

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)

**La Vista Conference Center
12520 Westport Parkway
Omaha, NE 68128**

Minutes of Monday, March 12, 2018 10 a.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.

Eleven of fifteen Commissioners were present:

Nancy Bentley; Ryan Durant; Paul Hamelink; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Judy Petersen; Carna Pfeil; Sara Tichota; John Turner; and Brent Williams.

Absent Commissioners: Suzanne Brodine; Charles Coley; Roger Nadrchal; and Judy Pederson.

Guests present were: Madeline Kere, Steven Erikson, Paula Rhian, Ed Shada, Jeff Chambers, Nikki Swope, Matthew Cavanaugh and Pam Otto, Leslie Coleman, Kristi, McClung, Sheryl Hiatt, and Kylee Bischoff, DED.

II. Call meeting to order:

Chair Durant declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.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 November 30, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Petersen moved that the November 30, 2017 meeting minutes be approved.

Commissioner Bentley seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

YES – Nancy Bentley; Ryan Durant; Paul Hamelink; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Judy Petersen; Carna Pfeil; Sara Tichota; John Turner; and Brent Williams.

NO – None

Motion carried with a 11-0-0 vote.

VI. Executive Committee

Commissioner Durant stated that the Executive Committee met several times over the last few months. One of those meetings was with DED Director Dave Rippe. Commissioner Durant stated the importance of advocating, protecting, and showing outcomes for the Trust Fund. Commissioner Durant stated the committee would like to focus on strategic planning and form an Ad-Hoc Committee that would be voted on at the June 2018 Commission Meeting. The ideal would be to have four (4) commissioners and four (4) non-commissioners. The idea would be that the Ad-Hoc Committee would identify strengths and weaknesses and look at other programs and policies. The committee would look at the outcomes and determine what would be needed to aid in getting the Trust Fund increased.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee (CoC)

Commissioner Heflebower stated HUD has an application for Youth Homelessness for 11 communities across the Country. There is \$43 million available to 11 communities nationwide with 5 rural communities. Last year the funding was \$36 million, with over 100 applications.

Youth Homelessness is a difficult population because they are less likely to reach out, less visible, and they tend to couch surf. The rural Balance of State does not have the resources for this population.

Commissioner Heflebower introduced Jeff Chambers who reported about the application process for the HUD funding for Youth Homelessness. The application is due April 17, 2018 and there are several requirements to fulfill for the application to be successful. If the application is successful, the minimum grant award will be \$1 million for the Balance of State Continuum of Care. The funding will be for two (2) years; however, the funding will be renewable every year after the initial two-year application. Jeff Chambers stated that HUD would like geographic distribution and the closest rural community is the Kentucky Continuum of Care and then the other closest is the West Coast. One of the requirements is to have a Youth Action Group with innovative plans for addressing Youth Homelessness. Currently, the Western portion of the State has a Host Home Project, which has been successful. Jeff Chambers stated they would like to incorporate trauma informed assistance and services, as this population is going through a traumatic experience. Jeff Chambers is requesting that the NCHH Commission be a part of this group. The Youth Action Group would meet by-monthly meetings with stakeholders until the plan is approved by HUD. The scope of the plan for Youth Homelessness is very vague in allowing for services, the items prohibited are building and renovations. Jeff Chambers stated he sent Commissioner Durant a draft Memorandum of Understanding for review. With the strategic planning process coming up, this would be a great focus for the Commission going forward, along with data sharing for both groups. The application directly supports the 10-year plan.

Motion: Commissioner Bentley moved that the NCHH Executive Committee and the Continuum of Care Committee to act on behalf of the Commission to negotiate and execute a MOU with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Board of Regents, the Nebraska Children and Family Foundation, and DHHS. Commissioner Judds seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

YES – Nancy Bentley; Ryan Durant; Paul Hamelink; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Judy Petersen; Carna Pfeil; Sara Tichota; John Turner; and Brent Williams.

NO – None

Motion carried with a 11-0-0 vote.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Pederson was not in attendance today. Commissioner Durant stated he was very interested in learning that North Platte is having difficulties with code enforcement in the City and many dilapidated properties are still being rented out. Commissioner Durant stated the Trust Fund is affecting communities across the state and information brochures are required, this can be done by collaborating with Matthew Cavanaugh from Nebraska Housing Developers Association.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Petersen reported that there has been no meeting since November 2017 and she would like to put the committee on hold until she receives further direction from the strategic planning for the Commission. Commissioner Petersen stated she is very interested in the Ad-Hoc Committee and interested in looking into what the Commission can do to address dilapidated housing. Matthew Cavanaugh stated there is \$200,000 being proposed for removal from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund and transferred to Omaha for the Lead-Based Paint Program that requires a match. The TIF Reform bill advanced and Paula Rhian stated that NEDA sent out handouts today to show a breakdown of the TIF Reform Bill. The NEDA information will be distributed to NCHH Commissioners.

VIII. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Department of Economic Development – Sheryl Hiatt and Leslie Coleman

Department of Health of Human Services Agency – Nikki Swope

FHL Bank Topeka – Brent Williams

Nebraska Chapter of Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials – Nancy Bentley

Nebraska Housing Developers Association – Matthew Cavanaugh

Nebraska Investment Finance Authority – Sara Tichota

IX. Other Business/Next Meeting

Commissioner Durant stated that Pam Otto had sent emails regarding those Commissioners with expiring terms in June 2018. There are five (5) Commissioners expiring and there has been three (3) confirmations of renewal intent and still waiting for the other two (2). Commissioner Mesner and Commissioner Pfeil are the two still remaining to inform Pam Otto of their intent to renew or not.

X. Adjourn

Chair Durant adjourned the meeting on March 12, 2018 at 11:26 a.m.