## The Florida Housing Coalition's 23rd Statewide Annual Conference

## Highlights from the 2010 Annual Conference



HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims in his quintessential animated manner shared his personal life story as a springboard for explaining the vision of his office to bring equity to development and redevelopment and ensure that sustainable development is not just for the wealthy, but for everyone. HUD Deputy Secretary Sims is nationally recognized for his work on transportation, homelessness, climate change, urban development, and affordable housing, and in particular for his commitment to fair housing and social justice.



George Romagnoli, FHC Board Chair, welcomes everyone to the annual conference. Romagnoli was the moderator for the NSP2 / 3 Workshop and the SHIP and NSP Roundtable.



The Florida Housing Coalition staff and board pictured with Deputy Secretary Ron Sims and other special conference guests, including Linda Couch, Legislative Director for the National Low Income Housing Coalition.



Florida Housing Coalition president Jaimie Ross presented an award to the Honorable Gary Aubuchon for his championship of affordable housing. To a grateful audience, Representative Aubuchon reconfirmed his commitment to repeal of the cap on the state and local housing trust funds in the 2011 session.

Ross explained that Representative Aubuchon, now Rules Chairman, had been the point person in the House for Affordable Housing and Transportation, as discreet subjects; the purpose of the public policy plenary was to bridge the gap between affordable housing and transportation. Transportation planners know little about affordable housing and housing experts know little about transporta-

tion. Two key points made during the public policy plenary were that the cost of owning and maintaining a personal automobile must be taken into consideration when determining whether housing is affordable and affordable housing near public transportation is critical for ridership and the ultimate success of the public transit system.



Representative Aubuchon, as moderator, elicited from the panel of national, state and local experts how best to forge the connection between affordable housing and transportation. Jeffrey Lubell, Executive Director for the Center on Policy at the National Housing Conference in D.C. emphasized the need for local land development regulations to require that affordable housing is included in transit oriented development.





Wachovia/Wells Fargo presents the Fair Housing Continuum Inc. with a check for \$1,000. The \$1,000 award goes each year to whichever lucky 501 (c)(3) organization's business card is drawn from the raffle bowl.



(Left) David Noguera, Community Planning and Development Specialist at HUD, answers questions during the NSP Roundtable.

Anne Ray, Researcher at Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, and Phil Vu, Technical Support Manager at PolicyMap, conducted the workshop: The Right Data Tool for the Job: Shimberg Center and PolicyMap where they presented two online data tools to help local governments, nonprofits, state



agencies and others plan for affordable housing needs.



The NSP Roundtable attendees were provided with an up-to-the-minute program overview. Officials from HUD, the Florida Department of Community Affairs and others shared NSP1 and NSP2 program accomplishments and what's to come this year, along with the unveiling of NSP3. From L to R: Keith Bell, Sr. Business Developer at Fannie Mae; Yves Mombeleur, VP-National Program Manager, Community Revitalization at Chase; Gladys Schneider, FHC Technical Advisor; Stacey Walker, Director of Corporate Relations and Housing Outreach at Freddie Mac; Jackie Dupree, Community Program Manager at FL Department of Community Affairs; David Noguera, Community Planning and Development Specialist at HUD; and FHC Chair, George Romagnoli.



The 600 plus participants enjoyed four tracks of workshops on the second day of the conference.

**Track 1** included all things NSP and featured Florida Housing Coalition experts, such as Gladys Schneider, and our partners such as Keith Bell from Fannie Mae and David Noguera from HUD.

**Track 2** the Green Track is recapped on pages 20-22

**Track 3** focused on a Florida Housing Coalition priority: Preservation. We especially emphasized building



Hana Eskra from Housing Trust speaking on Preservation

nonprofit capacity to preserve, own, and operate federally assisted properties. Our partner, National Housing Trust, took the workshop participants through the nuts and bolts of analyzing potential deals.

**Track 4** was a collection of case studies, showcasing supportive housing, senior housing, youth aging out of foster care housing, and housing for Florida's most vulnerable populations. Participants were able to learn what works and what doesn't from the real life lessons of their colleagues from around the state.

