

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
May 29, 2013, 3:00 p.m.
Field Trip – Salem Housing Authority, Salem, OR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Carolyn Tomei, Vice-Chair Andy Olson, Vice-Chair David Gomberg, Rep. Sara Gelser, Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer; Rep. Joe Gallegos, Rep. Whisnant.

STAFF PRESENT: Regina Wilson, Debbie Nealy, Committee Services; Jillian Johnson, Brian Little, Roberto Gutierrez, staff for Rep. Keny-Guyer; Vicki Olson, staff for Rep. Whisnant; and Debbie Runciman, staff for Chair Tomei.

SUMMARY: House Human Services and Housing members, staff and guests met with Andy Wilch, Housing Administrator, and Nicole Utz, Housing Services Supervisor, at Salem Housing Authority (SHA) in the multipurpose room of the Robert Lindsey Tower, low income apartments for senior living. Ms. Utz and Mr. Wilch provided a brief overview of SHA's mission to help low and moderate income families achieve self-sufficiency through the provision of stable housing, economic opportunity and community investment. Of the total families receiving housing services, approximately 45% were 18 and under. Approximately 43% of households had at least one individual with a disability. Ms. Utz presented additional information and photos of SHA residential properties.

Some of the properties referenced in the presentation were: Hawthorn Duplex-Triplex; Northgate Village Apartments; Englewood East Apartments for seniors and individuals with disabilities; and Southfair Apartments. Southfair has a facility called *Southcare* on its grounds that is leased by the Willamette Education Services District. The facility has a preschool program for children with disabilities. The properties were described as having community gardens with ADA compliant garden beds. Grant funds supported upgrades at certain properties. Residents had tenant association meetings and opportunities for a variety of social activities. The housing wait list consists of approximately 5,000 individuals.

A tour of the Robert Lindsey Tower followed this discussion. Attendees viewed laundry facilities, a community garden, a library/sitting room and the housing authority offices. After the tour, participants gathered in the multipurpose room for a session of questions and answers. During this discussion, a few residents of the tower shared their stories and experiences. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:25 p.m. and members returned to the State Capitol.