

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date 6:00 – 8:00, June 9th, 2010
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting 6:00-8:00, July 14th, 2010
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Participants:

Tyra Alexander
Jacqueline Bentley
Jessie Boyd
Maxine Burton
Dariel Celestin
Shirley Daufauchard
Jennie Gorden
Ola James

Leslie Johnson
Mary Johnson
Bernice King
Cynthia Magraff
Tamra Muse
Danny Paul
Emelda Paul
Christina Quezergue

Jarvey Reed Jr.
Ruby Regin
Lachia Rodriguez
Beryl Thomas
Cleo Wells
Elizabeth Wells
Christina Wheaton
Josey Willis

Sojourner Truth Family Supportive Services: D'Ana Smith
Providence/Enterprise: Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, , Nick Roosevelt
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services: Sarah Marcello
Tulane Community Health Center: Gillian Locascio

This meeting record was drafted by Nick Roosevelt, staff at Providence. Prior to being finalized, it will be provided in draft to all meeting participants for their review. It reflects the key messages and main points raised at the meeting. It is not intended to represent a verbatim transcript.

The meeting began with an opening prayer by Miss Emelda Paul.

I. Sojourner Truth / Resident Council Update

D'Ana Smith:

- **Fitness, Health, & Wellness:** We have free fitness classes Monday through Thursday. One class in the morning for senior citizens. One in the afternoon for more advanced exercise. The Sojourner Truth Center provides the equipment. The trainers are great. Sign up tonight or at the front desk.
- **Re-Occupancy Ready Initiative:** A workshop for anyone who is thinking about reoccupying the new Lafitte, Harmony Oaks (CJ Peete), and St. Bernard (Columbia Parc). Each site is hosting its own 3 hour class, with lunch served. The information will be the same at each workshop, so you don't need to worry about going to more than one or going to the workshop at the site you are particularly interested in moving in to. Ask after the meeting or at the front desk for the time and date of each workshop.
- **New Computer Lab:** We have great new computers in our lab. We will be having regular classes for seniors and for the general public. More information to come about the classes at the next meeting, but in the meantime, the computer lab is open everyday for basic computer needs.

- **Truth Youth:** The Saturday Truth Youth are doing all sorts of fun activities. Let us know if you would like to sign up your kid or grandkid.
- **Re-Occupancy Case Management:** If you want to move back in to the new Lafitte and do not already have a case manager, please come talk to us as soon as possible.
- **Question:** What about folks who don't live in the area, can they get a case manager? **Response:** Yes. We have "virtual" case management for
- **Question:** Who do you call about coming back to Lafitte? **Response:** Letters from Interstate (the manager) will start going out soon to every Lafitte resident whose address we have on file. More than one letter will be sent. That said, it doesn't hurt to come talk with us here at the Sojourner Truth Center just to make sure we have the correct contact information for you. If you know any former residents who do not currently receive mail from us, please let us know.
- **Question:** Will there be applications available here at the Sojourner Truth Center? **Response:** Yes
- **Question:** How will we talk to the Interstate people? **Response:** The Interstate manager of Lafitte will be setting up an office here at the Center and we will make their phone number and address available.

II. Lafitte Redevelopment Update

Matt Morrin

- No major updates other than that we are still on track to have the first of our apartments ready for occupancy by November.
- **Question:** Will we have to get background checks every year? **Response:** We will have to check with HANO and get back to you. *Response from Interstate given 6/21: Background checks are required every year, per HANO guidelines.*
- **Question:** I read the notes from last month's meeting and am still unclear about whether I can use a section 8 voucher for units available in the phase I units. Will there be? **Response:** There will be project-based Section 8 vouchers in phase I, but there will not be tenant-based in phase I. There may be units available for people to use their tenant-based vouchers in the next phases.
- **Comment:** Could you please make it very clear in the application that people who want to hold on to their section 8 vouchers should not apply to occupy the phase I units. **Response:** We will make this clear.
- **Question:** Will we be able to say which street we want to live on? **Response:** Will not be able to guarantee anything. It would be complicated to make this happen, because different units will be ready to be occupied at different times and the unit's available will have to match the rooms and space that you qualify for. It is worth bringing your street preference to the attention of the Interstate manager when you are going through the application process.
- **Question:** What if I move out of my housing in the Iberville and into Lafitte and don't like it or can't pay for utilities? Could I move back into Iberville? **Response:** We will have to ask HANO. *Response from HANO given 6/10:* The resident **will not** be allowed to switch sites after returning to their original housing community.

- **Question:** Will some of the one bedroom apartments have interior steps? **Response:** No. Some will require walking up steps to enter the apartment, but none will have steps inside.
- **Question:** Will any of the phase I units be ADA compliant and accessible for seniors? **Response:** A number of units in phase I will be ADA compliant and accessible for seniors.
- **Question:** In the Senior building that will be built in later phases, will seniors raising grandchildren be able to live there? **Response:** Will have to look into this, but there will be ADA accessible 2 and 3 bedroom apartments available else in the new Lafitte.
- **Question:** Do I need a birth certificate for my kids for the application process? **A:** We will have to check on this. **Sarah Marcello:** You will likely at least need some sort of documentation of custody, but it shouldn't be a problem. You can always let me know if it is a problem.
- **Question:** I am about to renew my lease at the Iberville. If I renew, but then am able to move into the new Lafitte before my new lease expires, will HANO let me terminate early? **Response:** We will have to ask HANO. *Response from HANO on 6/10: Yes.*

III. Tulane Community Health Center Update

Gillian Locascio

- For the month of June, we will be focusing on awareness and education about diabetes. I am passing out some basic information on diabetes, as well as information on diabetes prevention and how to live with diabetes. On June 23rd we will be hosting a BBQ with delicious food that diabetics and non-diabetics will enjoy eating. There will also be information sessions on how to prevent diabetes and how to manage diabetes. This information can be really helpful for everyone. Diabetes is a big problem all over the country, and even more so here, so we want to raise awareness.

IV. Adjournment

- Dinner served

Next Meeting: July 14th, 2010 at Sojourner Truth.