



**2019-2021 Member Services Awards Subcommittee – Conference Call**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2021 – 3:00 pm-3:30 pm**

Staff Liaison: Lori Myers-Carpenter | | [lmcarpenter@nahro.org](mailto:lmcarpenter@nahro.org)  
<http://www.nahro.org/content/nahro-member-services-committee>

**Attendance:**

Those on the call: Kathy Walter, Sharon Dixson, Dale Gravett, Karen Reynolds, Andy Rodriguez, and Dannie Walker

**Guest:**

Milet Hopping

Kathy Walter welcomed everyone, and she said they had three things to go over, the selection of the award-winning agencies to be featured in the 2021 Call for Presentations, a reminder about the award of merit juries, and continuing the discussion from Tuesday's Member Services call on the DEI designations.

Kathy said staff sent her the results of the survey to select the award-winning programs to feature in their Call for Presentations submission for the 2021 National Conference and there were four top contenders. She said they would reach out to the top three first to see if they wanted to be included in the session, and if one declined, they would contact the fourth. Staff said the top four programs were New Path Community Housing Partnership from Idaho Housing and Finance, Health & Wellness Programs from Nampa Housing Authority, HYPE/TWTW Youth Employment Programs from the City of Wichita and Donovan Manor Health & Wellness Partnership from Newport Housing Authority. She said she would contact the top three, and then she would write up a draft for the Call for Presentations, which she would share with the subcommittee before submitting it to the Conference Planning Committee for consideration.

Kathy mentioned the regional juries for the 2021 Awards of Merit were selected and the applications were sent out on Monday. She asked those committee members who were serving on juries to please score the applications and return them by the deadline. Staff said she was still waiting on the jury names from the SERC region, but she wasn't surprised they hadn't been turned in yet since they had the most applications to score, so they needed more jurors than the other regions. Dale Gravett asked if San Antonio or any of the other agencies who normally submit a lot of applications had sent in as many this year, and staff said no. She said they received more applications from different agencies this year, and she thought it might be because everyone had to do innovative things this year due to COVID.

Kathy then turned to the discussion to the DEI designations. She asked the group if they had thought of how the Awards Subcommittee could help move forward the ideas that came out of Tuesday's discussion. She said she suggested possibly adding points to the awards application if they addressed any of the DEI areas or even adding DEI as a new category or sub-category. Milet asked how they would do that; would they just write something up? Kathy said yes, they would add a description to the scoring criteria. Sharon Dixson said it was going to be difficult for Section 8 agencies to achieve the access points. Kathy said if they added a DEI section to the awards, that might make it easier for all

agencies, including Section 8, to participate, and maybe they could focus on some of the programs already in place to help Section 8 residents with education or financial stability. Milet said they would need to work with the marketing subcommittee on the best way to roll this out. Sharon said she is a visual person so if she could see something in print on how this might work, it would help. Kathy said she would create a mock-up of a possible new scoring criteria, which she would share with the group for discussion on the next call.

She asked if there were any other comments. Dale asked if any thought had been put toward where they would present the Awards of Merit now that the Summer Conference was gone. Staff said there were two ideas presented. The first came from the Summer Conference Task Force that was created about five years ago, who suggested the Awards of Merit be presented at the Washington Conference and the Awards of Excellence be presented at the National Conference. Staff said this would work, but they would need to overhaul the entire awards process and deadlines to do so. Another idea from staff was to keep the same process and timeline, but to make the Awards of Merit Presentation at the National Conference and then present the Awards of Excellence at the Washington Conference. She asked if the group liked either idea or if they had other suggestions, and they said they liked the second idea better.

Kathy asked if there was any other business and hearing none, the call ended at 3:30 pm.