

PRRAC

Poverty & Race Research Action Council

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Keeping the Promise The Third National Conference on Housing Mobility December 3-4, 2004

At the Urban Institute, 2100 M St. NW
Washington, DC

OUTLINE OF CONFERENCE PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

Friday, December 3

8:30: Registration

9:00: WELCOME: Philip Tegeler, Executive Director, PRRAC

9:30: PLENARY: USING RESEARCH TO INFORM OUR WORK

This joint presentation will help conference participants understand and translate the latest research results from the Moving to Opportunity program and the ongoing Gautreaux program, and the growing evidence on the impact of concentrated poverty on education, economic opportunity, and health.

Margery Austin Turner, The Urban Institute
Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, Harvard University

10:45: PLENARY: MOBILITY PROGRAMS TODAY - PROMISING PRACTICES AND ONGOING CHALLENGES

This opening policy plenary will begin the discussion on what we have learned about designing and running successful housing mobility programs since the last Housing Mobility Conference, held in 1997. What are some of the most promising techniques and program enhancements to permit more families to move to low poverty neighborhoods? What are the key differences between programs developed through

litigation, the former ROC program, Moving to Opportunity, HOPE VI relocation programs, and voluntary public housing agency initiatives? What are the most serious current barriers to voucher mobility – and what can we do about them? We will explore some of these themes throughout the next two days, but in this session we want to put as many ideas and issues out on the table as we can.

Mary Davis, Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities
(moderator)
Jennifer O’Neil, CHAC, Inc., The Chicago Housing Choice Voucher Program
Debra Wray Furrh, East Texas Fair Housing Service Center
Ophelia Basgal, Alameda County Housing Authority, California

12:30: LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Barbara Sard, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities,
“What does the recent election mean for the future of housing mobility?”

1:30: PLENARY: PRESERVING HOUSING MOBILITY IN THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

In anticipation of planned negotiations over the future direction of the Housing Voucher Program, what can we do to preserve and enhance mobility in the current housing voucher program? What is the role of the “Section 8 Summit”? Topics will include mobility incentives; SEMAP scoring; improvements in portability administration; restoring some form of exception payment standards in the new budget environment; and adapting housing mobility to a possible “flexible voucher” program.

Ken Zimmerman, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (moderator)
Barbara Sard, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities
Sheila Crowley, National Low Income Housing Coalition
Jennifer Fogel-Bublick, Office of Senator Sarbanes

(Break)

3:45 WORKSHOPS: ADAPTING THE HOUSING MOBILITY MODEL FOR NEW CLIENTS AND CONSTITUENCIES

Expanding housing mobility in the Latino community: This workshop will examine the continuing underutilization of housing vouchers and housing mobility programs in the Latino community and suggest strategies to improve outreach, utilization, and counseling approaches. The workshop will also consider the family self sufficiency and Section 8 homeownership programs, and the wide array of HUD funded rental and homeownership counseling agencies as possible untapped resources for promoting housing mobility.

Janis Bowdler, National Council of La Raza (moderator)
Ofelia Navarro, The Spanish Coalition, Chicago
George Escobar, Latino Economic Development Corporation
Evelyn Aponte, Asociacion de Puertorriquenos En Marcha, Inc., Philadelphia

Gender issues in housing mobility policy: As is the case in programs like TANF, poor women (and their children) are the great majority of housing voucher recipients. Housing mobility is in many ways intimately connected to the success of welfare to work efforts, as it is a key component of a strategy to help women gain access to employment opportunities. In turn, women's family responsibilities often pose unique barriers to mobility. In addition, housing mobility is often a critical need for victims of domestic violence seeking to obtain and maintain safe housing separate from their abusers. The workshop will consider these issues in exploring how to design and advocate for a housing mobility agenda that promotes the well-being of voucher holders – that is, poor women and their families.

Emily Martin, ACLU Women's Rights Project (moderator)
Telissa Dowling, President, Resident Advisory Board, NJ Department of Community Affairs
Jennifer O'Neil, CHAC, Inc., The Chicago Housing Choice Voucher Program
Alison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence

Housing mobility as a public health priority: As the MTO and Gautreaux research suggest, there can be substantial health benefits to low income families who participate in housing mobility programs. How do these insights translate into policies to address minority health disparities? Can housing mobility be used as a targeted public health response? How can public housing agencies and housing mobility programs begin to work more intentionally with public health agencies and inner city health clinics?

Gail Christopher, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (moderator)
Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, Harvard University
Ralph Scott, Alliance for Healthy Homes

Saturday, December 4

8:30 -11:30 PLENARY SESSIONS: BUILDING A CONSENSUS ON HOUSING MOBILITY POLICY

Introduction: Elizabeth Julian, Inclusive Communities Project , Dallas, TX

Building a better mobility program today: model mobility program components and budget: This session will discuss design features of a model housing mobility program, including staffing levels and per-family cost; special features to enhance mobility services (security deposits, transportation, etc); improved post move counseling and improving family access to opportunities in their new community; estimated program cost per metropolitan area; and development of uniform outcome measures. The goal will be the development of a best practices model that can be replicated, with foundation or state government support, in unserved metropolitan areas.

Chester Hartman, PRRAC Director of Research (moderator)

Gene Rizer, Quadel

Julia Kehoe, Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership

Margery Austin Turner, the Urban Institute

Visioning a future national housing mobility policy: This session will review proposals to bring Gautreaux or MTO type programs “to scale” to reach large numbers of families living in concentrated poverty. This visioning process will also help us to think about our priorities for preserving and enhancing mobility programs over the next few years, in a time when a major new national initiative is unlikely. Among the issues to be discussed: In what geographic areas should new housing mobility programs be established? Who should have priority to receive housing mobility services? Should new housing mobility vouchers be limited in their use to specific areas? Our discussion of future directions for housing mobility policy will also include an assessment of housing opportunities available through the LIHTC program and local inclusionary zoning programs.

Xavier de Souza Briggs, Harvard University (moderator/presenter)

Alex Polikoff, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest

Jill Khadduri, Abt Associates

Patrick Maier, Innovative Housing Institute

11:45: LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Professor Sheryll Cashin, “Housing Mobility and the Integration Ideal”

Florence Wagman Roisman (moderator)

(after lunch, Professor Cashin will sign copies of her new book, *The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class are Undermining the American Dream*)

1:15 – 2:45 PLENARY: BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT, EXPANDING THE COALITION, AND INCREASING STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR HOUSING MOBILITY

State and local government funding support for housing mobility; approaching local foundations; grassroots organizing in support of housing mobility; building coalition support; and presenting benefits of housing mobility in the media.

Elizabeth Julian, Inclusive Communities Project (moderator)

Mary Scott Knoll, San Diego

Mary Davis, Chicago

Brett Hill, New Haven

Terry Staudenmaier, Abell Foundation, Baltimore

3:00 – 4:00: CONCLUDING PLENARY: BUILDING CAPACITY AND MOVING FORWARD

Next steps; summary of conference recommendations; conference report; identifying priorities for organizing; developing a resource center and network; seeking new sources of funding for housing mobility; developing housing mobility programs in underserved regions.

Philip Tegeler, PRRAC, and members of the conference planning committee

The Third National Conference on Housing Mobility is co-sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Fair Housing Alliance, the Urban Institute, the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, and the National Council of La Raza. The Conference is supported in part by a grant from the Taconic Foundation.

Conference Planning Committee: Xavier de Souza Briggs, Harvard University; Mary Davis, Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities; Elizabeth Julian, Inclusive Communities Project; Alex Polikoff, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest; Florence Roisman, Indiana University School of Law; Mary Ann Russ, Abt Associates; Barbara Sard, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities; Philip Tegeler, PRRAC; Margery Turner, The Urban Institute.