



2021-2023 DEI Subcommittee
Virtual Meeting Minutes - draft
April 12, 2023 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST

Presiding: Zella Knight, Subcommittee Chair

Zoom link:

<https://nahro-org.zoom.us/j/87694500331?pwd=anlwSmozR25ER0JMdVJadz1U2R5Zz09>

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME – Chair Zella Knight

BUSINESS

NAHRO Volunteer Form

The form is now closed. If you did not complete/submit the form online, please contact your Regional President of your interest to serve. You may find your regional president's information [here](#).

Sylvia Gimenez, Director of Communications

Ms. Gimenez forwarded the following update to the committee.

Due to declining open and reading rates as well as feedback from our member survey, we're cutting back on the frequency of the Journal of Housing and Community Development. This year, we'll publish two issues: Spring/Summer one in June, Fall/Winter one in December. If you have articles that you'd like to publish at other times of the year, they can be added to the Commissioners Committee webpage and publicized in Direct News emails and, space permitting, in the NAHRO Monitor. Please feel free to contact Sylvia at sgimenez@nahro.org with any questions.

- Alanna Conard previously scheduled for Jan/Feb moved to June issue.
- Commissioner of the year spotlight and promo for 2023 commissioner of the year application

Other articles to be published either in the JOHCD, the NAHRO Monitor or the Direct News emails.
Discuss with DEI subcommittee

- DEI
- FSS graduation

Discuss with advocacy subcommittee

- Resident Commissioner spotlight: a day in the life (2) (Char)
- Commissioner Governance
- Certification training

Other topics

- Advocacy (pics advocating, meeting with legislators)
- Housing America

COMMISSIONERS TRACK TOPICS - National Conference- max. sessions per applicant 3 -
[Call for Proposals](#) deadline - May 31

Advocacy (AFFH)

Workplace/Resident Violence Prevention

Updating Resident Services (updating resident services/departmental policies and procedures)

Funding Sources

Affordable Housing Financing from the commissioner lens

Succession Planning

Social Determinants of Health

What is Equity?

[NAHRO Conference Sessions spreadsheet](#)

Discussion: Talking points - [2/2023 minutes attached](#)

- [New committee/subcommittee objectives document](#)

COMMISSIONER AMBASSADORS TALKING POINTS - What is a housing authority

- Public housing authorities contribute to the economic viability of the community.
- Tailor message to group explaining how the housing authority is relevant to that group. For example, if you are addressing a school board, provide statistics. X number of your teachers or x number of your students have homes in communities via the housing authorities.
- Housing authorities are important community partners who provide safe, affordable housing for your teachers, staff, and the people you serve. They provide programs such as Family Self-Sufficiency, to assist with furthering educational goals and careers.
- Break and combat stigmas and perceptions associated with public housing authorities, residents, and poverty.
- Note scenarios how one problem can cause someone to rely on public housing. Veteran homelessness, etc.
- Connect/address systems, people and community - break down the stereotypical ideas of school districts, city services, government agencies, communities, law enforcement, etc. regarding what the housing authority (agency) does, resident type, and the community the housing is in.
- Stress that residents who live in public housing are employed taxpayers who contribute to the community.

Subcommittee assignment: Each subcommittee member is to create a talking point script regarding your community and present that script to Chair Zella Knight and Commissioners Committee Chair, Lucille Boss.

Ask:

- Housing Authority properties they own and operate were constructed with federal and private funds from community entities to assist community residents. The residents, through housing programs, contribute to the economic viability of the community by creating jobs in construction employment, and other businesses that contribute to the community. It is not a government program with “free” money allocated.
- Here’s how you can refer your families to us....
- Here are the areas you can partner with us.... Community centers, transportation (split cost), internships, scholarships, skilled trade programs.
- National spokesperson to highlight positives and dispel negative stereotypes.
- Use Veteran homelessness and VASH as an example of how to dispel stereotypes. One can be one step from being homeless by way of medical bills, death of breadwinner or breadwinner loses job.

Attendance: Zella Knight, Fred Banuelos, Lucille Boss, Joe Grisson, Susan Ulrich, Joycelynn Straight, Phil Bernal, Thomas Jefferson.

Absent: Bobby Wilson, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Delois McKinley-Eldridge, Homer Hall, Barb Cleland, Carleen Cumberbatch

Attachments:

- [Commissioners Mentors List](#)
- [2023 NAHRO Monitor Print Schedule](#)
- **2023 JOHCD Print Schedule** - Spring/Summer, in June, Fall/Winter, December
- **Subcommittee recurring meeting schedule (attached)**
- [List of Upcoming Trainings for Commissioners](#)
- 2022 NOV. DEC. JOHCD article: [Race, Equity and Housing: NAHRO’s Response](#)
- Jake Joseph’s suggested web source: <https://www.savvyallyaction.com/>
Book: <https://www.savvyallyaction.com/about-1>

SUBCOMMITTEES RECURRING MEETINGS

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion- Zella Knight, Chair

Bi-monthly schedule – Third Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time

February 15, April 19, June 21,

August 16 - Provide final report at the last meeting in October

Meeting URL

<https://nahro-org.zoom.us/j/87694500331?pwd=anlwSmozR25ER0JMdVJadz1U2R5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 876 9450 0331

Passcode: 363666

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