



28th Annual Western Washington Fair Housing Conference
Thursday, May 22, 2014
Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center

“TAKING THE LEAD: CREATING PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES”

Schedule subject to change

WELCOME AND MORNING KEYNOTE

9:00am – 10:15am

Welcome - Bill Block, HUD Regional Administrator

Keynote – Leading From Every Level

Dr. Joseph Hines will present his keynote address and framework for the day on how to lead where you are at whether a maintenance staff person, real estate licensee, owner of the housing development corporation, or government official.

10:15-10:25am Break

WORKSHOPS

Participants will choose to attend one of the following workshops

10:25 – 11:45am

First Steps – Fair Housing Basics

Christina Higgins and Mai Ly, civil rights investigators, from Washington State Human Rights Commission will provide participants with an overview of fair housing law including federal, state, and local protected classes, types of housing transactions covered, prohibited activities, highlights regarding families with children and persons with disabilities, and resources.

Fair Housing for Transitional, Shelter, and other Non-Traditional Housing Providers

Roxanne Vierra of King County Office of Civil Rights and Christa Lenssen of Fair Housing of Washington staff will provide participants with an overview of fair housing and disability law specifically for persons providing shelter housing, transitional housing, and other shared living housing.

Making the Right Choice: Preventing Discrimination in Reviewing Applicants' Criminal Records

Mike Chin of Seattle Office for Civil Rights and Amy Fitzgerald of Plymouth Housing will lead this workshop. The term Individualized Tenant Assessment is used to describe admissions procedures which allow housing applicants to provide supplemental information. The supplemental information is intended to explain or correct items on their screening report which may prohibit them from passing established admissions criteria, including criminal records. Supplemental information could be accepted up front at time of application for housing or wait list and/or when appealing denial of their application.

Community In Bloom: There Grows The Neighborhood

Lauren Walker of the Fair Housing Center of Washington will lead this workshop, and webinar, regarding the requirement of jurisdictions receiving federal funds to promote or “affirmatively further” fair housing and how this requirement can be achieved through housing & neighborhood quality, education in neighborhoods, health & environment, economic development, economic health of neighborhoods, and mobility & transportation.

Fair Housing For Public Housing Authorities And Other Federal Subsidized Housing Providers

Omar Barraza of Barraza Law and Bill Cook and Jeb Best, both of King County Housing Authority will lead this workshop covering fair housing basics in the context of persons working at or for housing providers receiving federal financial assistance – from Public Housing Authorities to site-based housing subsidized projects. Topics will include protected classes, common examples, reasonable accommodations/modifications, and highlights of specific laws applicable to federally subsidized housing like Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act and LEP (Limited English Proficiency).

Disability: Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

Kristina Miller of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office and Maurice Alexander of King County Office of Civil Rights will lead participants through the legal requirements of reasonable accommodations and modifications for persons with disabilities; and provide participants with practice in receiving, analyzing, and responding to accommodation/modifications. *NOTE: This workshop will be available during both morning and afternoon workshop times.*

11:45am – 12:25pm

LUNCH

Boxed lunches will be set up outside of the ballroom and participants may take this opportunity to build relationships with other conference participants

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Dr. Manuel Pastor, professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at University of Southern California, will present the business case -demographics, social justice, equity, and growth for equitable development.

WORKSHOPS

Participants will choose to attend one of the following workshops

1:40 – 3:00pm

Disability: Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

Kristina Miller of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office and Roxanne Vierra of King County Office of Civil Rights will lead participants through the legal requirements of reasonable accommodations and modifications for persons with disabilities; and provide participants with practice in receiving, analyzing, and responding to accommodation/modifications. *NOTE: This workshop was also offered during the morning workshops*

Equitable Development

Dr. Manuel Pastor will expand on his keynote address regarding the business case for equitable development by involving local voices. He will provide specific examples and the business case of why equitable development is more than just the right thing to do.

Hot Topics in Fair Housing

Maurice Alexander of King County Office of Civil Rights and other regional fair housing professionals will lead participants in a discussion of current fair housing trends, hot topics, and examples of violations of fair housing; and steps to eliminate these barriers to housing equity.

Communication – Microaggressions and their affect

Dr. Dexter Gordon of the University of Puget Sound will share the concept of microaggressions; provide examples that can lead to hostile living and working environments; and strategies to identify and the eliminate microaggressions in your business.

10 Principles of Leadership

Dr. Joseph Hines will build from his morning keynote and share his 10 Principles to Leadership from every level.

How to Respond to a Fair Housing Complaint

Mike Chin of Seattle Office for Civil Rights and Chris Benis of Harrison-Benis will lead this workshop. This workshop will provide information on how fair housing laws are enforced, what is a fair housing complaint, how to respond to a complaint, common mistakes to avoid in providing a response, and best practices.

CLOSING PLENARY

3:10pm – 4:00pm

Taking the Lead: Creating Partnerships for Inclusive Communities

Dr. Joseph Hines will pull the pieces of the conference together and ensure that persons have the tools to lead from where they are and identify ways in which they can lead within their own job, organization, and community; and in so doing, create partnerships for inclusive communities.