

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)
Monday, March 11, 2010
Lincoln, NE
Minutes

I. Roll Call

Lydia Wiles called roll. Eight of fifteen commissioners were present. Mary Jo Bousek, Ardith Hoins, Robin Hollman, Tom Huston, Thomas Judds, DiAnn Kolkman, Erin Porterfield, and Brent Williams. Absent commissioners were: Ann Beseke-Rouch, Alan Green, Ken Lyons, Kathryn Mesner, Roger Nadrchal, Barb Ostrum, and Melissa Robinson-Henscheid.

II. Call meeting to order

Chairperson Robin Hollman called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m.

Chairperson Robin Hollman declared a quorum at 1:23 p.m.

III. Introductions:

Chairperson Robin Hollman welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Guests present were: Melba Davison, USDA Rural Development; Wendy Werner, NE Housing Developers Association; Paula Rhian and Lydia Wiles, Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED).

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Approve January 25, 2010 meeting minutes

Tom Huston moved that the January 25, 2010 meeting minutes be approved. DiAnn Kolkman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VI. Amendment to Bylaws

This topic will be tabled until the next NCHH meeting. The bylaws will be sent out prior to the next NCHH meeting.

VII. Executive Committee

Nominations for the chair and vice-chair are Ardith Hoins for chairperson and Kathy Mesner for vice-chair.

Tom Huston motioned to approve Ardith Hoins as chairperson and Kathy Mesner as vice-chair for the NCHH committee. Brent Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with seven (7) yeas and one (1) abstained.

VII. Report from Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee

Charles Coley reported via email to the Commissioners.

Erin Porterfield reported that with the Nebraska Management Information System (NMIS) there is a better understanding of a best estimate for number of homeless people. They recently have had a 14% increase in use in the Omaha metro area. They want to present the number of people served by using the data system and highlight the collaboration around the State. Ardith Hoins mentioned that the number of people assisted by the HPRP has increased because they are able to serve more people. She also reported that the goal is to keep people in their homes because it is more cost effective than waiting to assist people until they are on the street.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

DiAnn Kolkman had nothing to report.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Paula Rhian reported the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans are open for comment until March 22nd. There were changes in the economic development side of the Plans, thus a second comment period. To date, there have been letters received both for and against funding HOPWA. Concerns raised were that currently funded projects would have to be reduced or cancelled to transfer funding to HOPWA, the cost of administering a tenant based rental assistance program and the NAHP already having lost \$1.6 million to the legislature.

4. Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Chronic Homelessness

Erin Porterfield said that have not met.

Charles Coley reported via email to the Commissioners.

VIII: Reports from Agencies and Organizations

NE Housing Developers Association & REACH – Wendy Werner reported.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Melba Davison reported.

Community Action of Nebraska – Ardith Hoins reported.

Nebraska Department of Economic Development – Paula Rhian reported.

Department of Health and Human Services Agency – Charles Coley reported via email to the Commissioners.

Midwest Housing Equity Group – Thomas Judds reported.

NE Investment Finance Authority – Robin Hollman reported.

IX: Adjourn

Chairperson Robin Hollman adjourned the meeting on March 11, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.