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## **BOARD APPROVES MEASURES FOCUSED ON FAMILIES**

*Supportive services, expanding options to acquire units key aspects of agenda*

In keeping with its determination to provide public housing families with every chance to succeed, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board of Commissioners approved several items with a clear focus on families and ways to offer expanded housing choices.

The Board approved an option that will allow developer Brinshore-Michaels to continue helping residents of the Robert Taylor Homes who have chosen to return to the redeveloped site. The goal is to help families meet the site specific criteria for the new mixed-income community and overcome any barriers to making that dream real.

In a similar move, the Board passed two additional measures that will allow families access to services. As they did with families that moved in 2004, Uhlich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN) and Changing Patterns for Families will make a number of services available to families moving in 2005. Those services include obtaining/maintaining lease compliancy, assessment, housing and supportive services counseling, community tours, identifying housing and other help as needed so families can accomplish their housing choices.

With an eye toward a growing senior citizen population in the City and a desire to help meet that need, the CHA Board approved the designation of 59 senior buildings as "senior only." Going forward, this designation will allow the housing authority to give preference to individuals age 62 and over, meaning the Authority will not rent units to anyone younger than 62. However, those younger than 62 who already live in senior buildings will be allowed to stay.

As part of the ongoing Plan for Transformation, the Board approved a measure that clears the way for Phases 2 and 3 of the Lowden Homes modernization effort. Lowden Homes, located at 200 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street, already has undergone some substantive rehabilitation work. These subsequent phases will include replacement of all roofing systems, flooring, new appliances, new electrical work and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance features in designated apartments.

In an effort to increase the number of options available for acquiring units, the Board passed a measure that will expand the number of developers considered "pre-qualified." Doing so gives the housing authority greater flexibility in obtaining off-site replacement housing and provides a framework for establishing relationships with different development teams to become part of the effort to transform public housing.

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