Housing Challenges Facing LGBTQ Communities

Speaker Biographies

Sandy James is research director at the National Center for Transgender Equality and lead author of The Report of the 2015 US Transgender Survey. He led a research team in developing, fielding, analyzing, and presenting the 2015 US Transgender Survey. After spending a decade as a forensic toxicologist, James launched a new career as a civil rights advocate focused on laws and policies that affect trans people. He has worked on numerous projects involving trans-related legislation, policy, and research, including work with data from the 2008–09 National Transgender Discrimination Survey. James has been published in the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law and the LGBTQ Policy Journal at the Harvard Kennedy School. James received an MA in American government and a JD from Georgetown University, where he is pursuing his PhD.

Diane K. Levy is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Since joining Urban in 1998, her work has focused broadly on low- and moderate-income housing and neighborhoods, including studies of housing conditions; the effects of federal and local programs on residents and neighborhoods; implementation and viability of housing provision models such as mixed-income housing and affordable housing development via inclusionary zoning; housing discrimination through paired-testing methodologies; and rent reform and other housing policy innovations implemented by Moving to Work housing agencies. Her expertise in qualitative research methods has led to opportunities to join research teams focused on other subjects, such as work examining the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Levy earned an MA in anthropology and an MRP in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Jim McCarthy has been the President/CEO of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center since 1998, and is the immediate Past the Chair of the Board of Directors the National Fair Housing Alliance based in Washington, DC. In September 2016, Mr. McCarthy completed four years of service as one of the 25 inaugural members of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Consumer Advisory Board (CFPB-CAB). In his role as the President/CEO of the Fair Housing Center, Mr. McCarthy has traveled to many communities across the country to present about fair housing and fair lending has worked closely with and presented at seminars and conferences across the country. Mr. McCarthy has participated in forums at the White House on the issues important to housing in the United States, and he has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Most recently, Mr. McCarthy has been responsible for the founding and establishment of the Central Ohio Fair Housing Association, the first comprehensive private fair housing organization to serve Columbus and Central Ohio. Mr. McCarthy also works as a professional subject matter consultant to the Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) performing comprehensive and diagnostic site visits and technical assistance to Ryan White HIV/AIDS recipients.
Margery Turner is senior vice president for program planning and management at the Urban Institute, where she leads efforts to frame and conduct a forward-looking agenda of policy research. A nationally recognized expert on urban policy and neighborhood issues, Turner has analyzed issues of residential location, racial and ethnic discrimination and its contribution to neighborhood segregation and inequality, and the role of housing policies in promoting residential mobility and location choice. Among her recent publications is the book *Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation*. Before joining Urban, Turner served as deputy assistant secretary for research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 1993 through 1996, focusing HUD’s research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America’s metropolitan areas. During her tenure, HUD’s research office launched three major social science demonstration projects to test different strategies for helping families from distressed inner-city neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education. Turner has a BA in political science from Cornell University and an MA in urban and regional planning from the George Washington University.

Brittany Walsh is a licensed clinical social worker who leads 14 staff in the department of Retention and Engagement at Whitman-Walker Health, a federally qualified health center here in Washington, DC. Brittany’s direct patient work and that of her team is to offer a patient-centered relationship that facilitates easier access to care for the health center’s HIV-positive and transgender populations, including warm hand offs to community supportive services for housing. Brittany employs motivational interviewing and harm reduction techniques with her patients, while maintaining a realistic optimism around expectation management in a broken system.