upper explorerland regional planning commission

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Upper Explorerland RHA
Meeting Minutes / 13 January 15 / 10:00 a.m.
Upper Explorerland / Postville

Members Present: Gwen Harris & Robert Enyart via telephone due to extremely cold weather conditions.
Others: Lori Brockway, Karine Schager, Jenna Siebrecht

The Resident Advisory Board met on January 13, 2014 at Upper Explorerland in Postville at 10:00 a.m. Lori Brockway, Housing Department Head called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Lori started the meeting with introductions and an overview of the agency plan. The background was explained along with the annual requirements and Lori confirmed that all participants on the rental assistance program were invited to attend.

Lori went through each section of the 2015-year plan and the one year plan. In Section 5.2 Annual progress report Lori provided ways in which to find housing and provided the information on Iowa Housing Search.org.
through the Iowa Finance Authority. Lori stated that all landlords were sent this notice with rent checks so they can register their properties online. This site will assist anyone looking for housing in Iowa. The group felt this was a good idea. Lori explained this information would be provided to those applying for rental assistance and when we receive calls asking about places to live.

In Section 6.3 Lori explained that a $50 minimum rent was implemented because of budget constraints and this offered the ability to help additional families in Northeast Iowa. After hearing the explanation all present were in agreement with the minimum rent. It was further explained that UERPC was considered a shortfall agency in May of 2014 and HUD encouraged many changes to the program which included the minimum rent, changes in Payment Standards, changes in Voucher Size, and encouraged monthly letters be sent to those with zero income. The $50 minimum rent was already adopted and the payment standardss were set between 93% to 100%. The RHA board did not change the Voucher Size.

Lori further explained that the RHA board needed a plan in place if a shortfall of funds occurs again, so the board decided to state that those owing the RHA money would be the first off and then reinstated in the same order. If a shortfall still existed then those last off would be reinstated in the same order.

Lori explained that the Agency Plan is available for public comment and a public hearing is set for February 24th at 10:00 a.m. at Upper Explorerland in Postville. A 45 day notice is required for the public hearing and was posted in the newspapers in each county on January 1,2015. This plan is also posted on the website at uerpc.org.

There were not any other comments or concerns relating to the agency plan and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Lori Brockway, UERPC Housing Department Head