

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)

**Monday, March 21, 2016
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Midwest Housing Equity Group
Nebraska Corporate Headquarters
515 N. 162nd Avenue, Suite 202
Omaha, NE 68118**

Minutes of Monday, March 21, 2016 1:00 pm

Notice Published: Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar
NEDED Website

Open Meetings Act – A copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the table as you enter the room.
All votes were taken by roll call of the members.

I. Roll Call

Shannon Fortney called roll.

Twelve of fifteen Commissioners were present:

Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Ardith Hoins; Thomas Judds; James Kozal; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; Judy Pedersen; Carna Pfeil; John Turner; and Brent Williams.

Charles Coley arrived at 1:19 p.m.

Absent Commissioners: Paul Hamelink; Steve Kunzman; and Erin Porterfield.

Guests present were: Lara Huskey, Midwest Housing Developers Fund; Sara Tichota and Amber Marker, Nebraska Housing Developers Association; Paula Rhian, Excel Development; Delbert Virchow, USDA Rural Development; Robin Ambroz, Nebraska Investment and Finance Authority; Andrew Burgen-Anton, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Ann Burge, Midwest Housing Equity Group; and Brian Gaskill, Leslie Coleman and Shannon Fortney, DED.

II. Call meeting to order:

Chair Turner declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:08 a.m.

Chair Turner indicated the Opening Meetings Act was located on the table as individuals entered the room.

III. Introductions

IV. Public Comment

No Public Comment

V. Approved November 10, 2015 meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Judds moved that the November 10, 2015 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Pedersen seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Durant - yes; Heflebower - yes; Hoins - yes; Judds - yes; Kozal - yes; Mesner - yes; Nadrchal - yes; Pedersen - yes; Pfeil - yes; Turner - yes; and Williams – yes.

Motion carried with an 11-0 vote.

VI. Executive Committee—

The Executive Committee met in January 2016. Chair Turner reported that the committee discussed the prospect of conducting a strategic planning meeting in conjunction with either the 2nd or 3rd quarterly meeting. Turner reported that the committee had approached both NIFA and DED for funding for the meeting. NIFA may be able to assist as long as match were provided. DED may be able to provide technical assistance funds to be coupled with NIFA funds. The Executive committee will continue pursuit of the venture.

Turner reported that the strategic planning would focus on pinpointing the commission's mission and relevance as the advisory body for the Governor and to create a unified effort to include the many facets of the commission body.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee

Commissioner Coley recapped the four goals of the 10 Year Plan to end homelessness, aligning the three members of the Continuum of Care, Lincoln, Omaha and the Balance of State.

Turner reported the need of a statewide coordinator for the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and explained a discussion with the Nebraska Investment and Finance Authority (NIFA) was underway to investigate the possibility.

Discussion followed regarding the appropriateness of NIFA in the role of providing a statewide coordinator versus the Department of Economic Development or the Department of Health and Human Services.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

The Education and Awareness Committee met in March, 2016. Committee Chair Pedersen announced the anticipated roll-out of the new NCHH Facebook page. She solicited information for upcoming trainings, events, education, relative humor and other related material for posting.

Pedersen explained that she would be the contact person who would format and submit the information to DED for posting on the page. She further explained that the intent was to post 2- 3 times a week.

Pedersen hoped to use this medium to inform the general population of the mission of the commission and to inform those within the industry, itself.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Williams reported that the Policies and Issues Committee met in November and December with the DED housing staff to provide guidance for the 2016 Affordable Housing Trust Fund, including the application and scoring process. Williams reported that the DED Housing staff had revised the original draft of the Qualified Allocation Plan to incorporate the recommendations made by the Commission. The committee discussed holding more frequent meetings with NDED in an effort to improve the application and scoring process for the 2017 cycle.

Williams also reported on the latest legislation before the unicameral this year. This includes LB356 and LB951. Williams reported that LB951 has incorporated portions of LB884.

Discussion was held regarding preparation for next year's long session and the education of new senators.

VIII. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Department of Economic Development—Brian Gaskill
FHL Bank Topeka – Brent Williams
Midwest Housing Equity Group/ Fund – Ann Burge
Nebraska Housing Developers Association - Sara Tichota
Nebraska Investment and Finance Authority – Robin Ambroz
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development – Delbert Virchow
Housing and Urban Development – Andrew Burgen-Anton

IX. New Business

Commissioner Coley asked the Commission to consider transferring the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) to another agency other than the current Department of Health and Human Services. Coley cites DHHS's lack of participation in and commitment to the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness as reason for this discussion.

X. Adjourn

Chair Turner adjourned the meeting on March 21, 2016 at 2:52 p.m.