



COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE AGENDA August 6, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M., Eastern time

COMMITTEE CHAIR, KARINA MASON RORRIS – PRESIDING

Chair, Karina Mason Rorris called the meeting to order and extended welcome to everyone. Call to order did not result in a quorum so the action item will be revisited during the September 3 meeting.

Comments- Patricia Wells, Senior Vice President

Ms. Wells applauded the work the committee has accomplished over the past two years and highlighted the current Commissioners Committee article authored by Sherry Scudder and featured in the Journal of Housing and Community Development magazine's July/August issue. She also thanked the members for their commitment to their agencies, residents and communities.

Comments - Michael Gerber, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Gerber offered reminders on Advocacy efforts noted below and encouraged members to get their colleagues, Executive Director, City Councilmen and other community leaders to send letters for Capital Fund, Operating Subsidy, Choice Neighborhood, HOME and CDBG funds.

August Advocacy

August Advocacy is NAHRO's annual campaign to reach Congress with advocacy messages about affordable housing and community development programs. This year, we have a goal to send 12,501 letters to Congress (1 more letter than we sent last year). Submit letters via [Action Alert Center](#) or the [Advocacy App](#) become involved - [Congressional Contacts](#) consider being a Congressional contact, click link or see attachment for more info . [Advocacy/PR Toolkit](#) – Find info on advocacy training, legal issues in advocacy and other resources

- **Week 1:** Housing Is Critical Infrastructure
- **Week 2:** Universal Housing Vouchers
- **Week 3:** Voucher Services and Support
- **Week 4:** Tax Credits and Community Development Resources
- **Week 5:** FY 2022 T-HUD Appropriations

Eviction Crisis Webinar Thursday, August 12 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time

Mr. Gerber also mentioned the eviction crisis and the Emergency Rental Assistance programs (ERA) that assist those that are facing eviction. The CDC extended the eviction moratorium to the beginning of October. President Shaw and Senior Vice President Wells will convene a webinar to discuss the ERA programs, what is happening in public housing with the eviction moratorium and how we all can engage to help as efficiently and effectively as we can.

2021 National Conference and Exhibition in Phoenix, AZ

Finally, Mr. Gerber addressed the National Conference and Exhibition in Phoenix. This a critical time for us to meet with our colleagues to discuss ongoing housing issues such as the eviction moratorium which will be expiring. While we understand the concern around requiring vaccinations prior to attending the national conference, careful thought went into the decision made considering the increase deaths and outbreaks due to COVID-19. We did not want to cancel the conference so to make this event as safe as possible, taking in consideration that we have seasoned members and members with underlying medical conditions, we ask that all registrants be vaccinated and wear masks. We will monitor any changes/updates to CDC requirements.

Please share with your Executive Director and colleagues why you are coming to the conference, and you understand why NAHRO utilized this method to ensure we are as safe as possible. Mike concluded with thanks to the committee members in advance for your continued support and attendance at the National Conference and Exhibition. Mr. Gerber then opened the floor for any questions.

Questions:

1. Will accommodations be made for individuals with disabilities who cannot receive the vaccine due to their condition?

Mr. Gerber advised unfortunately there are no exceptions at this time. We have heard about that concern; however, we will take that back to our counsel to determine if there is a protocol that can be employed to accommodate disabled individuals who can't take the vaccine.

2. Will Convention Center Restrictions due to COVID-19 conflict with NAHRO's requirements?

While there is no way to create a zero-risk conference, however, because NAHRO is not a governmental agency, NAHRO has the ability to establish conference requirements such as mandatory vaccinations for all participants and wearing a mask. We share your concern which is why we are working with the two hotels (Hyatt and Sheraton), who have strong protocols, i.e., food and beverage, housekeeping, due to their respective parent companies, so we are pleased to see that in place. If you have additional questions, suggestions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to reach out to [Mike Gerber](#) or [Jill Randles](#), Conference Director.

3. Can you clarify that unvaccinated individuals who wish to attend the will not be allowed to attend?

Mike Gerber confirmed, unfortunately, due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, we will not be able to host unvaccinated individuals who wish to attend the conference.

4. Will we have to show proof of vaccination?

Jill Randles, Conference Director advised the registrant, or someone who registers on your behalf, will go through the normal registration process, a confirmation will be sent via email. In that confirmation is a link to a secure portal with information about the proof of vaccination process. Currently, the NAHRO staff is going through this process, and it is easy to use. Click on the link, complete the form with registrant's name, email address and upload registrant's vaccine card or proof of vaccination. The company we are working with, Safe Expo, will verify proof of vaccination

via email within one business day and will notify NAHRO of the registrant's status. The status information will be placed in the registrant's registration record.

By October 4, individuals need to be fully vaccinated and two weeks out from your final shot. The vaccination verification has to be done pre-conference only. No onsite registration or vaccination verification will be offered at this conference.

The information is on the website. Should you have questions regarding the vaccine verification process or any other questions regarding vaccine requirements, please contact [Jill Randles](#), Conference Director.

5. What does Safe Expo do with the vaccine information they have collected?

Ms. Randles advised safety was a big concern to us, so the portal is secure and meets all Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) protocols. As soon as your information is verified and confirmation forwarded to you, your proof of vaccination is destroyed. For more information about security, please contact [Jill Randles](#), Conference Director.

6. Is there an outreach strategy in place to local politicians, municipalities and counties? Recently these areas have received more COVID funds. For example, the City of Allentown, PA has received 57 million dollars so they are pleased about that and may be primed to advocate for public housing and more affordable housing since they were a direct recipient.

Mike Gerber advised our staff is in the process of talking to various partners like the National Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, organizations that have great relationships with Mayors and County officials. They can weigh in via the Advocacy Action Center. Please share any information with [Tess Hembree](#) and [Jenna Hampton](#) - the Congressional Relations Team.

Suggestion offered to contact your Continuum of Care boards also.

CEO Search Committee Update

The CEO Search Committee is seeking a candidate who can be a connector to not only industry officials but can use collaborative skill sets to bring others to the table. Carleen Cumberbatch offers congratulatory wishes to Mike Gerber in his role as NAHRO Interim CEO. Mr. Gerber thanked Carleen for her well wishes.

Mr. Gerber noted that currently, an executive search firm has been selected by the CEO Search Committee. The search firm will begin the process of selecting candidates for consideration by the CEO Search Committee. Mike encourages the committee to send the name of any candidates they think would be a good fit, to the CEO search Committee. [Past President Carl Richie](#) is on the CEO Search Committee so you can forward that information to him or [President Sunny Shaw](#), [Senior Vice President Patricia Wells](#) or [Budget and Administration Committee Chair, Clif Martin](#) to ensure we can get the most talented person inside or outside of the industry with great association management skills to lead this association.

Chair Karina Mason Rorris called upon Carl Richie to provide the CEO Search Committee process: Virtual interviews were held with two firms to select the search firm. The CEO Search Committee is in negotiations with the selected search firm at this time. When the contract is signed, the announcement will be made on the chosen search firm and the firm will begin the search process. The firm is familiar with the industry and has placed CEOs, Eds with other NAHRO members or members with PHADA and CLPHA.

The hope of the CEO Search Committee is to identify good candidates and be able to interview, produce a short list, and announce CEO selection at the National Conference. This is an aggressive schedule, but we are diligent in seeking to meet that goal. There is a lot of work to do before the end of this year regarding federal legislation as NAHRO needs a face and spokesperson to lead discussions on the infrastructure bill and other housing related bills that we should weigh in on and to relinquish the reins so Mike Gerber can fully resume his CEO duties for the Austin Housing Authority. CEO Search informational briefings will be provided for the membership so they will be updated and informed on process and progress.

Chair Karina Mason Rorris thanked Mr. Richie for his update and leadership.

Mr. Richie noted he will be going to Alaska as part of the NAHRO International, Research and Global Exchange knowledge exchange trip to the Cook Inlet Housing Authority. Exchange participants will cover homelessness, climate change and other issues. Mr. Richie agreed to provide an exchange update at our September 3 meeting.

Commissioners Track Session Overview - Jill Randles, Director, Conferences

Due to challenges created by the COVID-19 crisis, including anticipated lower attendee count, modifications had to be made which means a lower number of concurrent sessions will be accepted. Typically, we have 40-50 sessions and that had to be reduced to a maximum of 25 – three to four sessions per topic track – seven tracks total.

NAHRO is also running a Commissioners Fundamentals Seminar as an add on at the National Conference which will run all day, 8/6 and half day on 8/7. We were asked to be mindful of this so Commissioner sessions and the Seminar won't conflict allowing Commissioners to have full access to all of the Commissioner offerings.

We received seven session proposals, four of which came from the committee. Of these seven, one committee submission* and two outside of the committee were chosen:

1. Housing Commissioners Roundtable – Moderated by Richard Leco and Stan Quy
This was chosen because Commissioners ask for the open roundtables.
2. Keeping Commissioners in the Know: Understanding HUD Repositioning
This was another topic requested and found this would be helpful to Commissioners.
3. *Commissioners Experience: Collaboration with Executive Director, Advocacy, Governance

In addition, a lot of the other track sessions would be of interest to Commissioners as well.

Ms. Randles and the jurors appreciated the time and effort placed into the committee's four submissions, but limitations prevented all of the submissions to be placed.

1. Lessons Learned from COVID-19 – There is another session that was similar to this but was agency wide as opposed to strictly for Commissioners.
2. Pathways out of Poverty – The panel was very similar to another session submitted by the Committee and variation of speakers was sought for each session.
3. Workplace Violence – This is more of an organizational management session for everyone. This is an important topic, but more session development is needed to include more expert perspectives on the panel. If this can be developed more, she would love to see this as a session down the road.

Items 2 and 3 can be resubmitted after suggested comments are considered and incorporated into them.

Closing Thoughts – Chair Karina Mason Rorris

Chair Karina Mason Rorris reminded committee of the August Advocacy push for letters- see info above. Participate in Eviction Webinar 1:00 -12:00pm, Eastern Time.

Updates: 2021 National Conference and Exhibition- Phoenix, AZ
Commissioner Activities - We will have the 19-21 outgoing meeting, the 21-23 incoming organizational meeting and 21-23 incoming election meeting, First Time Attendees and the Commissioners Booth in the Exhibit Hall. Commissioner of the Year Award nominee count currently stands at six.

Subcommittee Highlights - attached

Policy Framework Focus- Social Determinants of Health – Neighborhood and Build Environment – Health care – Open Committee Discussion (Check out [Best Practices](#) on the NAHRO website- 3 excerpts attached)

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Phil Bernal, second by George Perez. Motion Carried

Attendance: Karina Mason Rorris, Fred Banuelos, Sam Bergami, Phil Bernal, Lucille Boss, Sandra Boutell, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Carleen Cumberbatch, Willie Haynes, Johnny Johnson, Adrian Jones, Richard Laferte, Kenyon Lowe, George Perez, Renee Smith, Gary Valentine and Carl Richie.

Attachments

ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – 7/22/21

- Work on 4 session proposals submitted, one was accepted – (mentioned in agenda above)
- NAHRO Quotes – please forward to La Tonya or send directly to [Sylvia Gimenez](#) with a cc to La Tonya.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – 7/26/2021

- Commissioner of the Year award – Current nominees-6
- [#HousersAtWork](#) - please forward to La Tonya or send directly to [Sylvia Gimenez](#) with a cc to La Tonya or click on link for more information and to view stories.
- JOHCD article topics – Reminder of September/October issue deadline – Sept 3.
- See Sherry Scudder’s JOHCD Commissioners’ Article for Jul/Aug., “The Basics of Being a Housing Agency Commissioner”. https://www.nahro.org/journal_article/the-basics-of-being-a-housing-agency-commissioner/

NAHRO Congressional Contacts

Summary

The NAHRO Congressional Relations team recently launched the “Congressional Contacts” initiative. Originally an idea from the Legislative Network Advisory Committee, the goal is to identify a NAHRO member in each congressional district who will commit to sending NAHRO’s advocacy letters. The Congressional Contacts will help NAHRO expand our voice on Capitol Hill and specifically target Congress members who can support vital housing and community development legislation.

How You Can Help

Spread the word about Congressional Contacts to NAHRO members in your agency, region, or chapter. Let them know the following:

- Any NAHRO member can become a Congressional Contact
- The ask is simple: Pledge to send pre-drafted advocacy letters from NAHRO’s Action Alert Center when we notify you by email.
- Become a Congressional Contact by submitting on online form at www.NAHRO.org/contacts or emailing jhampton@nahro.org.

Sample Recruitment Email



[GREETING],

National NAHRO recently launched the [Congressional Contacts](http://www.NAHRO.org/contacts) initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to recruit NAHRO members from every congressional district to support ongoing advocacy efforts.

Your voice is needed – offices on Capitol Hill want to hear from agencies that serve residents in *their* districts. When advocacy opportunities arise, NAHRO will ask you to send a pre-drafted letter from their online [Action Alert Center](http://www.NAHRO.org/contacts). The NAHRO team wants to make it easy for you to influence your members of Congress as they make decisions that impact our programs and communities.

To become a contact, submit an interest form online at www.NAHRO.org/contacts. Contact Jenna Hampton (jhampton@nahro.org) with any questions.

For more information:

- Read this April 15th NAHRO Blog post – [“NAHRO Launches Congressional Contacts Initiative”](#)