

Fathers and Public Housing

Fathers and Fathering in Contemporary Context

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Men in Public Housing

Familiar Scenario across the country: men in and around public housing – but not on the lease

Consequences:

- Disconnected from their families
- Cannot access PHA services

Myth: HUD Says that Ex-Offenders Cannot Live in Public Housing

Reality: HUD mandates permanent disbarment for people in two categories:

1. Makers of Meth
2. Those subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program

On June 16, 2011, Secretary Shaun Donovan signed a letter clarifying policy and encouraging PHAs to be expansive in their procedures, where appropriate

- At the same time, a “Mythbuster” was published as part of the Federal Reentry Council’s attempt to “set the facts straight” on a number of issues related to public policy

Barriers in Public Housing

- Neighbors
- Fear of a Headline
- Am I the only one out here?

And yet...some PHAs are moving ahead:

- HCV Vouchers to 3rd Parties
- Set-asides of vouchers
- Consideration of mitigating factors

But on the conventional public housing side...

- New Haven Housing Authority
- No one else.
- We need models!!

Project Reunite

- Some willing leaseholder
- Screen
- Protection for family
- Rent held steady for 18 months
- Family case management
- Control group

Problem: Funding

- No HUD funds
- HHS Demonstration

Possibilities

- HOST
- HHS grantees
- Some other entity...