

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)

Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)

1230 O Street #200

Lincoln, NE 68508

Minutes of Tuesday, November 27, 2018 1:30 p.m.

Notice Published: Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar
NCHH 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 out of fourteen Commissioners were present:

Charles Coley; Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; Judy Pederson; Judy Petersen; Sara Sunderman; and John Turner.

Absent Commissioners: Nancy Bentley; Paul Hamelink; Sara Tichota; and Brent Williams.

Guests present were: Dave Rippe (DED); Lara Huskey; Paula Rhian; Jeff Chambers; Nikki Swope; Cindy Frazier; Rebekah Ehly; Lynn Kohout and Pam Otto, DED.

II. Call meeting to order:

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

Chair Durant indicated the Opening Meetings Act was on the table by the sign in sheet.

III. Introductions

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approved September 7, 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Nadrchal moved that the September 7, 2018 meeting minutes be approved.

Commissioner Judds seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

YES – Charles Coley; Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; Sara Sunderman; and John Turner.

NO – None

Abstain – Judy Pederson; and Judy Petersen

Motion carried with a 8-0-2 vote

VI. Executive Committee

Commissioner Durant stated the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee has not been able to meet. The next meeting will be an in person meeting around the NIFA Conference in March in La Vista. Commissioner Durant stated that the next step is to start drafting documents for the Commission.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee (CoC)

Commissioner Heflebower stated that the 2015-2025 State 10-year Plan to End Homelessness is based off of the National Plan and one of the primary goals is to end veteran homelessness. In May 2017, the Balance of State CoC was officially granted the designation of ending Veteran homelessness. In October 2018, the Lincoln CoC was granted the same designation of ending veteran homelessness. Across the United States, only 70 communities have been granted the designation of ending veteran homelessness and Nebraska has two communities that have received that designation. There is a plan in place to address any new veterans who find themselves homeless. Receiving the designation is a major accomplishment that takes many organizations collaborating together.

Commissioner Turner stated the CoC meets twice a year and the next meeting will be in April, where he hopes that Bob Pulster can attend and review and discuss the Nebraska plan to end homelessness. There has been discussion in having monthly phone calls for the CoC.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Pederson stated they have been working on a flyer to hand out to Senators to show how the funds are being used across the state. The flyer is still being drafted but it will be a brief one-pager and will highlight some projects across the state that have used the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF). A flyer for HOME is also being drafted. In order to bring more awareness to the NAHTF program, it was decided to present an award at the NIFA Conference in March where the Chair will present to an eligible recipient of NAHTF. An application is being drafted to be sent out to collect submissions for review. The hope is this will become a yearly award.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Petersen stated that Lynn Kohout from the Department of Economic Development (DED) presented the 2019 NAHTF Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). The total amount of NAHTF funds for 2019 is \$11.25 million with \$550,000 for State Administration, leaving \$10.7 million for projects across the State of Nebraska. The 2019 NAHTF QAP will be posted on December 3rd for 30 days with a public hearing on December 5th at the DED office.

Commissioner Petersen stated that a motion was made and passed in the committee that asks that the Executive Committee and Lara Huskey meet within the next two weeks to discuss the information the Commission would like to see in a report from DED for the NAHTF balance.

VIII. Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Jeff Chambers stated the Youth Homelessness Demonstration program, that the NCHH serves as a stakeholder was awarded the grant from HUD. The grant is for the Balance of State CoC (excludes Lincoln and Omaha). The grant includes \$3.28 million for the first year, which includes the planning and preparation of the grant. The funding on-going is \$1.64 million every year through the life of the program through HUD. Only 11 communities across the United States were awarded this grant. The first draft of the plan has been submitted to HUD, with the final plan being due March 13, 2019. The deadline for stakeholder feedback is December 7, 2018. The plan can be sent to the Commissioners.

XI. Blueprint Nebraska

Commissioner Mesner passed out an article from Politico “6 ways Washington could make housing more affordable.” Commissioner Mesner passed out a handout with the items the group has identified and stated that the group initiatives are very similar to the articles. Please provide feedback or more ideas to Commissioner Mesner. Recently the group has been discussing a housing index to provide housing demographics for communities across the state that NIFA and DED could benefit from as well. Commissioner Mesner stated this is still in development and welcomes ideas on what items should be included in the housing index.

X. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Department of Economic Development – Lynn Kohout/Dave Rippe
Department of Health and Human Services Agency – Nikki Swope
Midwest Housing Equity Group – Lara Huskey
Nebraska Investment Finance Authority – John Turner
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development – Cindy Frazier
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence – Rebekah Ehly

IX. Other Business/Next Meeting (Monday, March 18, 2019)

X. Adjourn

Chair Durant adjourned the meeting on November 27, 2018 at 3:02 p.m.