



**2021-2023 Advocacy Subcommittee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022 | 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. EST**

Presiding: Renee Smith, Subcommittee Chair

Chair Renee Smith called the meeting to order.

Approve Minutes | August 9, 2022

Gary Valentine moved, Karina second motion to approve meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Presentation: NAHRO Advocacy Plan

[Tess Hembree, Director, Legislative Affairs](#), noted that the Legislative Network Advisory Committee (LNAC) advocacy plan focused primarily on the advocacy letters and attempting to meet the goals of 50,000 letters, and 50 site visits to congressional, state and local legislators. She noted the committee may not make goal for 50,000 advocacy letters and will not pivot to:

- Growing grassroots participation
- Working to reach 50 site visits



[Jenna Hampton, Legislative Affairs Analyst](#) discussed of the 250 active Congressional contacts, most are commissioners. Another webinar is planned regarding the lame duck letter writing. Ms. Hampton encouraged everyone who know of any site visits, i.e. virtual call, etc. legislators, governments officials, staff, please advise contact her. . You can record the visit online: [Site Visit Report Form - August \(nahro.org\)](#)

Letter writing impact of regional, chapter customization.

Discussion:

Who can write letters? The committee members advised anyone in the agency can be asked, residents, etc. Tess will be your contact for additional information and/or guidance. Perhaps stress the educational aspect.

Recap/Comments | National Conference Activities

Comments:

- Majority of comments were extremely favorable
- Great First-time attendees. Bingo winners received California wine. VPs tasked with a fun presentation, NAHRO, and housing trivia.
- great venue - commissioners – evaluating an ed. Great session but room was too small. Great variety.
- ADA accessibility – more ADA accessible facilities with ramps that are not steep and elevator access to all floors.
- Panels changed at last minute.
- First time commissioners who go to ethics/fundamentals need an Acronym glossary sheet in packet -either in session packet on conference packet.
- Conference site suggestion Marco Island -Fl

Survey Feedback: [Survey distribution](#)

Goals & Objectives | Next Steps

Continued Advocacy

- Advocacy Training - Advocacy training on deck by January, 2023.
- NAHRO Advocacy plan
- Promote NAHRO certification - send reminder to recertify 30-60 days prior to expiration.

Completed

- August Advocacy: continue efforts year-round
- Conference Session proposals: plan to submit session proposals for 2023 conferences.

Commissioner updates:

Brenda Honeycutt advised she will become Brenda Young, October 29. Congratulations to the bride-to-be!

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- **Attachments:**
 - [Commissioners at work - new](#)
 - [Monitor/IOHCD print schedule](#)
 - [Commissioners Mentors List](#)

Attendance:

Renee Smith, Carleen Cumberbatch, Willie Haynes, Brenda Honeycutt, Karina Mason Rorris, Gary Valentine, Lucille Boss.

SUBCOMMITTEE OBJECTIVES/TASK UPDATE

10/11/2022

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.

MAJOR OBJECTIVE: to work with Legislative Network Advisory Committee (LNAC) & NAHRO's Legislative Affairs Department to establish measurable goals and work with all Commissioners to meet goals.

In Progress 9/2022-Legislative Affairs staff working on ways to track commissioner participation during August Advocacy Campaigns.

Completed 9/2022- The August Advocacy campaign - 1,038 participants sent 27,620 advocacy letters and 15 site visits.

In Progress -Post-2022 National Conference – discussed with Staff Liaison the advocacy plan to include webinar and additional letter writing campaigns.

GOAL B: Strengthen NAHRO's role as the leading resource in developing the professional expertise and credibility of housing and community development practitioners.

Work with LNAC to develop a modern program to train and educate NAHRO members on advocacy basics and to establish measurable goals.

Completed – 8/2022 -Advocacy training – awaiting roll out of training.

Completed – 9/2022 Resident Leadership Training has begun.

In Progress - 10/2022 Legislative Network chair to discuss collaborative efforts. Program should include training for Leg Net Leadership team who represent all NAHRO regions, and other Leg Net members, allowing these members to not only be experts in advocacy, but to act as mentors and trainers for their colleagues.

GOAL D: To ensure NAHRO's continued financial stability by expanding revenue sources, exploring new business opportunities, and maximizing efficiency. No goals set for this goal, however Chair Boss wishes to mention in the event objectives would be pursued.

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.

Commissioners Track Group will create substantive, relevant topics, and sessions for the National Conference.

Completed for 2022. Propose 3-5 sessions via calls for proposals and/or submissions by the Commissioners Committee (consider sessions not selected including, but not limited to: budgeting/"is there money for this?"; COVID-19 lessons learned; educational empowerment; etc.). Submitted three sessions, two of which were accepted.

Promote NAHRO Certification Program.

In Progress - Outreach to the Professional Development Director or Certification Manager regarding the program has begun.