

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)
Website Streaming - WebEx
Minutes of Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 10:00 AM (CT)

Notice Published: Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar
NCHH Website

Open Meetings Act – A copy of the Open Meetings Act was linked on the agenda and virtually displayed at the beginning of the meeting. All votes were taken by voice votes of the commissioners.

I. Roll Call:

Evan Clark called roll.

Twelve of fifteen Commissioners were present: Nancy Bentley; Jeff Chambers (10:19); Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; Judy Pederson; Judy Petersen; Sara Sunderman; Amy Thelander; and Brent Williams (10:22).

Absent Commissioners: Paul Hamelink; Randy McCoy; and John Turner.

Guests present included: Andrea Curtis, Pamela Otto, Shannon Wilkinson, and Matt Thomsen, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Tobias Orr, Nebraska Department of Education; Paula Rhian, Midwest Housing Development Fund; Marti Lee, NeighborWorks Lincoln; Kelly Fleming, Omaha Public Power District; Steve Peregrine, Nebraska Housing Resource, Inc; Krista Mettscher, US Department of Agriculture; and Evan Clark, Lynn Kohout, and Sheryl Hiatt, Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

II. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Durant declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Chairman Durant indicated the Opening Meetings Act was linked within the agenda.

III. Introductions:

Chairman Durant welcomed Randy McCoy as the newly appointed NCHH Commissioner.

IV. Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

V. Approval of September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Pederson moved that the September 16, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Bentley seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

VI. Executive Committee

Chairman Durant stated that most of the information discussed by the Executive Committee would be covered in the DED report.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

A. Continuum of Care Committee

Commissioner Heflebower stated the U.S. Housing and Homelessness Council has released a new Strategic Plan, which is philosophically different from the current plan. Continuum of Care committee will be meeting in the afternoon (11/18/21) to address whether to stay in line with the current plan or to move more in line with the new plan.

B. Education and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Pederson reported Governor Ricketts signed the Proclamation claiming the week of November 16th-20th as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week. Typically, there would be a reading at the Capitol, but the Proclamation was only emailed this year. Commissioner Pederson requested anyone able to please share the Proclamation to their social media pages. Commissioner Pederson stated that the NAHTF flyer will be also be updated and shared.

C. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Petersen reported the Policy and Issues Committee met on November 12th and discussed items including DED's Rural Workforce Housing Fund, Middle Income Investment Act, and the Department of Revenue's Micro TIF Bill (LB 1021). Marty Barnhart will be presenting on SCEDD's HomeNE Webinar about landbank issues on November 18th. Commissioner Petersen stated that Legislative Resolution 434, proposed by Senator Hansen through Urban Affairs Committee, to analyze housing throughout Nebraska was discussed. Commissioner Mesner will be participating with a committee in the first part of December regarding LR 434.

VIII. Nebraska Housing Partnership

Commissioner Mesner shared information and the draft Request for Proposals for the gathering of data and analysis for the 5 Workgroups established by the Nebraska Housing Partnership. Commissioner Mesner requested any additional contact information and/or other potential organizations to share the RFP with to be sent to Commissioner Mesner or Steve Peregrine. Commissioner Mesner also shared a CNN article about research on providing homeless individuals a chunk of money and the occurring results.

IX. Reports from Agencies

- A. Department of Economic Development
Lynn Kohout provided a report to the commission on the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund and other programs administered by the agency including the HOME Investment Partnerships program, National Housing Trust Fund program, and Community Development Block Grant. Evan Clark presented information for the proposed 2021 Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund Qualified Allocation Plan.
- B. Department of Health and Human Services Agency
Andrea Curtis and Matt Thomsen provided an update on the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund.

X. Reports from Partner Organizations

- A. Assistive Technology Partnership
Tobias Orr provided an update.
- B. Community Action Agencies of Nebraska
No report.
- C. Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka
Commissioner Williams provided an update.
- D. Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
No report.
- E. Nebraska Chapter of Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
Commissioner Bentley provided an update via WebEx Chat.
- F. Nebraska Housing Developers Association
No report.
- G. Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
Commissioner Turner provided an update that was shared by Chairman Durant.
- H. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
Krista Mettscher provided an update.
- I. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
No report.

XI. 2021 NCHH Meeting Dates

Chairman Durant stated that 2021 dates will be set and shared soon.

XII. Other Business

A. Chairman Durant recognized Commissioner Bentley's retirement.

B. Commission Member Terms

Chairman Durant reported Commissioner Heflebower, Mesner, Nadrchal, Sunderman, and Thelander terms will expire in June of 2021.

X. Adjourn

Chairman Durant adjourned the meeting on November 18, 2020 at 11:58 a.m.