Date\_07-28-2014 Location: East End Community Center, 624 Xenia Ave, Dayton, OH 45403

Name: Focus Group: Local Residents and Clients of East End Community Center

**Recap of Session:**

This group met in the afternoon. The East End Community Center works with area residents in Twin Towers and surrounding neighborhoods, facilitating their vision of a community where families and children achieve their dreams. This group consisted of neighborhood residents; 1 Native Indian, 1 Latino, 4 African Americans, and 5 Caucasians. The age group was very mixed with 8 females and 3 males. Nine of the participants had incomes below $15,825.

**Top 3 areas of Discrimination**

**Most Common:**

100% Identified Race/Color as #1

54% Identified Familial Status as #2

45% Identified Disability as #3

**Noteworthy stats:**

45% identified marital status (Dayton) as #2 as well as the 54% on Familial Status.

**I know someone who was discriminated against**

7 stated yes

**Disability:**

7 stated a member in their household had a disability

**Current housing is accessible**

3 stated yes

**Opinions/thoughts about how willing landlords will help people with disabilities**

Very willing – None

Hesitant - 8

Unwilling – 3

**Have you ever asked for a reasonable accommodation or modification?**

0 stated yes

11 stated no

Tell us about your neighborhood.   
Does it or doesn’t it have:

* + Good Schools?

Two individuals felt there was not enough security at their schools.

* + Groceries and shopping amenities that are plentiful and close?

All members stated the grocery stores in the neighborhood were very small and were more expensive that a chain. Four stated that they only had public transportation and it was too difficult to make a large grocery purchase at a chain as it was too difficult to get these groceries home.

* + Health Care – is it close or far away?

Eight members stated they would like to see an urgent care center or public health clinic within walking distance.

* + Community Center?

The group appreciated the services at East End Community Center. The concerns mentioned were extended hours and more complete exercise program with machines and weights.

* + **Affordable** housing opportunities?

There is affordable housing available but 6 stated that landlords didn’t want families with children.

* + Easy **transportation** to everywhere in the county?

Transportation is good except for Project Mobility. Two individuals stated that it was often difficult to obtain a ride at specific times.

* + Is there neighborhood **blight** or problems?

All stated that blight was a problem in the neighborhood. Most of them also expressed a concern that the landlords add to the blight by not making repairs to the properties.

* + Is it accessible to **people with disabilities**

Three individuals stated their housing was accessible.

* + What else is important?

Several stated that they feel they are being watch when the shop in the local stores.

* Let’s Talk About Your Housing
  + Rental or Ownership?

The majority were renters.

* + Did you meet any obstacles in your search for housing?

It was stated that an individual (single male) was told no units were available but he knew there were vacancies in the apartment building.

* + Have you experienced any drawbacks since you moved in?

Four Stated the landlords do not want to make repairs when the tenant reports a problem.

* + Do you believe housing discrimination is more common when it comes to renting or buying a home?

The majority stated renters definitely faced more discrimination.

* + How are your taxes, insurance rates, and other housing financial obligations?

Two owners stated they were having financial difficulty when a major repair was needed.

Some Questions for Discussion

* + Have YOU ever been steered away from a place because of your race, gender, disability or because of having children, etc.?

One female stated she was turned away from a rental home because she was single and had no children.

* + Were you ever told you were not welcome in a neighborhood or town?

No one stated that they were told this.

* + Did you ever believe you were not welcome somewhere, even though nothing was ever said?
* Definitely, many felt unwelcome in Oakwood, Kettering and Huber Heights.
  + Do you know anyone that has filed a housing complaint?

No comments.

* + Do immigrants have problems with discrimination in your neighborhood or town?

Four individuals stated that the immigrants in their neighborhood owned the majority of businesses and felt these immigrants were more welcome than the residents.

* + What groups of people are discriminated against in this County?

Race/color, families and disabilities.

* + Adjourn -