



**2019-2021 Commissioners Advocacy
Subcommittee Teleconference Summary
Thursday, January 21, 2021 1:00- 1:30 PM EASTERN TIME
Presiding: Renee Smith - Chair**

Roll Call/Introductions/Welcome – Chair Smith

Chair Smith called roll without a quorum and moved into discussion topics.

Advocacy

Continued Funding for housing at current levels. The need for additional funding due to COVID-19 impacts. Advocate by talking to local and elected public officials; utilize the Action Center. **Reminder: Check out the [Advocacy Toolkit](#)**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Systemic racism and disparities that result in negative outcomes for people of color and the poor. MLK activities during the pandemic. Assault on Capitol Hill, Inaugural. How does your agency address these issues?

Member activity:

#HousersAtWork Campaign – Please send emails that showcase work being done at our local housing authorities.

1 entry – Carleen Cumberbatch

Exciting initiatives, projects or relevant information exchange

Karina Mason Rorris, Commissioners Committee chair, addressed the subcommittee and sought ideas for diversity/self-care speakers to address full committee in upcoming meetings. All suggestions for contacts should be forwarded to La Tonya Rajah, staff liaison.

Discussion

General updates on conferences held, whether it was virtual or in-person, and the probability of NAHRO having the National Conference in person or a virtual one this year. The discussion concluded with problems kids are having with online learning and how some of them have fallen behind. Chair Renee said that was one of the reasons why they are opening up their learning centers, even though they probably should not, is because the kids need a place to receive in-person learning and tutoring.

Advocacy Subcommittee Corner

Speedy recovery for Subcommittee members: Gary Valentine and Brenda Honeycutt

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attendance: Highlighted in yellow below.

Next meeting: March 18, 2021

ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE Every other month – 3 rd Thursday Attendance - January 21, 2021 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time	
Chair: E Renee Smith Guest: Karina Mason Rorris	
1. Richard Conforti	5. Dirk Hoek
2. Carleen Cumberbatch	6. Michael Lacey
3. Robert Finch	7. Vincent White
4. Willie Haynes	8. Phil Bernal
5. Grant Henry	
Commissioners Track Group Co Chairs: Lucille Boss Dina Getty	
9. Barb Cleland	13. Brenda Honeycutt
10. Sheryl English	14. LaRence Snowden
11. Richard Laferte	15. Gary Valentine
12. Kenyon Lowe	16. TomiRene Hellman
Ex Officio – Carl Richie	

Send advocacy letters to our legislators through the Advocacy Action Center at designated times. Partner with Legislative Network on other ways to enhance advocacy efforts.

Suspended Commissioners Track Group duties due to changes in conference platform. See alternative #2.

Create substantive, relevant topics and sessions for the national conference track and possibly for sessions under different tracks. Co-chairs will serve as contacts for the commissioners track on the National Conf. Planning Cmte., review session topics from the call for session proposals and will advise committee on session topics or to submit sessions for the committee to host. Group members will ensure timely, relevant sessions are represented whether by call for proposals or by actively creating session proposals (moderate or serve as a panelist) that benefit all levels of commissioner experience focusing on advocacy, communication, professional

development, and adult literacy.

Alternate Obj. 2: FULL COMMITTEE - Work to encourage board members and agencies to submit material for the #HousersAtWork Campaign to showcase the agency, commissioner and community work done during COVID-19 pandemic. Goal: determine how many stories will be posted by commissioners and their agencies by Dec. 1.