



Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign (OHEC)
Partnership Meeting
April 14, 2016

Dedric Anderson, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Office of Minority Health, OKC
Barbara Bartlett, Tulsa Housing Authority, Tulsa (VC)
Mike Boulding, Bryant Grove Apartments, OKC
Marlene Boydston, Meadow Cliff Apartments, OKC
Robert Brown, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), OKC
Danielle Bryant, OSDH, Creek County Health Department, Sapulpa (VC)
Don Burkhart, Chickasaw Nation, OKC
Glory Callaway, Bryant Grove Apartments, OKC
Christine Cleary, Volunteers of America, OKC
Naki Coleman, Oklahoma Healthcare Authority (OHCA), OKC
Erin Colgan, Variety Care, OKC
Valerie Cross, All Phase Real Estate, OKC
David Dude, American Cancer Society, OKC
Mary Dulan Daniels, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council, OKC
Lindsey Ellis, OSDH, Center for the Advancement of Wellness, OKC
Shannon Entz, City of OKC, OKC
Gayla Evans, HUD, OKC
Cassidy Fallik, American Lung Association (ALA), OKC
Leon Farris, Western Property Management, Duncan (VC)
Scott Farris, Western Property Management, Duncan (VC)
Edwin Figuerres, OKC
Judy Gillaspie, City of Tulsa, Tulsa (VC)
Amy Gioletti, HUD, OKC
Steve Goldman, Oklahoma Primary Care Association (OKPCA), OKC
John Green, Kennedy Place Apartments, OKC
Matt Haney, Ada Housing Authority, Ada (VC)
Avis Hill, OHCA, OKC
Shelly Hopkins, All Phase Real Estate, OKC
Jeff Hughes, Progressive Independence Center for Independent Living, OKC
Jeremy Hughey, ALA, OKC
Shafeeq Islam, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council, OKC
Walter Jacques, OKC
Ge'Andrea Johnson, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council, OKC
Carol Jones, HUD, OKC
Sue Jones, All Phase Real Estate, OKC
C. Lyn Larson, HUD, Tulsa (VC)
Lauran Larson, OCCHD, OKC
Allison Latham, OHCA, OKC
Irene Martin, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS), OKC
Karla McGuire, OSDH, Health Equity and Resource Opportunities (HERO), OKC
Bob Miner, OSDH, Center for the Advancement of Wellness, Clean Indoor Air Coordinator, OKC
Connie Mitcham, Carland Properties, OKC
Kelly Moore, OHCA, OKC
Andrea Morrison, Carland Properties, OKC
Megan Nettles, Cedar Creek Apartments, OKC



Marisa New, OSDH, Health Equity & Resource Opportunities Division (HERO), OKC
Brandi Nowlin-Watson, Tulsa Housing Authority, Tulsa (VC)
Nancy Owens, OKC
Daniel Parker, OKC
Cathy Phea, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council, OKC
Irene Perez, Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA), OKC
Andrea Robertson, Springs of Moore, OKC
Susan Robinson, Office of Management and Enterprises Services (OMES), OKC
Lindsey Rodriguez, Parkwood Duplexes, OKC
Laura Rubidoux, Tulsa Housing Authority, Tulsa (VC)
Tina Salzwedel, Ada Housing Authority, Ada (VC)
Ruth Sanchez, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council, OKC
Julie Seward, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB), OKC
Kathy Shannon, Stone Ranch Apartments, OKC
Tim Shackelford, Oklahoma Housing and Finance Agency (OHFA), OKC
Jessica Shelton, Growing Together Support Team, Tulsa (VC)
Mia Smith, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, (OHCA), OKC
Jonathan Snyder, OSDH, Jackson County Health Department, Altus (VC)
Melissa Szeto, OHCA, OKC
Christie Walton, OSDH, Jackson County Health Department, Altus (VC)
Martha Weigant, Tulsa Housing Authority, Tulsa (VC)
Bonnie Westmoe, Carland Properties, OKC
Donetta Widdoes, OSDH, Creek County Health Department, Sapulpa (VC)
Carol Wilson, Carland Properties, OKC
Hillary Winn, OHCA, OKC
Kelly Wolford, Carland Properties, OKC
Dianne Wood, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), OKC
Jack Woodell, Carland Properties, OKC
Lucy Xiong, OSDH, Bryan County Health Department, Durant (VC)

New Members: Barbara Bartlett, Mike Boulding, Marlene Boydston, Don Burkhart, Glory Callaway, Christine Cleary, Valerie Cross, Lindsey Ellis, Gayla Evans, Cassidy Fallik, Leon Farris, Scott Farris, Amy Gioletti, John Green, Matt Haney, Avis Hill, Shelly Hopkins, Jeremy Hughey, Ge’Andrea Johnson, Amanda Jones, Sue Jones, Andrea Morrison, Megan Nettles, Nancy Owens, Daniel Parker, Brandi Nowlin-Watson, Andrea Robertson, Lindsey Rodriguez, Laura Rubidoux, Tina Salzwedel , Tim Shackelford, Kathy Shannon, Jessica Shelton, Jonathan Snyder, Martha Weigant, Bonnie Westmoe, Carol Wilson, Kelly Wolford and Jack Woodell

Welcome/Introductions: Marisa New, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Health Equity and Resource Opportunities Division (HERO) and Mary Dulan Daniels, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council.

Review of 02/24/16 Minutes

Celebrating

**National Public Health Week
National Minority Health Month
National Fair Housing Month**



Highlights

Southwest Regional Health Equity Council Meeting Health Equity Blueprint

Marisa New, Manager, OSDH Health Equity & Resource Opportunities

The Southwest Region includes the following states: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Several of our Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign Steering Committee Members serve on this Council. The Blueprint focuses on health outcomes for the region as well as information on social determinants that impact health. We will send out the press release for the document along with a link to view or print the document online.

A Breath of Fresh Air” – Smoke Free and Tobacco Free Multi-Unit Housing

Bob Miner, OSDH, Clean Indoor Air Coordinator, Center for the Advancement of Wellness

[PowerPoint available upon request]

Fair Housing: Special Emphasis on Reasonable Accommodations

Amy Gioletti, Equal Opportunity Specialist, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity

[PowerPoint available upon request]

Increasing Safe, Affordable, Accessible, Housing in Oklahoma – A Framework for Change

Jeff L. Hughes, Executive Director, Progressive Independence Center for Independent Living

[PowerPoint available upon request]

Questions & Answers

Q: What steps did the Oklahoma City Housing Authority go through to achieve this new policy and implement it?

A: Richard Marshall will be able to answer this in more depth another time, but he started by convening some of their agency leaders in different departments throughout the OKC Housing Authority, and invited experts in the field to make presentations and answer questions. It was a campaign that lasted over a year, and included a baseline survey of residents and employees of OKC Housing. The survey was conducted by students from University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) before the OKC Housing Authority decided to adopt the policy. The policy was announced a year before implementation of the program began. The agency offered smoking cessation classes in all of their buildings, directed their residents to the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline and brought in health professionals from the Oklahoma County Health Department to help prepare the residents for the changes in policy.

Q: Are you partnering with Homeless Alliance of OKC and other groups to amend Title 74 to get transitional housing for the chronically mentally ill or homeless?

A: In the Olmstead Report we filed in 2006, one of the recommendations was to work with the Governor’s Taskforce on Homelessness (GICH). This is where everything stopped. It never got a lot of traction or awareness. We can absolutely work with whoever wants to work on these issues. The Homeless Alliance of OKC has been very open, and we’ve met with him multiple times at the Governor’s Interagency Council on Homelessness (GICH). GICH meetings are public meetings so anyone can attend. The next meeting will be held on April 20th at 1:30 at the Homeless Alliance of OKC.



Q: I would like to know what protection whistleblowers have under federal law.

A: HUD investigates complaints of housing discrimination. Fair housing rights flow to the individual, if a person feels like they have been discriminated against they can file a complaint with HUD. The person must file it themselves. There are advocates available in the community that help people file complaints, one such group is Metropolitan Fair Housing Council. They are advocates for people in both landlord-tenant issues, and they help people file fair housing complaints. A person can't file a complaint on behalf of another person. The person must sign a complaint form showing they want to file a complaint.

Q: My question is for non-disabled residents who are dealing with 2nd hand smoke. In my research with the American Lung Association, there really is not a lot you can do to control smoke. But it sounds like we have some policies where someone with a disability such as asthma, COPD, and emphysema can get some help. But what about someone who doesn't have a disability, how do they deal with 2nd hand smoke? If there's not a policy in their apartment complex, is there something those residents can do? Do they have any rights if there are no policies in their apartment complex?

A: The Health Department can play a role if there is a violation of the smoking laws, but that doesn't apply to these residential properties except for the fact that hallways and areas serviced by employees of an apartment complex are technically an indoor workspace. If smoking is allowed in those areas, we can intervene and step in and ask management to comply with state smoking laws.

Q: If I'm living in an apartment and I don't have anyone smoking around me but then a smoker moves in, am I just out of luck if I do not have a disability?

A: The Fair Housing Act will protect you as a person with a disability*. At that point, it would be getting management to voluntarily do something. If they do not prohibit smoking on the property then they can't go to the other tenant and target them and say you can't smoke anymore. The best thing for the property to do is to enact a smoke free policy across the board.

*Disability is one of the seven "protected classes" race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and disability.

Q: How long do you think it is going to be before we see a major lawsuit from a non-smoker addressing 2nd hand smoke? Are we going to end up in a situation of this kind where 2nd hand smoke creates a disability?

A: This is why we encourage these smoke free policies. The Oklahoma City Housing Authority got out ahead of this issue by adopting their policy. Our "Remedies Brochure" is an adjunct tool to our tool kit. It is designed for individuals who have a smoking problem like we just discussed. We encourage residents to work with their property management, to gather documentation and information about their case so that if they do have a legitimate disability or illness they may give them special consideration. We tell them if they need to explore other approaches they can talk to the Metropolitan Fair Housing Council, an organization that advocates for citizens with housing matters.

Q: In housing units, can you separate non-smoking units from smoking units, and what will be the exposure?

A: It depends on several issues. If you are talking about specific buildings that all have the same layout, same amenities, accessibility and are identical that may pose less of an issue and be a little easier.

Q: So, as long as the amenities are the same but offering a smoke free environment, we would be ok?



A: As long as there is a mix of units, you can't have policies that say the only accessible units are on the first floor or only families with children can live on the first floor. You can't segregate protected classes in certain parts of the buildings. Those are the issues that you must be aware of. It's not that you are segregating smokers but that you could be segregating other protected classes from housing opportunities. It is easier to have whole buildings that are non-smoking or smoking buildings.

Q: You've done a great job addressing 2nd hand smoke, but there is increasing evidence to suggest that there is a toxicity associated with even 3rd hand smoke, if so what is being done to address that?

A: We feel like we have addressed 3rd hand smoke in our discussion of 2nd hand smoke. We discuss the facts that smoke adheres to surfaces and can be re-admitted to the air. There is a good scientific basis for 3rd hand smoke, but we thought rather than introducing that as a fresh topic that people might not understand as well, we emphasize that 3rd hand smoke is the ingredients in 2nd hand smoke that have adhered to surfaces and have been absorbed into fabrics etc.

Q: In regards to reasonable accommodations, if we have someone request a ramp and we put one in and an accident happens are we accepting liability for this if someone sustains an injury?

A: It would be just like any other thing that would happen in the apartment complex. So, if you have liability for anything that would occur in the building then the answer would be yes. Your only liability would be if you had shoddy workmanship, and it was installed incorrectly.

Requests for Announcements and Final Comments

- Partners for today's meeting were the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency, Oklahoma City Housing Authority, Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Oklahoma Public Health Association, Oklahoma Metropolitan Fair Housing Council and Strong Neighborhoods Initiative OKC.
- Next OK Health Equity Campaign Meeting is scheduled for May 12th 2-4 pm in Room 806 at OSDH. Presentations concerning the results of the Affordability Housing Study will be discussed.

Meeting Adjourned: Marisa New, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Health Equity and Resource Opportunities Division (HERO)