



**2021-2023 Advocacy Subcommittee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 9, 2022  
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

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**Presiding: Renee Smith – Chair**

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**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/ROLL CALL**

**STATUS OF SESSIONS – Renee Smith/Lucille Boss**

2022 National Conference Call for Proposals submitted sessions: Evaluating Your Agency CEO/ED, Engaging Your Commission Budgets, Balance Sheets, and Audits, Oh My!

**August Advocacy Campaign- Congressional Relations – Tess Hembree/Jenna Hampton**

- NAHRO Summer Symposium - kickoff precursor to August Advocacy efforts.
- 50,000 letter goal, 2,500 individual participants.

**Objectives Review/Update**

**Recap from June 14 mtg:**

Outreach to Commissioners - E-Blast messages to Commissioners will provide more tailored information - discussed with Tess Hembree – outcome?

Action Center Letters Tailored to Commissioners - If the letter can't be specifically crafted, discuss ways to craft tailored suggestions that commissioners can use to craft the letter. What should be communicated to Congress? Note how the legislation helps the commissioners, communities, agencies and the residents you serve, i.e., scholarship programs, etc. Tell stories that note the positive outcomes that result from the legislation. Provide summary of bill and how it impacts taxpayers and industry would be helpful. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee are working on talking points. Committee to communicate issues with action alert letter, if politically opposed, note that concern/opposition.

Track number of commissioners who complete action alerts - Regional data can be captured into a spreadsheet. Tess notes that NERC, MPRC, PSWRC and PNRC regions are difficult to track. Request to add a field on the Action Alert letter that indicates Role to perhaps assist in compiling/sorting data to determine commissioner involvement. Note: the role field, is not mandatory to complete).

What's in the Congressional Pipeline? - FY23 markups beginning, Advocacy August efforts about to gear up, and mid-term elections are occurring now. Congressional work may pick up after elections. Future Potential Requests – Funding appropriations. Retool request that predated Build Back Better – PH/voucher visibility, inflation.

Congressional Contacts- Jenna Hampton encouraged members to become a Congressional Contact to get personalized support. **(see link in attachments below)** .

**HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS:** Please send to La Tonya

**Submissions - Updating Commissioners at Work Video**

Photos of your work with the housing authority and in the community, i.e., groundbreaking, ribbon ceremonies, new initiatives implemented, special events involving the agency and the residents. Please include type of event, city, state, persons in photo, if possible, year for the photo caption. **By August 31.**

**Quick Note - How to log in to the NAHRO website**

We now have a new association management system which requires our members to reset their passwords. To reset your password, click on the **Reset my password** button and you will **receive an email link to reset your password**. Then you can update your profile, view your committees, etc.

Attendance: Renee Smith, Brenda Honeycutt, Karina Mason Rorris, Thomas Jefferson, AJ Jones.

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**Attachments:**

[Commissioners Sessions– Planning spreadsheet](#)

[Objectives Spreadsheet](#)

[Draft – Commissioners At Work Video](#)

[Congressional Outreach Report Form](#)

[Congressional Contacts Sign-up \(sign in first\)](#)

[Action Alert Center Training – Video](#)

[Commissioners Mentors List](#)

**Next Meeting - October 11 2:30 -3:30 p.m., Eastern Time**

## STATUS OF OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

**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:** Work with Legislative Network Advisory Committee (LNAC) & Congressional Relations Department to establish measurable goals and work with all Commissioners to meet goals.

1. **TASK:** Develop an annual advocacy workplan to include: targeted legislative campaigns with measurable outcomes, updated social media & effective visuals, rapid response team to respond to media, Congressional & administration inquiries. The work plan will also include targets for action alert campaigns, an expanded August recess, and a working group to position NAHRO to connect with Presidential/Congressional campaigns to influence their housing platforms and build relationships with potential transition teams and HUD staff.

**OUTCOME: Not Yet Begun** - Need to have discussion with LNAC chair and staff liaison.

2 **TASK:** Send letters to Congress and the White House for: additional funding for universal vouchers, emergency housing vouchers, resident services, etc.) Ensure letters are sent by Commissioners from each region. (# of letters in what timeframe). (this task is duplicated in communication. May need to consolidate

3. **TASK:** Provide Advocacy training for Commissioners, whether online, in person, or through other resources. **OUTCOME: Completed – Training is ready. Expected launch – 9/2022.**

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

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

1. **TASK:** 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. **OUTCOME: Will review Fall, 2022**

**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.

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

1. **TASK:** 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.). **OUTCOME: Completed for 2022.** Submitted three sessions, two of which were accepted.

2. **TASK:** Promote NAHRO Certification Program. **OUTCOME: NOT YET BEGUN.** Will contact Professional Development Director regarding the program.