

Committee on Aging – Senior Presentation

Tenant Resource Center

August 5, 2015

Overall

- Jump right in, assume you know about our housing counseling, outreach and education (presentations), mediation, Housing Help Desk (finding housing), security deposit loan program, housing crisis fund (eviction prevention), website, brochure series, statewide seminars, speak Spanish and Hmong and have special outreach for those populations
- Also going to assume you know about the 3% vacancy rate, cheapest one bedroom is \$650 and recent law changes make this a landlord's market – very difficult for tenants
- I've been here for 20 years and see some trends in our services
- People use the internet more to find answers on our website (very, very extensive)
- The people we talk to are lower skill, higher needs, more complicated problems, more serious
- Seniors tend to use the phone for services more – not email, walk in, etc
- We're serving less people, taking more time with them (explaining in different ways, asking questions, writing letters, etc)

The Numbers

- While numbers are going down elsewhere, senior numbers are going up, actual numbers and percentages
 - o Seniors make up a small portion of the market (15% 65 and older BUT 15% 55 – 64 and our stats are 55 – 62 and 62 - over)
 - o Seniors own homes 60 – 80% over 55
- Looking at 11.5 years data (2003 – 2015) – we see the following
 - o We only have half a year data for 2015 and the following is true
 - We're serving twice as many people aged 56 – 62 = 4 times if trends continue in 2015
 - We're serving 10 times as many people over 62 = 20 times if trends continue in 2015
 - We're serving 2 times as many seniors in general = 4 times if trends continue in 2015
 - 3 times as many Asian seniors = 6 times if trends continue in 2015
 - 3 times as many non white clients = 6 times if trends continue in 2015
 - Latino seniors haven't seen the same increase (??)
 - 2xs more disabled, 3 xs more public assistance and food stamps, (luckily 4 times more on medical assistance) – but double all that if trends continue in 2015
 - Of the 700 seniors we've served this year – 9% make over 80% AMI, 18% 50 – 80% AMI, 55% 30 – 50% AMI and 16% are less than 30% AMI
 - 58 homeless

Anecdotes

- Issues seniors are facing that stand out
 - o Non-renewal, often after long periods of time (10, 15, 20 years)
 - o Repairs
- More referrals from other agencies
 - o Access Health Centers
 - o Hospitals
- ADRC not filling a gap – if anything, creating more referrals to us?
 - o Housing List
 - o Little coordination or collaboration unlike I expected in the beginning (people who said they would be working on housing stopped showing up at meetings etc)

The problem with housing

- All the agencies, community groups, etc know there are problems with housing, but don't focus on housing in any way or serve VERY SPECIFIC populations – and then refer to us
- City and county and state don't have money to pay for general services, we get \$12,000 for housing counseling from HUD, there's a \$20,000 cap per agency
- Slated for a \$90,000 cut from the county which impacts all of our services (short story = after 17 years we went out to RFP and after years of trying to cut us, they gave the contract to another agency because . . . they do case management and we didn't apply for the other agency's money and they applied for ours)
- Our doors are open and we are accessible and bi-lingual, trauma informed, we use volunteers, do everything right . . . but don't get the money to do it.