

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)

**Lincoln Community Foundation Center
215 Centennial Mall South
5th Floor Conference Room
Lincoln, NE 68508**

Minutes of Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:30 p.m.

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

Pamela Otto called roll.

Ten of fifteen Commissioners were present:

Ryan Durant; Paul Hamelink; Lee Ann Heflebower; Ardith Hoins; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Judy Pedersen; Carna Pfeil; John Turner; and Brent Williams.

Absent Commissioners: Charles Coley; James Kozal; Steve Kunzman; Roger Nadrchal; and Sara Tichota.

Guests present were: Nikki Swope, Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program; Stephanie Huddle, Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence; Sharon Kluck, USDA Rural Development; Paula Rhian, Horizon Bank; Judy Peterson, Central Nebraska Economic Development District; Amber Hansen, Community Action of Nebraska (CAN); Reggie Robinson, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Michelle Callahan, Housing Development Corporation; and Brian Gaskill, Leslie Coleman, Bob Jones, Kristi McClung, and Pam Otto, DED.

II. Call meeting to order:

Chair Turner declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Chair Turner indicated the Opening Meetings Act was located at the back of the room by the sign in sheet.

III. Introductions

IV. Public Comment

No Public Comment

V. Approved September 27, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Judds moved that the September 27, 2016 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

YES - Ryan Durant; Paul Hamelink; Lee Ann Heflebower; Ardith Hoins; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Carna Pfeil; and John Turner.

NO – None

ABSTAINED: Pederson and Williams

Motion carried with a 8-0-2 vote.

VI. Executive Committee

Commissioner Durant summarized the meeting with DED Director, Courtney Dentlinger. Commissioner Durant stated that Director Dentlinger was very open to listening and discussion economic development needs throughout the State of Nebraska. The group had a discussion about NCHH having a Strategic Planning Session and it was recommended that NCHH Commissioners look at other resources that may be utilized to help cover the cost of a Strategic Planning Session.

Commissioner Durant presented the Housing Development Toolkit published by the White House. Commissioner Durant stated he would forward the link to Pamela Otto to distribute to the Commission. Commissioner Durant passed around the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress November 2016. The report indicated that Nebraska has seen a 4% increase in the Homeless population since 2015.

Commissioner Turner informed the Commission about Commissioner James Kozal resignation. Commissioner Turner read the list of expiring terms and urged those interested in remaining on the Commission to apply for another term. Commissioners with expiring terms on June 30, 2017 are as follows: Charles Coley; Ardith Hoins; James Kozal (Open seat due to resignation); Steve Kunzman; and John Turner.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee

Commissioner Heflebower provided the report on behalf of the CoC. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress November 2016 was discussed. Commissioner Heflebower stated that Nebraska's number may have not decreased because the transition from Transition Housing to Rapid Rehousing has not occurred statewide to date.

Commissioner Heflebower stated Lincoln is hiring a Specialized Entry Coordinator to assist in getting individuals housed as quickly as possible. Commissioner Turner stated that Jeff Chambers is hiring for this position and he would like to invite him to an NCHH meeting to provide a presentation to the Commissioner.

Commissioner Heflebower stated that Project Homeless Connect had successful events this year. The annual Point in Time Count will occur on January 24, 2017.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Pederson stated that the committee had discussed the Facebook Page for the NCHH and the difficulties in getting items posted to the site, since it has to go through staff at DED. The committee is not sure that Facebook is the best communication tool. The committee discussed putting together a list of resources that would include the organization, website, and phone number. The committee also discussed a digital newsletter to distribute quarterly, Pam Otto is getting more information from DED.

Commissioner Pederson stated that the proclamation was not done this year due to timing; however, Pam Otto and I have it on calendar to start the process in June 2017. Commissioner Pederson stated that the proclamation needs to be rewritten for next year.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Mesner, along with other committee members, gave the update in lieu of Commissioner Tichota's absence. Committee members contributed the following input:

The Policies and Issues committee met with DED and Commissioner Tichota was supposed to bring talking points from the committee for the Commission.

Commissioner Mesner stated due to the change in Washington DC it is an uncertain time for programs and urges everyone to contact their representatives in DC to emphasize the importance of no big changes in housing programs. The time to contact them is now prior to the transition. Commissioner Mesner stated that there have been discussions on totally reforming the tax code, which would have a big impact on Tax Credits.

The Commission discussed having the Policy and Issues Committee, the Continuum of Care Committee, and the Education and Awareness Committee create talking points that can be distributed to the Commissioners to discuss with their representatives.

Commissioner Mesner stated that the Policy and Issues Committee needs to meet to create a written comment for the Public Comment Period for the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund Proposed 2017 Qualified Allocation Plan.

VIII. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Community Action of Nebraska – Amber Hansen

Department of Economic Development – Brian Gaskill, Leslie Coleman, Pam Otto

The NCHH passed a motion (10-0) that requested DED to work with Director Courtney Dentlinger, in consultation with the Policy & Issues Committee, on a plan to utilize the un-obligated NAHTF Balance of approximately \$10 million for housing related activities in order to prevent the Trust Fund from being reduced by the un-obligated amount and used for other non-housing activities.

DED noted that it will provide this information to the DED Director and work with the P & I committee further in addressing the Commission's concerns.

Roll call vote:

YES - Ryan Durant; Paul Hamelink; Lee Ann Heflebower; Ardith Hoins; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Judy Pederson; Carna Pfeil; John Turner; and Brent Williams.

NO – None

Motion carried with a 10-0 vote.

DHHS, Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program – Nikki Swope

FHL Bank Topeka – Brent Williams

Midwest Housing Development Fund – Pam Otto reported for Lara Huskey

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development – Sharon Kluck

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Reggie Robinson

IX. New Business

None

X. Adjourn

Chair Turner adjourned the meeting on November 30, 2016 at 3:18 p.m.