

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)
Website Streaming - WebEx
Minutes of Wednesday, June 17, 2020 – 1:00 PM

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:

Lynn Kohout called roll.

Thirteen of fifteen Commissioners were present: Nancy Bentley; Charles Coley; Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Kathy Mesner; Roger Nadrchal; Judy Pederson; Judy Petersen; Sara Sunderman; Amy Thelander; John Turner; and Brent Williams.

Absent Commissioners: Jeff Chambers and Paul Hamelink.

Guests present included: Andrea Curtis, Pamela Otto and Dannette Smith, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Lara Huskey and Paula Rhain, Midwest Housing Development Fund; Matthew Cavanaugh, Nebraska Housing Developers Association; and Lynn Kohout, Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

II. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Durant declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Chairman Durant indicated the Opening Meetings Act was linked within the agenda.

III. Introductions:

IV. Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

V. Approval of April 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Judds moved that the April 30, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

Following the approval of the April 30, 2020 meeting minutes Chairman Durant introduced Dannette Smith, Chief Executive Officer of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Ms. Smith provided an overview of the CARES Act funding to be administered by HHS. Ms. Smith

indicated HHS is committed to supporting families throughout the pandemic and getting CARES Act funding as close to communities as possible. HHS wants to work with trusted champions in the communities when implementing programs funded through the CARES Act.

VI. Executive Committee

Chairman Durant reported that the Executive Committee had approved the 2020 NAHTF Awards to NeighborWorks Northeast (Congressional District 1), Holy Name Housing Corporation (Congressional District 2), and the City of Imperial (Congressional District 3). Since the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) Conference was rescheduled, DED will be releasing a press release in the coming days to announce and highlight the award winners. Chairman Durant also indicated the Executive Committee still has a priority to update the Bylaws of the commission and work with the Department of Economic Development legal counsel and the Governor's Policy & Research office to ensure they are in line with the Governor's intentions.

VII. Report from Standing Committees

A. Continuum of Care Committee

Commissioner Heflebower reported the Continuum of Care Committee and the Policy and Issues Committee held a joint meeting in May. The committee is consistently working with partners to navigate the needs of those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee strongly supports getting CARES Act funding to those individuals and families in need.

B. Education and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Pederson reported the Education and Awareness Committee has not met since the April commission meeting. The committee will continue to work to update the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund flyer as an educational resource for state senators.

C. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Petersen reported the Policy and Issues Committee met in conjunction with the Continuum of Care Committee in May. Commissioner Petersen indicated that the legislature comes back to session on July 20th. Bills they will be watching include the Rural Workforce Housing Fund legislation that could put another \$10 million dollars into the program. Commissioner Pedersen will monitor bills as the legislature goes back into session and call a committee meeting if necessary.

VIII. Nebraska Housing Partnership

No report.

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, Community Development Block Grant and Rural Workforce Housing Fund.
- B. Department of Health and Human Services Agency
Andrea Curtis provided a report on the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund.
- X. Reports from Partner Organizations
 - A. Assistive Technology Partnership
No report.
 - B. Community Action Agencies of Nebraska
No report.
 - C. Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka
Commissioner Williams provided a report on behalf of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka. Commissioner Williams reported applications will be made available late June to early July and are due at the end of August. The Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka anticipates making announcements in December 2020.
 - D. Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
No report.
 - E. Nebraska Chapter of Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
No report.
 - F. Nebraska Housing Developers Association
Matthew Cavanaugh provided a report on behalf of the Nebraska Housing Developers Association. Mr. Cavanaugh indicated he was working with Congressman Bacon and was preparing for the Nebraska Legislature to come back into session in June.
 - G. Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
Commissioner Turner provided a report on behalf of the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA). The NIFA board will be making announcements on tax credit allocations through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program and the CRANE program on Friday, June 19th. NIFA's weekly webinars are going well and seem to have good participation, upcoming topics include the Food Bank and the National Housing Trust Fund.

H. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
No report.

I. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
No report.

XI. 2020 NCHH Meeting Dates

Upcoming NCHH meeting dates include Wednesday, September 16th and Wednesday, November 18th. The Department of Economic Development staff will be in touch with commissioner whether these meetings will be held in-person or via WebEx. During this pandemic the Department's focus is to keep our team members and commission members safe and healthy.

XII. Other Business

A. Commission Member Terms

Chairman Durant reported Commissioner Bentley, Coley, Petersen and Turner's terms expire at the end of June. Commissioners Bentley, Petersen and Turner are each asking to be reappointed, whereas Commissioner Coley is not seeking reappointment. Staff at the Department of Economic Development are working with the Governor's office to learn who is being appointed/reappointed.

X. Adjourn

Chairman Durant adjourned the meeting on June 17, 2020 at 2:19 p.m.