

Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH)
NSOB-Lower Level B Conference Room
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509

Minutes of Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – 10:00AM (CT)

Notice Published: Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar (January 23, 2022)
NCHH Website (January 23, 2022)

Open Meetings Act – A copy of the Open Meetings Act was linked on the agenda and a copy was available on the sign in table. All votes were taken by voice vote of commissioners.
[Nebraska Revised Statute 84-1407 to 84-1414](#)

I. Roll Call:

Lynn Kohout called roll.

Nine of fifteen Commissioners were present: Jeff Chambers, Ryan Durant, Paul Hamelink, Lee Ann Heflebower, Thomas Judds, Kathy Mesner, Judy Pederson, Judy Petersen, and John Turner.

Absent Commissioners: Nancy Bentley, Roger Nadrchal, Randy McCoy, Mindy Paces, Amy Thelander and Brent Williams

Guests present included: Paula Kaslon, Midwest Housing Development Fund; Carol Bodeen, Nebraska Housing Developers Association; and Evan Clark, Hoppe Development.

Department of Economic Development Staff present included: Sheryl Hiatt and Lynn Kohout.

Department of Health and Human Services Staff present included: Andrea Curtis.

II. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairwomen Heflebower declared a quorum and meeting was called to order at 10:03am. Chairwoman Heflebower declared a copy of the Open meetings Act was linked to the meeting agenda and was also made available on the sign-in table.

III. Introductions: Chairwoman Heflebower welcomed all Commissioners and guests and all present were asked to introduce themselves.

IV. Public Comment: Chairwoman Heflebower asked for public comment. None were made.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of September 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Pederson moved that the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Durant seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

B. Approval of November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Petersen moved that the November 17, 2021 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Durant seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

VI. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Executive Committee

Chairwoman Heflebower reported that the NCHH Executive Committee met on February 1, 2022. NAHTF awards for the 2021 and 2022 year will be presented at the Spring NIFA conference in March 2022. Chairwoman Heflebower indicated that the Executive Committee recommends the May NCHH meeting be held in York, the August meeting be held in North Platte and the November meeting be held in Lincoln.

B. Continuum of Care

Commissioner Turner reported on behalf of the Continuum of Care Committee. Tamara Wright is the new United States Interagency Council on Homelessness representative for the State of Nebraska. The national plan to end homelessness is currently being updated. The State of Nebraska's plan to end homelessness is being updated. A consultant will be hired to update the plan.

C. Education and Awareness

Commissioner Pederson also the Education and Awareness Committee is taking the lead in coordinating the 2022 NCHH housing awards. The Education and Awareness Committee is coordinating with Department of Economic Development staff to have the awards printed and ready for the NIFA luncheon, a press release will also be distributed to announce the award recipients.

D. Policy and Issues Committee

Commissioner Petersen reported that committee discussion centered around the activity of the Nebraska Legislature. Based on discussion of the committee the following three motions were recommended and approved:

1. Commissioner Petersen moved to add Carol Bodeen to the members list of the Policy and Issues Committee. Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

2. Commissioner Petersen moved to write a letter to Governor Ricketts, Senator Stinner and Senator Hilkekmann in opposition to LB722 regarding the transfer and appropriation of funds for lead-based paint hazard control from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.
3. Commissioner Petersen moved to write a letter to Senator Wayne and Senator Hansen in support of LB1073 with AM1969 requiring the State of Nebraska to apply for emergency rental assistance (ERA) available under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Commissioner Durant seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

VII. Reports from Agencies

- A. Department of Economic Development (Lynn Kohout)
Lynn Kohout, Director of Housing provided an update to the commission on the State and Federal funded programs administered by the Department of Economic Development including the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF), Rural Workforce Housing Fund, Middle Income Housing Fund, HOME Investment Partnerships Fund, National Housing Trust Fund and Community Development Block Grant.
- B. Department of Health and Human Services Agency (Andrea Curtis)
Andrea Curtis provided an update and PowerPoint presentation on the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP).

VIII. 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
No report.
- 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.
Carol Bodeen provided an update for the Nebraska Housing Developers Association.
- G. Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
John Turner provided an update.

- H. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
Sharon Kluck provided an update for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- I. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
No report.

IX. 2022 NCHH Meeting Dates

Chairwoman Heflebower indicate the dates for the 2022 calendar year are as follows:

- a. May 18, 2022 (York, Nebraska)
- b. August 17, 2022 (North Platte, Nebraska)
- c. November 16, 2022 (Lincoln, Nebraska)

X. Other Business

A. Commissioner Member Terms: Lynn Kohout indicated the following Commissioners have terms that expire on June 30, 2022: Jeff Chambers, Ryan Durant, Paul Hamelink, Thomas Judd, and Judy Pederson. The application form for appointment/reappointment can be found at: <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>.

B. Danielle Hill: Commissioner Mesner moved to send a card of condolences to the family of Danielle Hill. Commissioner Durant seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken; all yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

XI. Adjourn

Chairwoman Heflebower adjourned the meeting of February 23, 2022 at 11:49am.