* Date 3/16/2015 Location Harmony Creek Church, 5280 Bigger Rd., Kettering, OH 45459
* Name: Focus Group: Members of Parents, Friends, Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
* **Recap of session:**
* This group met in the evening. Parents Friends, of Lesbians and Gays is a non-profit dedicated to educating and advocating for equal rights and assisting individuals, that are either sexual minorities or have someone in their family that is a sexual minority. This group was divided equally between men and women, there was 1 “Other” ethnically and 10 Caucasians; none were Hispanic. There was 1 bisexual, 5 gays, 1 lesbian, and 3 heterosexual. All were between 36 and 66 years old. Income varies drastically with members all but one category.

**Top 3 areas of Discrimination**

**Most Common:**

* 55% Identified Race/Color as #1
* 36% Identified Sexual Orientation as #2
* 36% Identified Gender Identity/Expression as #3
* **Noteworthy stats:**
* 18% Identified Disability as #2
* 27 % Identified Race/Color as #3
* 18% Identified Disability as #3
* **I know someone who was discriminated against**
* 3 said yes
* **Disability:**
* None in their households
* **Current housing is accessible**
* 3 said yes
* **Opinion/thoughts about how willing landlords will help people with disabilties**
* Very willing – None
* Hesitant – 8
* Unwilling – 3
* **Have you ever asked for a reasonable accommodation or modification?**
* 0 said yes
* 11 said no
* Tell us about your neighborhood.   
  Does it or doesn’t it have:
  + Good Schools?

One individual stated that was why they moved into Kettering. One said schools were why they chose to move. Another said it was important for re-sale value.

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

One person said it was important and why they moved out of E. Dayton to their current neighborhood in Kettering

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

No comments

* + Community Center?

No comments

* + **Affordable** housing opportunities?

Most said it was important, but did not state whether they thought there needed to be more affordable housing or if there were sufficient amounts.

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

No comments.

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

Blight was a concern, along with crime. Also, there is a fear or concern about not being able to walk the neighborhood with a partner and hold hands safely. Several said they moved out of E. Dayton (Findley St., Huffman, South Park) because of crime and blight. There is a drastic difference by going over a couple of streets in crime and safety.

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

None of them had listed this as a concern. Most admitted they had not thought about it in their search for housing. One person was a realtor and talked about the difficulty of having that conversation with people buying a new house, but it was important to have when people were around 50 years old. All agreed it was something they should think about and that most houses would be hard to modify. The realtor stated that disability was the most common form of discrimination, short discussion on whether housing providers were more likely to deny someone because of a disability or sexual orientation and how that was affected by the visibility of either.

* + What else is important?
* Convenience – getting you to where you need and want to go.
* Let’s Talk About Your Housing
  + Rental or Ownership?

Majority are home owners.

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

No comments.

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

For the ones who moved out of E. Dayton several years ago, stated it was due to the crime and blight.

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

No comment.

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

No comment

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.?

No comment.

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

No comment

* + Did you ever believe you were not welcome somewhere, even though nothing was ever said?

No comment.

* + Do you know anyone that has filed a housing complaint?

No comment.

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

No comment.

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

Disability and sexual orientation are the two highest.

* + Adjourn -