



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

MTW RESIDENT PLANNING SESSION
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009
ALAZAN APACHE COURTS

Questions and Concerns

Alazan Apache Courts-Residents commented on the residents of the Alazan Apache Courts being involved in Section 3 employment in previous years to perform task such as make-ready's and lawn maintenance. However, that program ended, but while it was implemented it seemed to work for the residents.

Response: The MTW Program is looking to enhance the employment opportunities for residents.

Wheatley Courts-Resident leader recommended hiring residents in place of requesting proposals.

Response-Mr. Carreon explained the regulations concerning contracts; and the requirements for contractors to be licensed and bonded in order to perform work for the Housing Authority, however a stipulation could be placed in the MTW authorizations require a percentage of the new hires by the contractor must be Housing Authority residents.

Spring View Resident-How do we assure the contractor is in compliance and what percentage of residents must the contractor hire?

Response-Mr. Carreon stated the questions presented above would be determined input of the Advisory Board and the Resident Board. Feedback from all would be used to determine a fair number/percentage of residents to be hired, be it 10, 20, 30 or even 50%.

San Juan Resident-One of the issues as to why people do not continue in school is the fear of completing their education and owing huge student loans.

Response-Education is a huge part of the plan of the Education in Foundation. The Foundation will play a key role in aggressively searching for financial opportunities that will allow SAHA resident the opportunity to obtain higher education.

Section 8 Resident-SAHA should partner with agencies like Project Quest.

Response-The Housing Authority has created an Advisory Board of Community leaders and Project Quest is a member of the Board.

Alazan Apache Courts-Commented on a Parent Academy that worked well in previous years which brought life skill classes to the residents. The classes were held in the community room and the childcare was provided. The program ended due to a lack of funds but was successful.

No Comment

San Juan Resident-Recommended a grant writer is hired to seek opportunities to apply for funds that would assist in accomplishing those goals.

Response-SAHA has a staff on board who has been successful in writing grants and securing Federal Funds.



Cross Creek Resident-Seeking clarification stated, we are combining structure for the Program and addressing the major issues as it pertains to our participants whether it is Day Care, Education, establishing asset thresholds, etc.

Spring View Resident-Is there a limit to the number of flexibilities a Housing Authority can request in building the program.

Response-There is no limits to what we can request, however, it is up to HUD to approve the flexibilities.

Wheatley Courts Resident- Stated he would like to have community meetings at his property to assist in identifying the needs of the entire community, this would allow everyone an opportunity to voice their needs and or barriers, not just provide what he thinks the property needs.

Response-Property meetings will be held where each property can discuss issues as it pertains to their uniqueness. The current needs being discussed; day care, education, employment, and rent, are universal to all properties.

Section 8 residents-States annual inspections should continue the percentage for new hire contractors should be 20%; SAHA should enforce volunteer work which could lead to long-term employment. Volunteer work can also work as a career exploration technique; Delaying rent increases for a year would be a huge benefit for individuals who complete school/job training.

Response-The meeting held today is a day of information sharing and an opportunity to explore different ideas, the next step is to gather our notes, and begin to formulate a strategy that will be presented to the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will in turn share their ideas with the Resident Advisory Board; the next step will be to write the plan.

Cross Creek Resident-Would like to see the name Moving to Work changed to something that encompass all of the positive the program is bringing

Response-There is a proposition to change the name of the demonstration to Housing Innovation Program, however, SAHA does have the authority to change the name of the demonstration.

Comment-Section 3 seems to be an awesome program that will assist residents succeed.

San Juan Resident-How will the Elderly and Disabled residents benefit from the Moving to Work Demonstration

Response-MTW gives the Housing Authority the ability to lower the age of an individual to receive housing under elderly designated programs. MTW provides flexibility in the re-certification process from one year to bi-annually. Create job training incentives to the disabled.

Residents commented disabled population may be hesitant to participate in job training activities due to fear of losing Social Security Benefits.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: To be Announced