

President/CEO's Report

Housing Authority Of The City Of Orlando, Florida
Vivian Bryant, Esq., President/CEO
Ed Carson, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DESK

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- HDLI Spring Conference
Washington, D.C.
May 15-16, 2014
- PHADA's Annual
Convention and Exhibition
New Orleans, LA
June 1-4, 2014
- SERC-NAHRO Annual
Conference
Orlando, FL
June 15-17, 2014



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
PRESIDENT/CEO

HISTORY OF PUBLIC HOUSING 3rd Edition

I am fascinated by the history of public housing in the United States. In the January 2014's edition on the President/CEO Report, we learned that the concept of public housing began in the late nineteenth century. There was a need to build affordable housing for ship builders during the war ships were built. Two housing programs responded to this need: The Public Works Administration (PWA) and the United States Housing Act of 1937. One program provided low interest loans and the other provided funds for the redevelopment of communities including the clearance of slum and blight. We see the beginnings of the separation of the Departments of the United States Department of Housing

and Urban Development: the public housing side and the community development side. We also see the beginning of the concept of one-for-one replacement.

The next phase is reprinted from a report prepared for the Orlando Housing Authority by Janus Research entitled "Historic Resources Survey and Evaluation for Carver Court.

"...Many public housing projects were based on the Superblock and Zeilenbau-style plans as well as the American garden apartment style, all used extensively during the phase of the Public Works (PWA) housing projects. The Superblock plan originated in Europe, and broke from traditional street grids (Radford 1996.62 and 130). The Superblock and Zeilenbau plans grew out of the ideals of the International Bauhaus movement that advocated "rational utility and democratic comfort" through the use of new materials and technologies. Free flowing designs that used economy of space and advantages in siting were part of this school of thought. One important characteristic of the Superblock plan was the exclusion of automobile traffic within the complex, which allowed for the creation of landscaped common areas. The Zeilenbau-style plan was also based on economy of design and maximum livability. The American garden apartment-style was popular during the 1920s and 1930s and consisted of low-rise structures set around a landscaped interior. All three types advocated the use of common areas consisting of green space, playgrounds, and pathways in order to instill a sense of community and shared space. It was believed that these elements could uplift the human spirit from the dingy and overcrowded shacks that previously characterize poor areas. A sense of community and equality was to be conveyed through design elements such as building placement, subtle and economic building design, and enhancement with extensive plantings.

Housing and architectural magazines of the time promoted these concepts for housing projects. Conferences were held to discuss the special problems associated with public housing and slum clearance. Automobile traffic should be convenient but not at the expense of pedestrian and leisure traffic. Teams of architects and landscape architects were called upon to devise creative design solutions that would combine these ideals with economy of design and materials...."

Inside this issue:

Highlights from the Desk	1
Calendar of Upcoming Events	1
Mayor Dyer's Annual Neighborhood and Community Summit	2
Employability Workshop at Moving to Work Center	2
ObamaCare in Florida	3
Health Reform Fast Facts	3
Board of Commissioners Meeting	3
Fair Housing Corner	4

Mayor Dyer's Annual Neighborhood and Community Summit



Saturday, March 1, 2014, the presidents of the Orlando Housing Authority's resident associations participated in the annual Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer's Neighborhood and Community Summit held at the Doubletree Hotel. The hotel is next to Universal Orlando. They participated in workshops that focused on how to access services and resources in the City of Orlando. They also networked with other community-based organization leaders and enjoyed a luncheon with Mayor Buddy Dyer. The purpose of this annual Summit was to bring neighborhood and community leaders together for a day of learning, networking and sharing.



Employability Workshop at Moving To Work Resource Center



Tuesday, February 25, 2014 the Moving To Work (MTW) Resource Center held an employability workshop for Orlando Housing Authority residents. Ms. MariCarmen Rodriguez, Mobile Unit Coordinator of Career Source of Central Florida, facilitated the workshop. The topics and activities included the following: (1) the Career Source, (2) the employ Florida marketplace, training grant and welfare transition registration, (3) how to develop you classes, (4) basic computer classes, (5) interactive mock interviews, (6) how to apply for unemployment benefits and

food stamp assistance/SNAP, (7) how to schedule appointments with a career specialist, work experience internships, and (8) the Federal bonding program. The residents received a lot of information; they also updated their resumes at the MTW Resource Center. An eight (8) month Career Source Mobile Unit schedule of visits to the MTW Resource Center was provided to the attendees. The Career Resource Unit will assist residents find employment.



ObamaCare in Florida

Can I still keep my same doctor in Florida if I sign up for ObamaCare?

The Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, works with different insurance agents in your area. As long as you choose an insurance carrier that your current doctor in Florida accepts, then you should be able to keep your current doctor.

What are the different types of plans I can sign up for under the Affordable Care Act in Florida?

Florida residents can choose from 4 different levels of plans: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. These levels differ mostly in the amount you pay in copayments and deductibles. The higher the level is, the more you will pay on a monthly premium, but the less you will pay on a copayment and overall yearly deductible.

I have a pre-existing condition and heard that ObamaCare still allows me to get insurance. Is this true in Florida?

Yes. Regardless of what state you live in, you will no longer be denied insurance coverage due to a pre-existing condition. Therefore, in Florida, your insurance will cover any and all pre-existing conditions.

I am a Florida Senior. Will I get any additional benefits as part of the Affordable Care Act?

Yes. Just to name one, seniors are eligible for additional discounts on their regular prescription medications.

What are the different ways I can sign up for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act?

There are four ways. You can call 1-(800)-318-2596 to sign up with an agent over the phone. You can sign up in person by finding a location via the website localhel.healthcare.gov. You can fill out a paper application and mail it in. That application is available at bit.ly/PaperApplication. Finally, you can also complete the application online via healthcare.gov.

Health Reform Fast Facts

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was created to provide affordable health coverage to all Americans. The following changes went into effect Jan. 1, 2014:

- ◆ If you have a pre-existing health condition, you cannot be denied coverage by an insurance company
- ◆ Health plans for individuals and small businesses must include 10 essential health benefits
- ◆ Health plans cannot place a yearly or lifetime dollar limit on essential health benefits
- ◆ If you're under age 65 and are not covered by your employer, Medicare or Medicaid, you may qualify for assistance that will help you save on monthly premiums and costs at time of service such as co-pays. Florida residents can buy health coverage through FloridaHealthFinder.gov
- ◆ Insurers can offer four levels of coverage -- Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum -- plus a Catastrophic plan. There are special Silver plans for those who qualify for financial assistance
- ◆ Medicaid was not expanded in Florida

Source: wftv9.com

Don't Miss the Deadline - March 31!

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the OHA's Administration Building, Board Room, 390 N. Bumby Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803.

Orlando Housing Authority residents interested in attending the meeting who need transportation, and/or have special needs, please call the Community Affairs and Communications Department at (407) 895-3300, extension 6100.



ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY



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HUD's Mission Statement: To promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

Orlando Housing Authority Mission Statement: To offer a choice of safe and affordable housing options and opportunities for economic independence for residents of Orlando and Orange County.

FAIR HOUSING CORNER

HUD 13-170
Shantae Goodloe
(202) 708-0685

FOR RELEASE
Wednesday
January 8, 2014

MISSOURI APARTMENT OWNER AGREES TO PAY \$20,000 TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CHARGE

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today that the owner and management company of a Kansas City, Missouri apartment complex will pay \$20,000 to resolve allegations they illegally refused to grant a tenant with disabilities' request to have a live-in caretaker.

The Fair Housing Act requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations in their rules, policies, practices or services when needed to provide persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use or enjoy a dwelling.

"When it comes to residents with disabilities, the rigid application of the same rules you apply to others can result in the denial of housing opportunities," said Bryan Greene, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "For over 25 years, federal law has required that housing providers make reasonable exceptions to rules or policies if they are necessary for a person with a disability to receive the same housing benefit others enjoy. HUD will continue to bring these cases to obtain relief for people and to educate the public about these rights and responsibilities."

The Consent Order resolves a charge of discrimination that HUD filed in last September alleging that Brentwood Manor Apartments, L.P.; its management company, CE Real Estate Services, Inc.; and several affiliated management entities, violated the Fair Housing Act by refusing to waive a policy requiring that the tenant live in her apartment for six months before she could add someone to the lease.

HUD brought the charge following its investigation of a complaint filed with the Department by a woman who, due to her disability, needed someone to live with her to assist with her care before the requisite six-month period elapsed. The woman told the apartment management company that her sister was willing to move into the apartment and provide the necessary care. The woman's doctor documented her need for the accommodation, but the management company denied her request. HUD further alleged that the woman was forced to vacate her apartment and move to different housing out of state because of the management company's refusal to grant her request.

Under the terms of the Initial Decision and Consent Order, the owner and management company will pay the woman \$20,000, adopt and implement a reasonable accommodation policy, and provide fair housing training for all employees that interact with tenants.

Source: hud.org