

**LOGAN CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2004**

Resident Advisory Board met to discuss Housing's proposed Five-Year and Annual Plans. The meeting was conducted by Kent Watson, Housing Authority director, who asked residents for comments or questions regarding plans. Kimberly Hammond questioned the Housing Authority's Home Ownership policy. Watson explained that although the Housing Authority has the option to allow a housing voucher to assist with a purchase of a home, the reality is that the family must still qualify for a home loan with a bank. In order for a family to do so, they must have a considerable amount of income if any at all. As the family's income increases the amount of housing assistance decreases to a very minimal amount. Jeff Klaasen agreed with Kent. He commented that during the last year their household income had increased while the housing assistance had decreased significantly. Now they qualify for a home loan to purchase their current residence. Jeff stated that even if the Housing Authority had a Home Ownership Program operating this time, the assistance would be almost nothing on his family's behalf.

Kent informed the Board that the Logan City Housing Authority currently had a total of 444 vouchers allocated. At this time the Housing Authority had all 444 vouchers issued to eligible families and were slightly over-leased. Therefore it was not anticipated that they would be able to offer assistance to families on the waiting list until May or June '2004.

Scott Carlsen asked if the Housing Authority anticipated for the future an easier reexamination process, perhaps an electronic process via internet so that a family may not need to come to office at all to meet with the Housing Authority. Kent responded that although the Housing Authority does not have plans for an electronic process as Scott described, they recently purchased a sophisticated software system for approximately \$18,000 that helps the staff operate the Housing Choice Voucher Program in a more efficient and timely manner. Furthermore, Kent stated the importance of meeting with a family at least once a year to determine continued eligibility of the Program which not only provides the Housing Authority an opportunity to update a family on their responsibilities as a participant but also prevents abuse of the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Overall the Resident Advisory Board approved the Five-Year Plan as well as the Annual Plan for the Housing Authority. Many residents expressed appreciation for the Housing Choice Voucher Program which had enabled them to pursue their education goals thus helping them to become self-sufficient.