

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)
Monday, January 28, 2013
Midwest Housing Equity Group, Inc.
13520 California Street, Ste. 250
Omaha, NE 68154

Minutes

I. Roll Call

Sara Tichota called roll. Ten of fifteen Commissioners were present. Melissa DeLaet, Ardith Hoins, Tom Huston, Thomas Judds, DiAnn Kolkman, Kathy Mesner, Roger Nadrchal, Erin Porterfield, John Turner and Brent Williams. Absent Commissioners were: Ann Beseke-Rouch, Theresa Christensen, Rosalee Higgs, Shannon Landauer, and Ken Lyons.

Guests present were: George Achola, Omaha Housing Authority; Ryan Durant, Omaha Housing Authority; Cliff Scott, Omaha Housing Authority; Lynne Lange, NE Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition; Cindy Kadavy, DHHS; Roger Meeks, USDA; Danielle Hill, NHDA; Amber Marker, NHDA; Ann Burge, MHEG; Peg Hansen, ATP; Judy Petersen, CNHD; Mary Kircher, MEDC; Janet Latimer, Horizon Bank; Earl Redrick, HUD; Brian Gaskill, DED; Pat Compton, DED; Bob Doty, DED; Sara Tichota, DED.

II. Call meeting to order

Chairperson Kathy Mesner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Chairperson Kathy Mesner declared a quorum at 2:02 p.m.

III. Introductions

IV. Public Comment
No Public Comment

V. Approve November 9, 2012 meeting minutes.

Motion: Tom Huston moved that the November 9, 2012 meeting minutes be approved. Brent Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VI. George Achola, Ryan Durant, and Cliff Scott from the Omaha Housing Authority (OHA) addressed the NCHH regarding the services OHA provides in the Omaha area, as well as touching on necessary rehabilitation and development that will be required in regards to OHA's rental housing in the future.

VII. Pat Compton from the Department of Economic Development shared with the NCHH the information gathered from attending a Bridges Out of Poverty seminar. Bridges Out of Poverty is an approach that helps employers, community organizations, social-service agencies and individuals address and reduce poverty in a comprehensive way.

VIII. Executive Committee

A nominating committee was formed to take on the responsibility of forming recommendations regarding appointment of a chairperson and vice-chairperson for 2013. The Committee recommended the reappointment of Kathy Mesner, as Chairperson, and Erin Porterfield, as Vice Chairperson. All commissioners agreed and Kathy Mesner and Erin Porterfield accepted.

IX. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee

Erin Porterfield reported that the Continuum of Care Committee met on January 23, 2013. Discussion of the status and role of the State Continuum of Care Committee, in relation to NCHH, included clarification that as a subcommittee of the Commission, the State CoC Committee does not have independent authority to make policy, hold public hearings or take formal action and not subject to Nebraska's Open Meetings Act. The role of the State CoC Committee is to provide information and recommendations to NCHH. There was also clarification that Nebraska Executive Order 98-4 (1998) consolidated three prior state committees into the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness and identified this Commission as the advisory body to the Department of Health and Human Services established by the Nebraska Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §68-1601).

Erin Porterfield and Cindy Kadavy are exploring options for sponsorship of an in-person meeting or meeting for the purpose of updating Nebraska's 10 year plan on homelessness.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

DiAnn Kolkman reported the committee met January 28, 2013. The Education and Awareness Committee discussed the value of the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness packet and contacting colleges to gauge interest in updating the packet and public service announcements as part of a class project. Sara Tichota will contact several colleges to ascertain interest. Discussion was held concerning a new website or possible Facebook page.

DiAnn expressed interest in finding a volunteer to co-chair or chair the Education and Awareness Committee. In addition, DiAnn suggested expanding the number of members on the Education and Awareness Committee.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

The Committee met on January 28, 2013. Brent Williams shared comments previously collected from NCHH Commissioners regarding the NDED 2013 Annual Action Plan (AAP). The comments were discussed at a November 28, 2012 conference call and submitted to DED by the December 10, 2012 deadline.

Brent Williams updated the commission on LB 72, 97, 120, 236, 286, 348, 394, and 455.

Brent Williams motioned that the NCHH support LB286. Roger Nadrchal seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Brent Williams motioned that the NCHH support LB 348. DiAnn Kolkman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

X. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Assistive Technology Partnership—Peg Hansen reported
Community Action of Nebraska—Ardith Hoins reported
Department of Economic Development—Bob Doty reported.
Department of Health and Human Services—Cindy Kadavy reported
Midwest Housing Equity Group—Thomas Judds reported.
Nebraska Housing Developers Association—Danielle Hill reported
U.S. Department of Agriculture RD—Roger Meeks reported
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—Earl Redrick reported
FHLBank-Topeka—Brent Williams reported

VIII. Adjourn

Chairperson Kathy Mesner adjourned the meeting on January 28, 2013 at 4:36 p.m.