

**Summary Notes of Meeting of
The Hope VI Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.
The Hotel Galvez
2024 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, TX 77551**

Advisory Committee Members Present: Cornelia Banks, Kenna Bush, Tom LaRue, Ralph McMorris, Laura Murrell, Sterling Patrick, Mike Shriner, Dominic Sasser, Sue Sere, Jeff Sojstrom, Gina Spagnola, Sharon Strain, Lesley Sommers, Lyda Ann Thomas, Henry Porretta(Rep. Galveston PD), Barbara Hector, Frank Villareal, Dave Schuler

Public Attendees: Scott Jepsen (EJP Consultants), Robert L. Reyna (Beaumont Housing Authority), Allison Landrum (Beaumont Housing Authority) , Kurt Kehoe (Michaels Development Corporation)

Scott Jepsen welcomed the group reminding them this was our third meeting. He then introduced himself, Kurt Kehoe from MDC, and Robert Reyna and Allison Landrum from BHA. He explained they were there to describe to the committee the successes and failures of their HOPE VI Grant. He also went on to tell everyone that 2009 HOPE VI grants were recently awarded and that 6 out of 44 entries received funds, two of which were written by EJP. Charlotte received 20.9M, Covington 17 M, New Jersey 9.7M, Memphis 22M, Trenton 22M, and Dallas 22M.

Robert Reyna, the ED for BHA, stated that deciding to pursue a HOPE VI grant should not be entered into lightly and that the committee should be commended for offering their time. He emphasized that a united front is important to make the HOPE VI project work and that transparency is key. He stated that all funds from HOPE VI must be used for rebuilding public housing and nothing can be misappropriated. He suggested that GHA/EJP needs to make it understood that a HOPE VI grant will help with making the area surrounding Magnolia Homes a mixed income community. He

also suggested that it is also important to poll residents and find out what they want in their new neighborhoods. He explained how important it is to remove all the obstacles so people can succeed. Allison Landrum from BHA then spoke of the HOPE VI process that BHA went through and how bad the Beaumont situation was following their Hurricane. As a result of the hurricane, they applied for and received a HOPE VI Grant and have leveraged it into developments totaling \$52 million. They are building single family homes, townhomes, and apartments. In addition to housing, the BHA offers job training, education, and many more helpful services as they push their residents to become self sufficient. BHA has put in place re-occupancy requirements and even though the rules are stringent the residents seem to appreciate the structure. Eventually these neighborhoods can be stand alone entities and stand on their own financially. The Beaumont Housing Authority and City of Beaumont have worked together to try to link the housing areas to the city to make it all flow as a neighborhood.

Scott Jepsen then discussed a conceptual organizational structure for ownership under HOPE VI and what a typical budget for uses of a \$22 million HOPE VI grant might look like. Mr. Jepsen let the committee know the next HOPE VI Advisory Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Island Community Center.