

**Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)**  
**Website Streaming - WebEx**  
**Minutes of Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – 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.

Thirteen of fifteen Commissioners were present: Nancy Bentley; Jeff Chambers; Ryan Durant; Lee Ann Heflebower; Thomas Judds; Randy McCoy; Roger Nadrchal; Judy Pederson; Judy Petersen; Sara Sunderman; Amy Thelander; and Brent Williams.

Absent Commissioners: Paul Hamelink; and Kathy Mesner.

Guests present included: Andrea Curtis, Heather Leschinsky; and Shannon Wilkinson, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Paula Rhian, Midwest Housing Development Fund; Pamela Otto, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority; Andrew, Housing and Urban Development; Kelly Fleming, Omaha Public Power District; Steve Peregrine, Nebraska Housing Resource, Inc; Amber Marker, Nebraska Housing Developers Association; Lisa Vukov, Metro Area Continuum of Care; Krista Mettscher, US Department of Agriculture; Alexandria Labenz, University of Nebraska – Lincoln; 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 10:05 a.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 November 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes:**

Commissioner Nadrchal moved that the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Chambers seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

## **VI. Executive Committee**

Chairman Durant stated that the 2021 NAHTF Award would be sent out soon. Any organization that has received funds from NAHTF during years 2016-2019 can apply for the award.

## **VII. Report from Standing Committees**

### **A. Continuum of Care Committee**

Commissioner Turner reported that the CoC Committee had been focused on updating the 10-year plan that expires in 2025, but the focus has now turned to emergency rental assistance and the Rescue Act. A large focus is being put on assistance funds to help people stay in their units. NIFA is also assisting the State with rental assistance and there have been a lot of marketing flyers going out. Commissioner Heflebower wanted to highlight the extraordinary work that all the shelters and other partnerships have been doing to help with the social distancing challenges and sharing information on best practices. Commissioner McCoy stated that the Omaha CoC is getting setup and intends to have a soft launch around the first of April, with the full launch around the fifth for tenants. There is currently an RFP out and marketing campaign underway.

### **B. Education and Awareness Committee**

Commissioner Pederson stated that the Education and Awareness Committee met to brainstorm ideas to further share the work and information that the NCHH performs. There is discussion underway to create an HSATF flyer similar to the NAHTF flyer. Commissioner Pederson stated that Andrea Curtis will assist with putting numbers together on councils, individuals, and governments served, as well as information on domestic violence shelter locations. Commissioner Turner stated that the State of Minnesota has a great organization in place that helps highlight and serve as an oversight body for being a voice of ending homelessness that would be good to research and model a group after. Additionally, the committee will begin to work on language for the Proclamation in November that focuses on Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week.

### **C. Policy and Issues Committee**

Commissioner Petersen stated that Lara Huskey with MHDF provided information on current legislative bills at the last committee meeting. Commissioner Petersen stated there is a lot currently going on and a large focus on tenant rights and housing policy items. There are additional legislative bills focused on blighted areas, the historic tax credit LB194, NIFA hiring a coordinator and funds directed to NIFA to assist with the Housing Track of the Blueprint Nebraska report.

Motion: Commissioner Petersen moved that the Policy and Issues Committee makes a motion to recommend that the NCHH send a letter of support to Senator Hansen and the Speak, in support of LB446.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pederson.

Voice Vote was taken; all yeas, no nays.

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Petersen moved that he Policy and Issues Committee makes a motion to recommend that the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness add Quelbin Izaguirre, from NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska to serve as a member of the Policy and Issues Committee.

Motion was seconded by Chairman Durant.

Voice vote was taken; all yeas, no nays.

Motion carried.

**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, and Community Development Block Grant.

B. Department of Health and Human Services Agency

Andrea Curtis provided an update on the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program, including 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 an update.

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  
Commissioner Thelander provided an update.
- G. Nebraska Investment Finance Authority  
Commissioner Turner provided an update.
- H. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Krista Mettscher provided an update.
- I. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Andrew provided an update.

**XI. 2021 NCHH Meeting Dates**

1. June 16, 2021 @ 2:00 PM CT
2. September 15, 2021 @ 10:00 AM CT
3. November 17, 2021 @ 10:00 AM CT.

**XII. Other Business**

- A. 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 March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:37 a.m.