



## COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE SUMMARY

April 2, 2020 2:00 – 3:00 P.M., Eastern time

COMMITTEE CHAIR, KARINA MASON RORRIS – PRESIDING

Karina Mason Rorris called the meeting to order and roll call that did not result in a quorum. February 5 minutes will be approved at the May 7 meeting.

### **President Sunny Shaw**

President Shaw thanked the commissioners for their commitment to this committee and to NAHRO. She congratulated the committee on the schedule of work and the tone you set for your agencies. Ms. Shaw knows the value you bring to your agencies and communities as a commissioner who have a wealth of experience in other arenas for our members and colleagues to tap into.

A question was asked regarding whether or not the committee will have input into the ED selection process should Ms. Todman's HUD Deputy Secretary nomination be confirmed. President Shaw noted there will be a process established with an Interim ED and representatives from each portion of the NAHRO organization will be able to provide input on the next Executive Director.

### **Senior Vice President Patricia Wells**

Ms. Wells also expressed her thanks to the committee members. As volunteers you can spend your time and talents in other endeavors and is pleased that you are NAHRO's colleagues in advocacy and ambassadors for your agency and communities.

### **Updates**

Professional Development – Jackie Rhodes, PD Director was unable to attend meeting but asked members, if interested, to register and promote to your colleagues the commissioners guide to monitoring and oversight training April 20-23. Early bird ends 3/30/21! Registration closes 4/13/21! Click on link for the NAHRO Events Calendar: <https://nahro.personifycloud.com/PersonifyEbusiness/Events/NAHROEventsCalendar/MeetingDetails.aspx?productId=204435624>

Nikki Vazquez Chair – Communications Subcommittee noted during the Washington Virtual Conference although she did not have a lot of colleagues participate during during Hill Day, that freed up more questions and discussion with her and her reps.

She and Fred Banuelos are working on an article for the Journal of Housing and Community Development magazine (JOHCD). Full committee task that fits into the Communication Subcommittee's goals. Provide a quote for the NAHRO website on these questions:

1. **What are the most valuable aspects of your NAHRO membership?**

examples: The relationships I have developed through my membership in NAHRO is invaluable! Experts from across the country that become friends is priceless.

2. **Why would you recommend joining NAHRO to a colleague?**

examples: By joining NAHRO you have an amazing think tank at your fingertips - people on the ground doing the work and sharing their experiences & expertise.

Use the link to add your quotes. [COMMISSIONER QUOTES ON VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP.docx](#) or email them to La Tonya who will forward to Sylvia Gimenez, Director, Communications.

Renee Smith – Chair – Advocacy Subcommittee noted Hill Day during the Washington Virtual Conference a success. She encourages continued interaction with your Representatives and Senators, especially by using [Advocacy Action Center](#) and encouraged you to get your colleagues involved as well. The Advocacy Subcommittee will resume work on securing sessions for the 2021 National Conference. A separate panel of H/CD professionals will select sessions based on the call for Presentations. Forward any session topic suggestions to the Advocacy Subcommittee Chair, Renee Smith with a cc to La Tonya Rajah, Staff Liaison. If you would like to participate in topic discussion or would like to volunteer to serve on a session panel, please advise La Tonya so you will be provided the Zoom meeting link. The subcommittee session meetings will be from 1:00 -2:00 p.m., Eastern Time on the following days: April 22, May 6 and May 20.

### **[2021 National Conference Call for Proposals](#)**

NAHRO is *tentatively* planning an in-person/hybrid National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on October 7-9. Here is an opportunity to share your experience as a housing and community development professional by submitting a session proposal for the 2021 NAHRO National Conference. **Proposal deadline is June 4.** Access to the submission site can be found at the link above as well as session proposal guidelines, audience and selection..

### **Closing Thoughts – Chair Karina Mason Rorris**

#### **Housing and Equity Policy Framework**

We will discuss in further detail the policy framework developed by NAHROs Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and Approved by the NAHRO Board of Governors. If our current goals/objectives touch on some of our committee responsibility areas, we will note that in our recommendation and/or expand work and incorporate different aspects of topic into our current workplan.

The Committee’s task is to:

1. provide recommendations on action NAHRO should take in these areas and, if applicable,
2. incorporate these items into our existing goals/objectives and continue work on them into the 2021-2023 term. To be covered in more detail during the May 7 full committee meeting.

Karina thanked everyone for their committee participation and looks forward to our next meeting May 7.

**Action:** Motion to adjourn moved by Carleen Cumberbatch, second by Renee Smith. Motion carried.

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**ATTENDANCE:** Karina Mason Rorris, Fred Banuelos, Phil Bernal, Lucille Boss, Barb Cleland, Carleen Cumberbatch, Sheryl English, Willie Haynes, Dirk Hoek, Brenda Honeycutt, Johnny Johnson, Adrian Jones, Kenyon Lowe, Char Reavis, Sharon Scudder, Renee Smith, LaRence Snowden, Gary Valentine, Nicole Vazquez, and Carl Richie.

**Absent:** Stefanie Benvenuto, Sam Bergami, Sandra Boutell, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Richard Conforti, Robert Finch, Neil Flynn, Alisha Gant, Dina Getty, Mari Hayden, Grant Henry, TomiRene Hettman, Thomas Jefferson, Michael Lacey, Richard Laferte, George Perez, Henrietta Snipes, Susan Ulrich, Vincent White

## Goal/Objective Status - April 7, 2021

**Goal A - Maintain NAHRO's position as the preeminent organization for the development and implementation of responsible housing and community development policy by vigorously advocating for legislation, regulations, core programs and innovative initiatives.**

### Obj. 1. ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE - Work with Legislative Network Advisory Committee (LNAC) to actively engage in all letter writing campaigns.

- Action call: participated in goal to send 2000 letters to Congress and the White House asking for H/CD programs in the next COVID-19 emergency legislation. by July 1. (completed: exceeded 2000 letters sent).
- August, 2020 – participated in goal of 8501 letters to congress during August Advocacy Campaign. (completed: exceeded goal -approximately 13,000 letters sent).
- December, 2020. - Continue to answer call for advocacy letter writing.

**Goal E – Strengthen NAHRO as a thought-leader by improving communication, networking, information exchange, and knowledge transfer with and among members, partners and stakeholders, and by enhancing the experience of members and next-generation professionals.**

- June, 2020 – uploaded “Commissioners at Work” - a compilation of activities at the 2019 National Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, TX- for the NAHRO website Commissioners Resource page.
- August 7, 2020 - Collaborated with IRGE Chair, Alan Zais to provide insight on diversity, equity and inclusion best practices.
- October 2, 2020 – Collaborated with DEIAC Chair, Liz Glenn to provide insight on diversity, equity and inclusion best practices.
- February, 2021 – Speakers from Rapid Results Institute and C4 Innovations provided information on a 100 day challenge to galvanize and target diversity, equity and inclusion efforts with regards to homelessness.

### Obj. 1. -COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - Work with regions to ensure nominees for Commissioner of the Year Award.

- 2020 - Chair encouraged regional service officers to submit worthy candidates for the Commissioner of the Year award and to enter their regional recipients for the national award. Currently have two nominations.

- Reminder of award deadline and Commissioner of the Year award article published in the [June 15 NAHRO Monitor](#), July 31 award name update, August 15, August 31, September 15 deadline extended to October 8.
- July, 2020 – reminder sent to Regional VP-Commissioners to encourage regional nominations and to nominate regional commissioner award recipients for national recognition.
- October, 2020 - selected Commissioners of the Year recipient. 3 candidates.

**Obj. 2 – ADVOCACY COMMITTEE -Create substantive, relevant topics and sessions for the national conference track and possibly for sessions under different tracks.**

- A list of session topics has been compiled and commissioners’ track group will resume work when warranted.
- March, 2021 - 2021 National Conference call for proposals - submit sessions.

**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.**

- March, 2021 – 1 entry.
- March, 2021 - Encourage testimonials by all committee members regarding value in NAHRO membership

**1. What are the most valuable aspects of your NAHRO membership?**

The relationships I have developed through my membership in NAHRO invaluable! Experts from across the country that become friends is priceless.

**2. Why would you recommend joining NAHRO to a colleague?**

By joining NAHRO you have an amazing think tank at your fingertips - people on the ground doing the work and sharing their experiences & expertise.

**F. Advance diversity, equity, and inclusion as crucial to healthy communities.**

**Obj 1: Discuss efforts that engage our agencies, residents and community to encourage diversity, equity and inclusiveness.**

- August 7 – Collaborated with IRGE Committee chair, Alan Zais addressed the committee on ways to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in housing authorities and communities.
- **Ongoing Discussion:** Efforts to focus attention on empowerment efforts: encourage our residents and community to complete the census form and to vote, attend workshops focused on government, the importance of the vote, electoral college, local activism, law enforcement, etc.

Empowerment - My Brother's Keeper Alliance, launched by Former President Obama. This program addresses gaps faced by boys and young men of color and focuses on building safe and supportive communities where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunity.

Scholarships - Carleen Cumberbatch noted her agency's annual scholarship program which garnered 16 applicants, despite COVID-19. Approximately 90% of the tenants are African American. Jurors will judge and \$2,500 will be awarded.

Law Enforcement- Committee member Adrian (AJ) Jones has been invited to serve on a 37-member task force, 17 of which are African American. Chair Mason Rorris extended congratulations to AJ on this wonderful opportunity. Ms. Jones advised the newly formed group will tackle police reform by crafting a set of recommendations within 90 days for the city to adopt.

Sheryl English advised she also was selected by her Mayor to join and chairs an ad hoc Use of Force Committee for the Denton, TX Police Department. They are concluding their deliberations and will present recommendations to the City Council. The Chair and the members applauded Sheryl's efforts.

Adrian "AJ" Jones updated activity of Fresno task force. The task force consisted of 37 individuals which was broken down into four subcommittees: recruitment policy, budget/contracts, community outreach and community development. AJ sat on the community development subcommittee whose task is to reimagine a definition of a safe community that did not include police. The task force has completed its work by submitting a total of 73 recommendations to the city which is expected to accept but it is uncertain whether the city will implement. Ms. Jones noted Recommendation #68 is her suggestion to fund a pilot program for head of households and primary caregivers to receive their next level of education as a pathway to safe communities.

Voter Registration- Carleen Cumberbatch shared that she volunteers with voter registration in DeKalb County, Georgia. Her Executive Director is attempting to get drop boxes positioned on housing authority properties for residents who are 60 and older, who occupy a unit and who do not have transportation to get to polling sites. They are awaiting confirmation on that request at this time. If approved, drop box security issues will be handled by voting officials with cameras, etc.

- October 2, 2020 - Collaborated with DEIAC Chair, Liz Glenn to provide insight on diversity, equity and inclusion-best practices.
- February, 2021 - Speakers from Rapid Results Institute and C4 Innovations spoke about DEI 100 day challenges to inspire goal setting, levels of innovation, collaboration and execution required to achieve goal.

## SUBCOMMITTEES, DESCRIPTION AND MEETING INFO

<b>ADVOCACY</b> Every other month – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Next meeting: May 20 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time	
Chair: E Renee Smith	
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
17. 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.

**Resume work to create substantive, relevant topics and sessions for the 2021 National Conference in Phoenix, AZ.**

Commissioners Track Group Co-chairs will report to the full committee on session progress for the 2021 National Conference. The Commissioners Track Group will review session topics, create session proposals that benefit all levels of commissioner experience focusing on advocacy, communication, professional development and adult literacy for approval by full committee. **Deadline for session submissions is June 4.**

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.

<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b> Every other month – 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday Next meeting: March 24 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time	
Chair: Nikki Vazquez	
1. Stefanie Benvenuto	4. Neil Flynn
2. Sam Bergami	5. Adrian Jones
3. Sandra Boutell	6. George Perez
Commissioner of the Year Group Co-Chairs: Johnny Johnson / Henrietta Snipes	
7. Dorothy Carty Daniel	10. Sherry Scudder
8. Alisha Gant	11. Susan Ulrich
9. Mari Hayden	12. Fred Bañuelos
13. Char Reavis	

Draft and/or provide article topics for the Commissioner's Corner of the *Journal of Housing and Community Development* magazine.

Assist in providing relevant material for research page.

Identify and recommend ways to communicate more effectively who NAHRO is and what NAHRO represents to our peers throughout the country. **See full request for marketing quotes.**

Implement communications plan.

Commissioners of the Year Group members will encourage regions to submit regional commissioner award nominees for the national commissioner award consideration. **Nominees not chosen for award will carry over to next year if they continue to be eligible for award.** Review and select yearly award recipient.