
SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD BRIEFING

LOCATION Seattle Housing Authority, 190 Queen Anne Ave N, Seattle, WA
Jesse Epstein Conference Room, First Floor

DATE May 14, 2018 4:30pm-6:00pm

BOARD ATTENDEES Deborah Canavan Thiele, Board Chair
Emily Abbey, Vice-Chair Dr. Paula Houston
Ahmed Abdi Paul Purcell
Robert Crutchfield Gerald Smiley

DISTRIBUTION SHA Board of Commissioners; Cabinet

4:30pm - Commissioner Roll Call

AGENDA

Briefing Items

4:35pm – “Who SHA Serves” Overview

5:05pm – Fair Chance Ordinance

Commissioner roll call was given; Commissioner Abdi was absent from the Briefing.

MEETING NOTES

Review 5/21/18 Special Annual Board Meeting Agenda and Updates

“Who SHA Serves” Overview

Senior Policy Analyst Chris Klaeyen gave a presentation to the Board to highlight the profiles of the populations that SHA has served since becoming a Moving to Work (MTW) agency in 1999 up to 2017. The presentation also **touched on SHA’s housing** capacity and how it has shifted due to programmatic changes within the agency.

SHA now serves a greater number of low income individuals when it became an MTW agency eighteen years ago. In 1999, SHA provided housing assistance to nearly 22,700 households; by 2017, that number grew by over 6,300, to a total resident population of 29,000. This represents a 28 percent growth rate in the resident population. SHA has been able to serve more people due to our housing capacity (units) increasing by 6,300 over the past eighteen years, the increase a result of additional Housing Choice Vouchers from HUD. The type of residents served by SHA has shifted but remains primarily extremely low-income (< 30% AMI), which comprise the vast majority served.

Fair Chance Ordinance

Mr. Lofton gave a brief overview of the ordinance, which he briefed the Board on last month and introduced Housing Operations Director Rod Brandon to give an update of the conversations SHA has had with the City currently. Mr. Brandon described to the Board the guiding principles that promote stability of the residents we serve and strategies to keeping our communities safe prior to Fair Chance and aside from requirements stated in the ordinance language. In property management, staff has been able to look at the work of the agency through an RSJI lens to those residents that SHA serves, being keenly aware of populations of those we serve, and the impacts on those that have been disproportionately impacted due to incarceration.

SHA has been constantly **engaged in the agency’s admissions process** improvements, as there was a time in the long past that an applicant with a criminal record was give automatic denial. The agency was not mandated to change that practice, but SHA began to put a personal touch to the admissions process. As SHA has strived to serve more people, each applicant with criminal history is approached on a case-by-case basis, and that the agency has long been a model to fair housing practices. Numerous reviews are given to combat disproportionality amongst these applications. Additionally, a secondary review of criminal background checks have been done, if needed to re-determine admission to SHA housing; if the applicant is not satisfied after that

secondary review, they were still eligible to have a hearing to address their case. Ultimately, less than 2 percent of applicants were denied housing.

Commissioner Thiele adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer