

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)

**Mesner Development Co. – Conference Room
1415 16th Street
Central City, NE 68826**

Minutes of Monday, September 9, 2019 1:00 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 entered the room.
All votes were taken by roll call of the members.

I. Roll Call

Evan Clark called roll.

Eleven out of fourteen Commissioners were present:

Nancy Bentley; Charles Coley (arrived at 1:10 p.m.); Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower;
Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Judy Pederson; Judy Petersen; Sara Sunderman; Amy
Thelander; and John Turner.

Absent Commissioners: Paul Hamelink; Roger Nadrchal; and Brent Williams.

Guests present were: Paula Rhian, Horizon Bank; Matthew Cavanaugh, Nebraska Housing
Developers Association; Chris Lenz, Excel Development; Lara Huskey, Midwest Housing
Development Fund; Sharon Kluck, United States Department of Agriculture – Rural
Development; Evan Clark and Sheryl Hiatt, Nebraska Department of Economic
Development.

II. Call meeting to order:

Chair Durant declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:07 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 June 26, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Petersen moved that the June 26, 2019 meeting minutes be
approved.

Commissioner Thelander seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

YES – Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Kathy Mesner; Judy Petersen; Sara
Sunderman; Amy Thelander; and John Turner.

NO – None

Abstain – Nancy Bentley; Thomas Judds; Judy Pederson

Motion carried with a 7-0-3 vote

VI. Executive Committee

Commissioner Durant stated the Executive Committee had a phone call the previous week. During the meeting, DED provided an update to the Executive Committee regarding the status of the NAHTF Disaster Recovery applications. Commissioner Durant requested that the newest members (Thelander, Sunderman) reach out to be assigned to a standing committee.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee (CoC)

Commissioner Turner provided a synopsis of the CoC Committee. There will be two sessions at the NAHRO Conference, which is scheduled for September 19th in Kearney. Commissioner Turner stated that there is a small work group working on revising the plan to help with homelessness being a rare and brief occurrence.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Pederson provided a copy of the NAHTF flyer the committee has been working on. The Executive Committee has reviewed and provided suggestions. Commissioner Pederson stated that goal is to have the flyer ready for the upcoming session to provide information to senators. Sheryl Hiatt requested suggestions for training opportunities for grantees and applicants. Commissioner Pederson has drafted a Proclamation for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to be submitted to the Governor's office for November.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Petersen reported LB86 had passed, which will no longer require match for nonprofits. DED will still need to have clarification regarding the "for-profit" requirement of match. Matthew Cavanaugh stated there was a phone call from LIBA that provided optimism for previous Landbank bill. Commissioner Mesner plans to speak with Senator Williams about workforce housing legislature. Paula Rhian provided handouts of information for the State of Indiana's Housing Programs. Discussion followed regarding learning about other state's programs and a possible presentation at next spring's Annual NIFA Conference.

VIII. Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Commissioner Heflebower reported that both Lincoln and Omaha had submitted for the Demonstration program, but were not selected. Des Moines was the closest city to receive funding. Commissioner Turner thanked Commissioner Sunderman for her assistance with reviewing applications.

XI. Blueprint Nebraska

Commissioner Mesner provided an update on the current housing report draft from the Council. When the committees came together in Kearney, they worked to determine the top priority and most feasible initiatives. Housing was determined as the top priority and second in the most feasible. The final report did not include this focus on housing and much of the information appeared missing. Commissioner Mesner will provide the committee reports.

X. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Department of Economic Development – Sheryl Hiatt
FHL Bank of Topeka – Lara Huskey
Midwest Housing Equity Group – Lara Huskey
Nebraska Ch. Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials – Nancy Bentley
Nebraska Housing Developers Association – Matthew Cavanaugh
Nebraska Investment Finance Authority – John Turner
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development – Sharon Kluck

IX. Other Business/Next Meeting

Commissioner Durant stated that there will be a committee to focus on updating the By Laws. Durant also reported that the Strategic Planning Committee will review the Blueprint Housing information and determine steps or actions to implement.

Sheryl Hiatt requested input for the 2020 Qualified Action Plan. Some suggestions included: focus on disaster projects, emphasize on rentals and increasing rental funds, more operating funds, and planning grants for non-selected awards.

The next Quarterly NCHH meeting will be scheduled for November. A Doodle Poll will be sent to Commissioners.

X. Adjourn

Chair Durant adjourned the meeting on September 9, 2019 at 2:57 p.m.