

COALITION NEWS >

THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION EXTENDS ITS GRATITUDE

FOR PAST BOARD SERVICE



WIGHT GREGER for her 7 years of board service, including serving as our FHC Board Vice Chair. Wight is CEO of WsG & Partners, LLC and will be continuing to work in Florida, but intends to free up some of her time to enjoy the country home in North Carolina that

she and her husband Steve have been building to enjoy with friends and family. Until recently, Wight served as the Director of the City of Jacksonville’s Housing and Neighborhoods Department. Prior to her employment with the City, Wight served for ten years as Senior Technical Advisor for the Florida Housing Coalition. When someone has been so integral to the Florida Housing Coalition for so long, well..... we expect we haven’t seen the last of Wight.



CECILIA LA VILLA-TRAVIESO for her 4 years of service on our Board. Cecilia worked for Neighborhood Lending Partners of South Florida (NLP) for over six years, retiring as Market President in January 2014. Before joining NLP, Cecilia was the Deputy Director

of Fannie Mae’s South Florida Community Business Center for 11 years. Cecilia dedicated more than 30 years to serving the community, working directly in community development and affordable housing lending activities since 1986.



LORI SANDONATO for her 3 years of service on the Florida Housing Coalition Board. Lori is moving to California with her husband, William. Lori is the President of Homes for Independence, Inc., and Director of Housing for ServiceSource, d/b/a Abilities, Inc. of Florida.

Lori is responsible for the development and geographic expansion of integrated affordable rental properties, as well as retrofit and rehab program opportunities for non-profit community based organizations in four states.

FOR FUTURE BOARD SERVICE



DONNA CARMAN

Donna Carman is the executive director of Indian-town Non-Profit Housing, Inc. During her tenure, INPHI has played a role in the creation, rehabilitation, or weatherization of over 3,500 affordable units for low-income individual and farmworker families.

Donna also advocates for affordable housing through her current and past participation in numerous committees within INPHI’s service area. For her outstanding efforts throughout her community and the state, Donna was honored with the Housing Leadership Award at FHC’s 2013 Affordable Housing Conference.



CHRISTINE LONG

Christine Long is the Senior Programs Officer at Metropolitan Ministries, Inc. During her 21 years at the Ministries, Christine has provided key leadership for the Programs team, and is responsible for ensuring the program’s compassion and innovation

in serving homeless and at-risk individuals in the Tampa Bay region. Christine has been an active member of numerous homeless assistance and human services organizations.



ABOUT THE BOARD

The Florida Housing Coalition’s Board of Directors is comprised of housing experts from across the state. Our board members represent a diversity of stakeholders, including nonprofit affordable housing developers, local governments, homeless service providers, lenders, consultants, and utilities. By guiding our training, technical assistance, and advocacy efforts around the state, our board plays a vital role in shaping Florida’s affordable housing policy and practice. If you are a member of the Florida Housing Coalition and are interested in serving on the board, please send an e-mail with your resume to info@flhousing.org.

WELCOME



SUSAN LICHTSTEIN

Susan Lichtstein will be joining us beginning on September 1, 2014 as the Florida Housing Coalition's Policy Director. She will be working from the Tallahassee office. She has a Masters in Social Work, is a member of the Florida Bar, and an experienced legislative advocate.

Susan previously served as the lead administrator for the City of Miami Beach's HOME affordable housing program. Her HOME program work included the facilitation of the acquisition and rehabilitation of rental and homeownership units. Earlier, she served as a policy analyst for a joint committee of the Georgia General Assembly, which included evaluating various state programs and their performance and fiscal impact.

Susan graduated from the University of Miami law school and holds an MSW degree with a concentration in Social and Economic Development from Washington University in St. Louis. She graduated with a B.A. from the University of Michigan. She is passionate about affordable housing, particularly in the context of economic justice.

WELCOME BACK



LISA HOFFMEYER

For the past year, Lisa Hoffmeyer, one of our technical advisors in South Florida, has been on sabbatical. She circumnavigated the globe, starting in UK and taking a Teach English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) class in southern Spain. She then made

her way to Southeast Asia, and by December 2013 she had landed in Siem Reap, Cambodia. At the Spitler School, she taught many young children who come from poor families but are full of hope and enthusiasm. On her last day at the school, Lisa wrote this reflection, "It was so unlike me, giving up my home, my job, my friends- all the security I had worked so hard for and embark on what has turned out to be one of the best years of my life. This incredible journey has been everything I hoped it would be and more. I've met the nicest and most interesting people, made some great friends, seen, eaten and done amazing things

and have had SUCH a fun time!" After some R&R in her hometown of Hollywood, FL, she'll be back to work helping Floridians find safe and affordable homes.



FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION CONGRATULATES CHUCK ELSESSER

Florida Housing Coalition Board Member and national affordable housing advocate, **CHARLES ELSESSER, ESQ.**, received the Cushing N. Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award on April 29, 2014, from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

As a long time legal services attorney, Elsesser has represented hundreds of low income residents in their quest for housing justice. His passion for advocating on behalf of low-income tenants and homeowners has spanned more than 30 years. As an attorney with the Community Justice Project of Florida Legal Services, he specializes in representing community organizations involved in affordable housing litigation and policy advocacy. Currently, Elsesser is representing the NLIHC and others in the 2013 suit to lift the suspension on the requirement that government sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fund the National Housing Trust Fund.

Chuck continues to make a profoundly positive difference in the lives of low income Floridians. [HNN](#)



(L-R) Jaimie Ross, president Florida Housing Coalition, Tony Romano, Organizing Director, The Right to the City Alliance, Sheila Crowley, President, National Low Income Housing Coalition, with Chuck Elsesser in Washington D.C. on this most auspicious occasion.