

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)

**Kearney Public Library – Loup Room
2020 1st Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847**

Minutes of Wednesday, June 26, 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.

Seven out of fifteen Commissioners were present:

Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower (arrived at 1:27 p.m.); Kathy Mesner; Judy Petersen; Sara Sunderman; Amy Thelander; and John Turner.

Absent Commissioners: Nancy Bentley; Charles Coley; Paul Hamelink; Thomas Judds;
Roger Nadrchal; Judy Pederson; Sara Tichota; and Brent Williams.

Guests present were: Lori Ferguson, South Central Economic Development District; Nicki Swope, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Paula Rhian, Horizon Bank; Matthew Cavanaugh, Nebraska Housing Developers Association; Evan Clark, Lynn Kohout, Sheryl Hiatt, and Laura Hart 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 March 18, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Turner moved that the March 18, 2019 meeting minutes be approved.

Commissioner Petersen seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

NO – None

Abstain – None
Motion carried with a 6-0-0 vote

VI. Executive Committee

Commissioner Durant stated the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee has been in discussion regarding the structure of the Commission and the overall effectiveness of meeting the needs of both Housing and Homelessness. Commissioner Durant stated that it is currently an open discussion with mixed reviews. Commissioner Turner reported having a previous conversation with Matthey Dougherty, Executive Director of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, who suggested implementing specific action steps when updating the next State Plan.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

1. Continuum of Care Committee (CoC)

Commissioner Turner reported that the Department of Health and Human Services is in the process of hiring a Statewide Housing Coordinator to assist as a link between services and divisions. Commissioner Heflebower stated that the Continuum of Care meeting was held on May 14th. Around 40 individuals attended the meeting and there was a large focus on outreach for Public Housing Authorities. The next NAHRO conference is scheduled for September 19th in Kearney.

2. Education and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Durant stated the committee is working on completing the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund one-pager. A draft will be provided for approval at the next NCHH meeting in September.

3. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Petersen reported the Policy and Issues Committee had met earlier in the morning and discussed recent bills from the 2019 Legislative Session. Matthew Cavanaugh provided a brief summary regarding LB86, LB87, LB433, and LB434. The Commission discussed reaching out to Senator Williams to see if LB434 could be made a priority bill for the upcoming session and hopes to combine the bill with workforce housing.

Lynn Kohout provided a comment regarding the March 18, 2019 NCHH meeting and action taken at the March 18th meeting to write a letter of support for LB86. On March 19th, LB86 was merged into another bill, therefore the commission did not follow-up with writing a letter of support for LB86.

VIII. Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

Commissioner Turner provided an update on the program. In May, the Nebraska Balance of State Continuum of Care selected projects throughout the State. Eight projects were awarded a total of \$3.2 million.

XI. Blueprint Nebraska

Commissioner Mesner provided an update on the current housing report draft from the Council. An initial draft report was provided to industry council chairs the week of September 17th and is currently under review. A final report is expected to be issued in 4-6 weeks.

X. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

Department of Economic Development – Lynn Kohout and Sheryl Hiatt
Department of Health and Human Services – Nicki Swope
Nebraska Housing Developers Association – Matthew Cavanaugh
Nebraska Investment Finance Authority – John Turner
South Central Economic Development District – Lori Ferguson

IX. Other Business/Next Meeting

The Commission discussed whether or not teleconferencing or virtual meetings could occur for NCHH Meetings. Per DED Legal advice, teleconferencing or virtual meetings would create logistical issues to comply with the Open Meetings Act and is not recommended.

The next Quarterly NCHH meeting will be scheduled for the beginning of September in Central City.

X. Adjourn

Chair Durant adjourned the meeting on June 26, 2019 at 2:55 p.m.