

Speaker Biographies for Working Group Meeting # 14 Housing Discussion

Jon White: Chief Real Estate Officer, Abode Services, Allied Housing, Housing for Independent People, and Community Working Group, Fremont, California, Director of Real Estate Development.

Jon oversees development projects for Abode Services/Allied Housing, taking them from conception to completed construction to lease up. Jon leads his project management team through every aspect of new development and acquisition rehabilitation projects, including finding an appropriate location for a new project, securing the necessary governmental approvals, securing the necessary capital and subsidy funding, managing the construction or renovation work, and working with property management and services to lease the development at the end of construction.

In addition to the construction of supportive housing apartment buildings, Jon's team has been involved in several innovative methods for creating new affordable and supportive housing opportunities including motel conversion, partnering with Habitat for Humanity to renovate a boarding house for homeless veterans, and using factory-built modular construction for cost-effective supportive housing.

Jon was a licensed civil engineer for 11 years prior to joining Abode, and holds a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Calvin College in Michigan.

Lisa Ratner: Member of Palo Alto League of Women Voters and its Housing and Transportation Committee, Board member of Palo Alto League and Advocacy Chair, board member of Alta Housing (formerly Palo Alto Housing), a professional attorney and a long-time resident of City of Palo Alto.

David Thompson: President of the Twin Pine Cooperative Foundation and co-principal of Neighborhood Partners, LLC (NP). David has worked for the national cooperative organizations of the United States, Britain and Japan as well as the United Nations.

David is a former V. P. for Western States of the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) and Director of the Western Region of the National Cooperative Bank (NCB). David's work with the NCB created over 1,500 units of cooperative housing and with NP over 1,000 units of nonprofit affordable housing.

David has written a number of books and over 400 articles about cooperatives. He has an MA in Architecture and Urban Planning from UCLA and was inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame in 2010.