STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 19th of March, 2013, the Tenant Advisory Board held a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. The session was held at the Downtown Library, 4th and Buchanan, with the following members present:

Maria Soliz	Active housing client
Jennifer Bledsoe	Active housing client
Eboni Sanders	Active housing client
Jane Placencio	Active housing client
Christie Fallos	Active housing client
Rose Telles	Active housing client

Staff members present:

Deon Coffman, Housing Administrator
Susan Kirkes, Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator
James Allen, Community Development Administrator

The City of Amarillo Housing Office met with the Tenant Advisory Board on March 19, 2013. A summary of the year's activities was provided by the Housing Administrator and included an update on the status of the waiting list and a report on new admissions and turnover rate. An explanation of the 50 vouchers received under the VASH Program was given as well as a report of activities under the Homeownership Voucher Program.

Elements of the PHA Plan which were revised during the year were explained. Applications for housing are now being accepted online on the City of Amarillo's website. Applications can be submitted anytime - 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Applications will still advance to the top of the list by date and time of submission. Tenants will self certify fully excluded income and written verifications will no longer be required.

Proposed changes to the PHA plan were presented to the Board. A policy must be in place to terminate existing HAP contracts if it becomes necessary with reduced HUD HCV funding. Proposed administrative cost savings were also presented.

Results of a customer satisfaction survey conducted among a random sample of Section 8 participants were also presented. The survey focused on customer service, property maintenance and repair, and quality of life. An update was provided on the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives as stated in the 2010-2015 PHA 5-Year Plan.

Comments received from members included the following:

- One member suggested that single member households with no children in the household who are capable of working be the first group to have HAP contracts terminated due to reduced funding, if necessary. They can be allowed to remain on assistance if they enroll and participate in the Family Self Sufficiency program. These persons will be required to set goals and attend college or technical school or training to enable them to become self sufficient with no government assistance. The Board also received information that the single member households that were elderly, disabled or near elderly would be excluded from this group if this is the direction that is followed.

- The Supportive Housing Coordinator encouraged the members of the group to enroll in the Family Self Sufficiency Program if they are interested in becoming homeowners. No members purchased homes through the Section 8 HCV program. One member is currently looking for a home to purchase.