

Strong leadership lifts CP Housing Authority

The journey back from troubled status has not been easy, but it has finally been completed for the Church Point Housing Authority. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has removed the CPHA from the department's list of troubled or substandard agencies.

Church Point Mayor Roger Boudreaux said that the announcement is a testament to the hard work of the agency's new leadership and dedicated board. "The leadership and staff we have now are excellent. We did have a problem, but we were able to rectify that problem by putting in a new director. I personally was enthused about the choice for new director because he was the town's city clerk for five years. I knew his capabilities. Over the last three years, I also selected three new board members, and they really have been moving forward and getting things under control."

The Church Point Housing Authority faced scrutiny from HUD after a 2011 audit uncovered the unauthorized use of public funds. An interim Executive Director was then brought in to assist until a permanent director could be properly retained. Charles Labbe, CPHA's new Executive Director, said that a commitment to doing things right has raised the profile of the agency. "We have a responsibility to provide high quality programs and services for our residents and to represent this community in the best possible manner.

I feel fortunate to have inherited a program that had strong historical fundamentals that were established under the responsible and capable leadership of Gertrude Broach, who served as director through 2001. We intend to build upon that tradition and provide effective and affordable housing experiences for our community with responsible fiscal stewardship."

Now that the Church Point Housing Authority has moved past this hurdle, Chris Savoy, CPHA Board of Commissioners' Chairman, stated that the housing authority is now ready to reach new heights. "I think the staff from the executive director, to the assistants, to the maintenance crew are phenomenal and are always there. Currently we are in great shape. The housing authority will grow in financial stability."