



## Fair Housing Advocacy Committee

### DRAFT Description

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#### **Background**

As part of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) Report required by HUD, The City of Portland, on behalf of its jurisdictional partners, was tasked with collecting and analyzing data that identifies barriers to housing choice, and with developing a report that outlines strategies to mitigate the identified barriers.

The AI Report identified a number of key barriers to exercising housing choice, including a general lack of understanding by housing consumers and housing providers of Fair Housing Law, as well as the need for a clear, focused fair housing champion. In response, the AI Committee suggested creating a “Fair Housing Advocacy Committee” that meets at least quarterly to focus on the implementation of fair housing strategies and to be a strong advocate voice in Multnomah County.

Portland City Council formally adopted the Analysis of Impediments Report on June 15, 2011. Council also adopted the Fair Housing Action Plan on September 14, 2011.

#### **Mission of the Fair Housing Advocacy Committee**

The Fair Housing Advocacy Committee (FHAC) is a strong advocate voice in Multnomah County for the implementation of strategies that affirmatively further fair housing, and will hold jurisdictional partners of Multnomah County accountable.

#### **Committee Scope**

The FHAC is charged with reviewing the recommendations of the jurisdictional partners and holding the jurisdictional partners accountable to the recommendations in the AI Report.

Work of the FHAC will include development of a work plan to include review of data, review and endorsement of best practices, coordination of public information campaigns, regularly reviewing enforcement data, suggesting policies for adoption by jurisdictions, and advocating for the resources that will support effective approaches to affirmatively furthering fair housing.

The FHAC will also oversee HUD-approved audit testing of housing providers in the industry to

ensure enforcement of Fair Housing Law. Actions will be carried out by jurisdictions through contracts, Intergovernmental Agreements or other forms of commitment.

The FHAC will annually report findings and recommendations to the jurisdictional members of the Consortium and the Portland Housing Bureau's Portland Housing Advisory Commission (PHAC) for review and comments on key findings and recommendations.

The FHAC recommendations should represent a broad base of collective wisdom about what will best serve the County.

### **Committee Membership**

#### *Fair Housing Advocacy Committee (FHAC):*

The FHAC will represent a diversity of expertise, skills and viewpoints related to Fair Housing. The FHAC committee will be comprised of up to 15 individuals and will include community representatives who are fair housing advocates, members of tenant rights groups, landlords and property managers, financial institutions, community based housing providers, organizations representing communities of color, advocates for those with physical or developmental disabilities, advocates for elders, and the general public. The City of Portland, City of Gresham, and Multnomah County will recommend membership of the Fair Housing Advocacy Committee.

#### *Committee Staff Support:*

PHB staff will provide the primary staff support to the committee. Consortium-wide staff and other partners will provide technical expertise.

The following partners will be asked to provide staff assistance: PHB, Multnomah County, City of Gresham, Home Forward, METRO, PMAR, BOLI, LASO and FHCO. Staff will serve as a resource to the FHAC in planning, organizing and conducting public meetings and hearings. Staff will develop written recommendations for carrying out the actions outlined in the Fair Housing Action Plan, and after feedback from the FHAC, staff will ask the FHAC to endorse those actions.

Staff will also advise the FHAC on technical issues related to resources, legal considerations, obligations, collecting data and providing a preliminary analysis of data related to housing impediments and barriers. Staff from the participating agencies will work to communicate and the implement strategies that affirmatively further fair housing.

### **Duration and Number / Frequency of Meetings**

The Fair Housing Advocacy Committee will be established in Fall 2011 and will meet at least quarterly for five years or the end of the reporting period for the Analysis of Impediments Report.

### **Facilitation**

A chair or co-chairs will be selected to work with staff in the facilitation of committee meetings. The staff and chair(s) will develop the meeting agendas.

### **Decision Making Process**

FHAC members will work in an inclusive and participatory manner and make decisions based on consensus. The FHAC will listen and periodically solicit public input on the Fair Housing Action Plan. As such, FHAC members are expected to listen, review and discuss various points of data and public testimony on the housing barriers and impediments, and recommend solutions to eliminate these impediments for people who are historically underrepresented or members of a protected class. In the event that consensus may not be achieved due to time constraints or disagreement, the committee will work towards endorsement of a strategy and include a minority report to include points of minor contention.

FHAC recommendations and actions will be advisory to the jurisdiction members of the Consortium.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Members**

- Attend all FHAC meetings and other related public activities and advise staff in advance of meeting absences or substitutes
- Review agenda and meeting information in advance of the meeting.
- Keep the organization or community you represent informed of issues and activities, and reflect the position of the organization or community in discussion and votes of the FHAC.
- Assist PHB project staff in identifying and informing other community stakeholders regarding fair housing implementation.
- Use consensus to form preferred recommendations and document the rationale for decisions.