability of housing vouchers for specific populations in their other seven counties served and provided contact information for the program coordinator.
   - Lori gave an update on the completion of the last Saturday RentWell class with thirteen graduates. They anticipate holding the next Saturday class in July 2026. Three units are currently filled at Gigi's Place and Lori answered some questions from the group about eligibility.
   - Jaymes shared about Como Comunidad's work with finding landlords willing to work with immigrant families and the continued development of a rent guarantee program.
   - Carter shared about the Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services Department's release of the State of Homelessness Report and plans to share it for the group to view. Additional updates were provided on their department's work to create a five-year strategic plan for homelessness and the status of their shower trailer.
   - Garnett discussed the Mid-Missouri Legal Services (MMLS) work with expunging records of possible renters and potential expansion depending on the result grant applications.
   - During partner updates, the group also discussed job openings at MMLS and Love Columbia, some state legislation to watch, and an article about potential changes to the Continuum of Care Program at the federal level.
4. Draft landlord survey
   a. Feedback from City of Columbia Housing and Neighborhood Services
      The communication with the City of Columbia Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) was summarized, explaining their willingness to ask questions during their outreach coffee events if the workgroup is interested in finalizing potential questions.
   b. Question brainstorming
      The workgroup shared document was used to compile potential questions, with those present discussing potential open and closed ended questions depending on the audience and survey distribution plan.

c. Draft survey questions
   Due to the remaining time, those present chose to review the information and provide additional feedback before the questions for ONS are finalized.
d. Survey distribution
   The workgroup planned to use the ONS offer to share questions as an opportunity to start surveying a small group using a limited number of more open-ended questions. The responses to those initial questions will be used to help inform the questions that are included in the broader survey distribution.
e. Use of results
   While no specific plan was finalized by the group, discussion involved interest in making sure the survey was relevant and led to some reflection on what led to interest in developing the survey. Discussion of landlord engagement and how to pivot from survey responses was discussed. Over the course of survey discussion, Scott mentioned he is in the process of developing a brochure to help landlords recognize and navigate communication with tenants who may have experienced trauma. The group recognized the overlap with workgroup priorities and Scott welcomed anyone interested in collaborating on this work to email him.

5. Summer 2026 meeting schedule
   The workgroup will discuss preferences for any meeting cancelations during the summer, particularly the July 1 workgroup meeting which falls close to a holiday, at the June 3 meeting.
6. Next Steps
   - The shared document will be reorganized by Gina or other BCCSD staff to make it easier for workgroup members to know how to contribute feedback on survey questions to be shared with ONS.
   - Workgroup members will provide additional input on ONS questions once they are prompted via follow-up email.
   - BCCSD staff will communicate with ONS about the final open-ended questions the workgroup would prefer to use.
   - The workgroup will continue to refine the survey questions and plan at the next meeting.
7. Closing
   The meeting closed with a reminder of the next HASA workgroup meeting date.

Next Workgroup Meeting: June 3, 2026, 3:00 pm – 4:30pm in-person at Love Columbia (1209 E Walnut St, Columbia, MO) and via Zoom