

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)

**Nebraska State Office Building
301 Centennial Mall South
Department of Economic Development, 4th Floor
Lincoln, NE 68509**

Minutes of Tuesday, September 27, 2016 10:00 am

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.

Ten of fifteen Commissioners were present:

Charles Coley; Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Ardith Hoins; Thomas Judds; Carna Pfeil; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; John Turner; and Sara Tichota.

Absent Commissioners: Paul Hamelink; James Kozal; Steve Kunzman; Judy Pedersen; and Brent Williams.

Guests present were: Nikki Swope, Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program; Robin Ambroz, Nebraska Investment and Finance Authority; Jerry Pesek, USDA Rural Development; Paula Rhian, Horizon Bank; and Brian Gaskill, Leslie Coleman, Pam Otto, Kristi McClung, and Shannon Fortney, DED.

II. Call meeting to order:

Chair Turner declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.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 June 28, 2016 meeting minutes with addition of Lee Heflebower to “Present” rather than “absent”.

Motion: Commissioner Coley moved that the June 28, 2016 meeting minutes be approved with addition of Lee Heflebower to “Present” rather than “absent”.

Commissioner Nadrchal seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

YES - Charles Coley; Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Ardith Hoins; Thomas Judds; Carna Pfeil; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; and John Turner;

NO – None

ABSTAINED: Tichota

Motion carried with a 9-0-1 vote.

VI. Executive Committee—

Discussion was held regarding the previously suggested strategic session. Through previous suggestion from DED Director, Courtney Dentlinger, Commissioner Turner encouraged a work session that would develop some Best Practices and successful collaborations between homeless service providers and housing developers. Commissioner Durant supported the further pursuit of the strategic session as none had been done since 2004. It was also suggested that the executive committee meet with Director Dentlinger.

Discussion was also held regarding dissolution of the Education and Awareness committee and then broaden the Policy and Issues committee and the Continuum of Care committee due to lack of human resources. The NCHH Facebook would be maintained but the committee discontinued. Prior to the making of a motion to do so, a review of the governing statute will be made to the validity of making such a decision. It was determined that if such decision could be and was made, a revision to the bylaws would be necessary.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee

Commissioner Coley provided the report on behalf of the CoC. The Nebraska State 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (10 Year Plan) was held on September 20, 2016 at Region V Systems in Lincoln.

Commissioner Coley explained that the technical assistance portion of the 10 Year Plan will soon expire and there is concern as to who will be able to continue the work on the plan. Coley encouraged a discussion considering the development of a State Interagency Council on Homelessness. Such a council may enable the hiring of a single staff member to tend to the continued development and implementation of the 10 Year Plan. Commissioner Heflebower contributed by encouraging the Commission to research the Best Practices of other states in relation to the establishment of a State Interagency Council.

Commissioner Turner provided an update regarding the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant awarded to Region V, which targets chronic homelessness in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Commissioner Turner also proposed redeveloping the Proclamation speech for the National Homelessness Awareness Month to include success stories. The Proclamation takes place in November of each year.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

No meeting was held this quarter. All news items and articles regarding housing and homelessness may be forwarded to Judy Pedersen.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

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

The Policies and Issues committee met with Brian Gaskill of DED during the Public Comment Period regarding the proposed Allocation Plan for the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF).

Discussion was held concerning the upcoming involvement of the P&I committee with the development of the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF). It was determined that a point person would need to be determined so as to work with DED beginning in October on the QAP and the application Guidelines for the 2017 NAHTF cycle.

Commissioner Judds informed the Commission of the draft legislation regarding the National Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit. This legislation is drafted to benefit incomes of 60% - 100% AMI persons.

After discussion, a Motion to install Judy Petersen, Executive Director of Central Nebraska Economic Development District and Central Nebraska Housing and Economic Developers, and Amy Munderloh, CEO of NeighborWorks Northeast, as the newest members of the Policies and Issues Committee was made by Sara Tichota and seconded by Kathy Mesner.

Roll call vote:

YES - Charles Coley; Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Ardith Hoins; Thomas Judds; Carna Pfeil; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; Tichota; and John Turner;

NO – None

Motion carried with a 10-0 vote.

VIII. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Community Action of Nebraska – Ardith Hoines
Department of Economic Development—Brian Gaskill
Nebraska Housing Developers Assoc. – Sara Tichota
DHHS, Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program - Nikki Swope
Nebraska Investment and Finance Authority – Robin Ambroz
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development –Jerry Pesek
Nebraskans for Solar – unofficial report by Kathy Mesner

IX. New Business

None

X. Adjourn

Chair Turner adjourned the meeting on September 27, 2016 at 11:35 a.m.