



2011-2013 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE
Alan Styles, Chair Deanna Wagner, Vice Chair
9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday, October 27, 2012
Level One, #108/109, Nashville Convention Center (NCC), Nashville, TN

Chair Styles called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. La Tonya Rajah called roll. A moment of silence was called for former Commissioners Committee member Max Wells, Alachua County Housing Authority, who passed away June, 2012.

Action: Motion to Approve Minutes - July, 2012 meeting – moved by Homer Thompson second by Carl Richie Motion carried.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS/UPDATES

- Follow up- PD/Resident Issue – teleconference with NPDS subcommittee
- Communication/Advocacy – JOHCD Commissioner’s Corner – follow-up commissioner term limits
- Suggested Topics – 2013 Summer/National Conference
 1. Advocacy/New England Style recommended by Rick Leco. Session tackles advocacy issues on a local level.
 2. Fundamentals on RAD for Commissioners. Converting public housing units to section 8 and the implications.
 3. Forming nonprofits. Using mixed financing and partnering with banks, etc. recommended by Dorothy Daniels.
 4. Removing local autonomy - Mass NAHRO (test case)
 5. Housing agencies’ use of technology, using tablets/l pads in meetings, use of social networking to engage residents and community partners, making agencies more transparent, going green, etc. On line applications for Section 8/public housing.
 6. Special Issues/Continuum of Care. Relatives who assume responsibility for children who have lost their parents, foster care, reunification of families, VASH, re-entry from prison, Homelessness- focus on partnerships between agencies, Suicide among veterans.
 7. NASS NAHRO case study – centralization
- For the summer conference, Barb Cleland suggests tours for commissioners to include an army base, army hospital – view what happens to the properties when army bases close, perhaps Sunday morning.

Remarks

Betsey Martens, NAHRO President

Thanked the members for their service. As a former commissioner, she understands the role and the importance of the commissioner’s work. She thanked her board chair and national commissioners’ committee member, Angela McCormick. She applauds continued work by the committee and its partnership with NPDS to create training for commissioners. Housing Authority Insurance Group (HAIG) along with NAHRO, CLPHA and PHADA have joined to work four areas, one being to build out a robust resident commissioner advocacy training program.



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President Martens also encouraged members to be active in the voter registration campaign in your communities. Betsey also thanks Dorothy Carty Daniel for moderating the Many Voices of Public Housing during the opening plenary session. President Martens encouraged the members to review the goals/objectives of the strategic plan and continue to make the commissioners' presence known and move NAHRO forward. Finally, Betsey encourages members to join Club 21, NAHRO's policy book group that is now reading *So Rich, So Poor: Why Is it So Hard to End Poverty in America*.

Saul Ramirez, Chief Executive Officer

Saul notes the work done in Pawtucket for Housing America and adds one of the goals is to work with the minor league teams to participate in a Housing America month, slated for October. He advises commissioners assistance in this effort is critical to drive the message home in the areas that have minor league teams.

To continue the conversation on the HAIG group venture, Saul advises the program will consist of resident commissioners and leaders to bring a face to the programs we administer throughout the country and to be strong advocates and move our agenda forward. As the plan becomes more solidified, Saul advises he will be reaching out to the committee and Chair Alan Styles for input. NAHRO is excited about these two ventures and to move our advocacy and legislative efforts forward.

Q/A

Dorothy asks why the color difference in badges for commissioners? Saul advises color differentiation allows staff to quickly identify commissioners. Dorothy suggests having the same color badges and perhaps add a star to indicate commissioner delegates.

Action: Motion for the Commissioners Committee to support voter registration in housing authorities - moved by Moses Mayne, second by Homer Thompson. Motion Carried

Leg. Network/Advocacy Issues Update

John Bohm, Senior Director, Congressional Relations, Public Affairs and Field Operations

When the lame duck Congress returns after the election, they will have to make decisions to get our fiscal house in order. If part of the formula for getting our fiscal house in order is cuts in domestic, discretionary spending, this is where we are affected. Sequestration is law, which means we will be cut by 8.2% across programs, unless legislation is passed to do something else. John encourages the committee to argue for a responsible, balanced approach to deficit reduction. Each housing authority should develop a specific advocacy plan of action that utilizes an economic model for 2013 advocacy efforts. Small agencies that have large areas to cover with few staff will be hard hit. Advocates need to move to inform newly elected officials as well as remind the incumbents of our needs. John and Katy Jo hope to have resident forums in 2013 to provide information on advocacy and how they can become involved and to also dispel misconceptions regarding public housing residents.



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Katy Jo Muncie, Leg. Asst./Advocacy Coordinator - Congressional Relations, Public Affairs and Field Operations

Katy Jo joined the NAHRO staff August 1. She begins her update with information on the 535 campaign. We are working to have 535 Congressional District Contacts (CDCs) – one per house member and one per senator. She encourages the commissioners to fill the spots that are lacking to ensure full coverage. This is a good way to build leadership and encourage support by placing this information in the new commissioners' advocacy packet at the housing authorities. Action includes a range of items from letter writing to phoning, etc. Katy Jo encouraged the commissioners to attend the CDC reception Monday, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. to thank current participants for their participation and encourage new ones to do so. A formal introduction of the campaign will be provided during the Legislative Conference in March, 2013 to include CDC duties, how to perform duties without a computer, etc. Dorothy Daniels volunteered to become a CDC for MARC NAHRO. The Advocacy Center contains a Sequestration sign-on letter which can be forwarded to those who do not have computer access for immediate use. John asks those who wish to become a CDC or knows someone who does to contact him or Katy Jo.

Katy Jo also discussed the status of the Low Income Tax Credit (LIHTC). Short term fix: The Cantwell-(WA)/Snowe-(ME) amendment, in the tax extenders bill, seeks to extend the 9% credit through 2013 that has been approved in the Senate Finance Committee and awaits full approval in the Senate. It is hoped that the House will approve the language or produce something similar. Long term fix: Campaign to make the 9% credit permanent. Both the House and Senate have versions of the permanent extensions to be reviewed later. House legislation – Tiberi-(OH) and Neal-(MA).

John Bohm was asked and agreed to draft a letter of thanks to Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, advocate for the rebuilding of public housing in Galveston, TX after Hurricane Ike hit the area.

Joint PD Committee mtg. - Report

Moses Mayne, PD Subcommittee Chair

Discussion surrounding the Commissioners Empowering Residents course ensued on the following topics. Entrepreneurship is one component of this course and encompasses how commissioners will learn how to help the housing authority empower residents to develop business opportunities. A suggestion was made instead of teaching commissioners; this component should focus on how housing authorities can partner with other organizations that provide this information to residents. Create incentives for residents to attend college - The housing authority can deduct \$100.00 off their rent, if they obtain a designated GPA, perfect attendance, etc. The education component of the Empowering resident course includes the following subtopics: nutrition, health, finance, tutors, technology. Interpretation/translation was another topic for discussion. HIPA training for Commissioners.

Subcommittee/Ad Hoc Reports – see attached



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Regional Reports – Regional Vice Presidents

NERC – Bill Quirk

Housing America efforts included great turnout in Johnston, Rhode Island and the Red Socks event. Steve Merritt, NERC Regional President and Chair, Housing America, worked to form partnership with the Pawtucket Red Socks, an AAA affiliate to the Boston Red Socks. Rick Leco advises this proactive partnership was successful in signing a MOU with NERC-NAHRO. This partnership rose over \$1,000 for Housing America. Heather Medina, 2011 poster contest winner from the region, threw out the first pitch of the game. Steve Merritt provided a public service announcement about Housing America on the Pawtucket stadium's large screen. Included in this MOU is an effort to work with Minor League Baseball Central, a group that oversees all A, AA and AAA league baseball teams, to become an active, engaged partner in the national Housing America program. The goal for next year is to have a Housing America week at all minor league parks across the country. Rick Leco asks members if they have access to minor league baseball contacts, additional ideas or suggestions, to contact him.

MARC - Dorothy Carty Daniel

Completed a conference with New Jersey housing organizations which provided useful information for commissioners. Note: NJ NAHRO conference – scheduled for November, was cancelled due to restoration efforts from Hurricane Sandy.

NCRC – Deanna Wagner

Next conference will be in Minneapolis, 2013.

PNWRC – George Perez

Nothing to report.

SERC – Craig Griffith

Work carried over from its conference in June is to strengthen congressional district contacts.

SWRC – Homer Thompson

Congressional letter writing campaign, over 634 letters was written, of these, Southwest submitted 422. Next meeting, Grapevine, TX, January, and the annual meeting, Galveston, TX, June, 2013.

MPRC – Matt Pike

Advises Dianne Hovdestad testified before the Senate Housing Committee on regulatory relief, the need for reform and administrative fees. 2013 regional conference will be May 6-10 in Colorado Springs, CO.

PSWRC – Moses Mayne

Nothing to report.



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Action: Motion to adjourn moved by Carl Richie second by Homer Thompson. Motion carried .

Attendance: Alan Styles, Deanna Wagner, Jean Banks, Lonnie Boykins, Earnest Burke, Bobbie Butler, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Barb Cleland, Gary Gramling, Craig Griffith, Yolanda Hotman, Thomas Jefferson, Carolyn Jenkins, Art Kurrasch, Michael Lacey, LaDora Lattimore, Rick Leco, Beverly Mathena, Moses Mayne, Angela McCormick, Carol Nunley, George Perez, Matthew Pike, Bill Quirk, Carl Richie, Lamont Taylor, Homer Thompson, Fred Wescott, Henry Williams

Absent: Carleen Cumberbatch, Kevin Glynn, Catherine Luna, Henrietta Snipes, Joan Waring Smith and Karen Williams.

Joint meeting:
Communications/Advocacy - J. William Quirk, Chair
Legislative - Richard Leco, Chair

Attendance:

Barb Cleland, Gary Gramling, Thomas Jefferson, George Perez, Homer Thompson, Earnest Burke, Craig Griffith, Angela McCormick, Matt Pike, Carl Richie, Henry Williams

Discussion:

- Pros/cons of commissioner term limits.
- Dorothy and Fred will author an article on veterans.
- Suggestion: post article topics on website for comment
- Health care – working with dentist, optometrists. Work with housing authorities on overall health care.
- Sequestration, lame duck session, spending caps, voucher cuts, CDBG/HOME
- Housing authority consolidation
- Advocacy public relations/ negative publicity
- Work with National League of Cities, Conference of Mayors and National County Commissioners and the National Board of Realtors, to inform them about homelessness and programs other than Section 8.
- Utilizing social media.
- Advocacy/Communications plan.
- Candidates for the Nemo award can be proponents for our issues.



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Joint Meeting:
Professional Development - Moses Mayne, Chair
Resident Issues - Bobbie Butler, Chair

Attendance:

Lonnie Boykins, Michael Lacey, Beverly Mathena, Carol Nunley, Lamont Taylor, Bobbie Butler, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Art Kurrasch Jean Banks, Carol Jenkins, LaDora Lattimore and Yolanda Hotman.

Moses Mayne - spoke to Resident Issues on the items previously discussed for the commissioners Enhancing Residents' course.

Bobbie Butler - Resident issues held a joint meeting with Professional Development and provided suggestions for the resident issues course, then met separately thereafter. Resident Issues discussion topics were communication between staff and commissioners, CFR 964, MOU between the housing authority and residents.



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FOLLOW UP ITEMS FROM JULY, 2012 MEETING

Responsibility	Strategic Goal/ Item Details	Status:			Comment
		Ongoing	Comp.	Other	
Committee Resolution to the BOG	March, 2012 - One commissioner from each region be appointed to the LEGNET. – Currently: NCRC -Deanna Wagner MPRC- Matt Pike SWRC -Homer Thompson SERC - Craig Griffith PSWRC - Marlene Hurd NERC- Rick Leco MARC- Michael Lacey	X			As of 7/2012, Matt Pike, Craig Griffith and Homer Thompson were appointed. 8/2012 Michael Lacey appointed, 9/2012. PNRC remains.
Commissioners Track Chair	Strategic Action Plan - Goal 6, obj. 1, task 3: Convene Commissioners forums at summer and national conferences.	X			Format, now “roundtables”, has been incorporated into the 2012 national conference track in the form of domestic violence and homeless veterans’ sessions. Working to do same for summer conference beginning 2013.
Communication/ Advocacy Subcmte.	Strategic Action Plan – Goal 7, Obj. 4: Explore feasibility of NAHRO advocating for identical term lengths for resident and non-resident commissioners	X			Committee’s focus is now on advocacy – article follow up on subject will be written for the JOHCD <i>Commissioners Corner</i> .
PD/Resident Issues Subcmte.	Strategic Action Plan - Goal 1, Obj. 10, Task 1: Continue fine-tuning remaining commissioners training courses.	X			The NPDS subcommittee asks each regional vice president for Commissioners to provide a pre-recorded introduction that will be used for the commissioners’ fundamentals course. NPDS Subcommittee will provide 3-4 minute script by 2012 National Conference so regional VPs may be prepared to record introduction during the 2013 legislative conference in Washington, DC.
PD Subcommittee	Strategic Action Plan - Goal 1, Obj. 10, Task 2: Add a course on resident issues.	X			PD/Resident Issues wish to create their own criteria for a resident-related seminar entitled Empowering Residents. Teleconference with NPDS Subcommittee and PD subcommittee October 9 to discuss and clarify requirements.
PD/Resident Issues Subcmte.	PD subcommittee has asked NPDS subcommittee for written clarification on cost for Commissioners who wish to take the Train the Trainers course; where the commissioners can train the Commissioner Fundamentals course and where NAHRO Faculty can train and cost to train faculty.		X		NPDS Subcommittee convened a teleconference with PD subcommittee October 9 to discuss. (see summary provided at October,2012 meeting)
Resident Issues Subcmte.	Creation of a Spanish handbook of housing terminology was carried forward from 09-11 term.			X	Holding on this item for now.