

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)
Tuesday, August 25, 2009
McCook, NE
Minutes

I. Roll Call

Anissa Rasmussen called roll. Eight of fifteen commissioners were present. Ann Beseke, Ardith Hoins, Thomas Judds, DiAnn Kolkman, Barbara Ostrum, Erin Porterfield, Melissa Henscheid, and Brent Williams. Absent commissioners were: Mary Jo Bousek, Alan Green, Robin Hollman, Tom Huston, Ken Lyons, Kathy Mesner, and Roger Nadrchal.

II. Call meeting to order

Vice Chairperson, Ardith Hoins called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Barb Ostrum gave a guided housing tour of McCook. The tour included George Norris' home, an overview of Heritage Square, a tour by Rex Nelson with MEDC of the Keystone Hotel that is being renovated into office space, and a tour of a purchase/rehab/resale home that MEDC completed. After the tour, the meeting was continued at the Looking Glass Restaurant.

Vice Chairperson, Ardith Hoins declared a quorum at 4:40 p.m.

III. Introductions:

Vice Chairperson, Ardith Hoins welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Guests present were: Lilly Blase, Assistive Technology Partnership; Beth Fries, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Danielle Hill and Amber Marker, NE Housing Developers Association; Anissa Rasmussen, Lydia Wiles, Pat Compton, and Paula Rhian, Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Approve March 16, 2009 meeting minutes

Thomas Judds moved that the March 16, 2009 meeting minutes be approved. DiAnn Kolkman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

VI. Executive Committee

No report.

VII. Report from Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee

Erin Porterfield reported that the video conferences have helped the committee to update others on homeless prevention in the different continuum areas. They are working on laying the groundwork on what they want to do in the future.

Charles Coley reported:

A. Committee Membership: The State Continuum of Care Committee membership consists of service provider representatives from all seven Continuum of Care regions statewide (*Panhandle, North Central, Southwest, Southeast, Northeast, Lincoln, and Omaha*). Erin Porterfield serves as current chairperson of the committee. The committee's membership informs and advises the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The committee meets via DHHS-sponsored videoconference, and during calendar year 2009 it has met five times. The committee's next videoconference meeting will be Monday, September 14th, 2009 from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM CST. For more information regarding the committee, please contact Charles Coley, NHAP Specialist, at (402) 471-9200 or charles.coley@nebraska.gov.

B. Other Issues: Meeting agenda items of the State Continuum of Care Committee during calendar year 2009 have included:

- Statewide expansion of the RentWise rental assistance curriculum
- Implementation of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), a component of ARRA (*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*)
- Statewide homeless service data collection via NMIS (Nebraska Management Information System)
- Discussion of the SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) projects in Omaha and Lincoln to promote benefits acquisition for homeless consumers
- Discussion of best practices for Continuum-level PIT (point in time) counts of regional homeless populations

2. Education and Awareness Committee

Beth Fries stated that the USDA is doing a food drive in the rural areas of the State.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Paula Rhian handed out the Proposed 2010 Set Asides and Allocations handout (**attached to email**) and she presented information to the Commission. Paula also noted that the Trust funds have decreased, but Nebraska gets to keep separate zones. Also, the capacity building money will be competitive cycle and all applications will be due at the same time.

4. Policy Academy

Charles Coley reported:

Current Issues: The Policy Academy, sponsored in 2003 by the Federal government, fostered the creation of “**Nebraska’s 10-Year Action Plan for Increasing Access to Mainstream Services for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness.**” The 10-Year Plan is implemented by the “*NCHH Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Chronic Homelessness,*” which met three times during calendar year 2009 (*the Ad Hoc Committee is given staff support by the DHHS Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program*). The 10-Year Plan contains six major objectives: maintain a statewide infrastructure to lead in statewide planning to increase access to mainstream resources for persons experiencing chronic homelessness; create additional and appropriate supportive housing choices; increase access to mainstream services and resources; increase strategies addressing prevention and discharge planning; ensure culturally competent services; and data collection and evaluation. The objectives are implanted via six subcommittees of the overall *Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Chronic Homelessness*. The *Ad Hoc Committee* recently concluded a year and a half implementation update of the 10-Year Plan (the implementation update began in January 2008 and concluded in June 2009). A recent Federal policy matter that impacted the work

of the *Ad Hoc Committee* was the passage of the HEARTH Act, which broadened the definition of homelessness across Federal agencies to encompass homeless families and children (*HUD's former definitional focus was chronic homelessness specifically*). The *Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Chronic Homelessness* met most recently on Thursday, August 20th, 2009 and will not meet again until early 2010. For any questions regarding the *Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Chronic Homelessness*, please contact NHAP Specialist, Charles Coley at (402) 471-9200 or charles.coley@nebraska.gov.

VIII: Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Assistive Technology Partnership – Lilly Blase reported.

Community Action of Nebraska – Ardith Hoins reported.

Nebraska Department of Economic Development – Paula Rhian reported.

Health and Human Services System – Charles Coley reported.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) has primarily focused upon initial planning and administration of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), a component of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA). The Federally specified objective of HPRP is to “provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless—many due to the economic crisis—and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are [currently] homeless.”

The State of Nebraska received \$5,128,578 in HPRP funding, and DHHS NHAP will be the administrating entity for the program. DHHS NHAP chose to utilize a formula allocation to award HPRP funds to each of the seven Continuum of Care regions statewide. HPRP funds were allocated based upon the percentage of non-ARRA NHAP funds each region currently receives. Each Continuum selected a lead agency to administer HPRP regionally, and the listing of lead agencies follows:

***Region I (Panhandle):* Cirrus House**

Contact Person: Brent Anderson

1509 1st Avenue

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

(308) 635-1488

banderson@cirrushouse.com

HPRP Award: \$341,232

***Region II (North Central):* Central Nebraska Community Services**

Contact Person: Cheryl Holcomb

POB 509, 626 N Street

Loup City, NE 68853

(308) 745-0780

cholcomb@cennecs.org

HPRP Award: \$539,077

***Region III (Southwest):* Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska**

Contact Person: Leeann Clouse

16 West 11th Street, PO Box 2288

Kearney, NE 68847

(308) 865-5675

lclouse@mnca.net

HPRP Award: \$511,470

***Region IV (Southeast):* Blue Valley Community Action**

Contact Person: Ardith Hoins

PO Box 273, 620 5th Street

Fairbury, NE 68352

(402) 729-2278

ahoins@bvca.net

HPRP Award: \$917,661

Region V (Northeast): Goldenrod Hills Community Action

Contact Person: Amy Munderloh

110 Avenue E.

Wisner, NE 68791

(402) 529-3513

rd@gpcom.net

HPRP Award: \$710,854

Region VI (Lincoln): Region V Systems

Contact Person: John Turner

1645 "N" Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

(402) 441-4343

jturner@region5systems.net

HPRP Award: \$746,130

Region VII (Omaha): Heartland Family Service

Contact Person: Joanie Spitznagle

2101 S. 42nd Street

Omaha, NE 68105

(712) 325-5604

jspitznagle@heartlandfamilyservice.org

HPRP Award: \$1,105,725

*Please also note that **NMIS** (Nebraska Management Information System) will receive approximately 4% of the State's HPRP allocation for the HPRP-eligible activity of Data Collection and Evaluation:*

NMIS

Contact Person: Jeff Chambers

206 S. 13th Street

Lincoln, NE 68588-0227

(402) 472-3479

jchambers1@unl.edu

HPRP Award: \$205,000

The award amounts listed above do not include the administrative allowance DHHS NHAP will maintain (1%) for program administration. For any questions regarding HPRP or DHHS NHAP, please contact NHAP Specialist, Charles Coley at (402) 471-9200 or charles.coley@nebraska.gov.

Midwest Housing Equity Group – Thomas Judds reported.

NE Housing Developers Association – Danielle Hill reported.

REACH – Danielle Hill reported.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Beth Fries reported.

IX: Adjourn

Ardith Hoins adjourned the meeting on August 25, 2009 at 7:08 p.m.