



2021-2023 Commissioners Committee Minutes

Virtual Meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 2023 – 1:00 -2:00 p.m. ET

Staff Liaison: La Tonya Rajah

<https://www.nahro.org/about/nahro-leadership/national-standingcommittees/commissioners-committee/>

Zoom login: <https://nahro-org.zoom.us/j/81683586072?pwd=Rm04WlhUY3ZNczYralpMRE04TnlRUT09>

Next Full Committee meeting – July 13 in conjunction with the NAHRO Symposium in Washington, DC.
[At a Glance Schedule](#)

Lucille Boss, Chair – Presiding

Adrian “AJ” Jones, Vice Chair

Chair Boss called the meeting to order. There was no quorum so the [March 21, 2023 minutes](#) will be approved at the July meeting.

[NAHRO Leadership Volunteer Form](#) - The leadership volunteer form for the 2023-2025 biennium deadline was March 31, 2023. If you have not completed the form, please reach out to your Regional President and advise of your interest to serve.

Ms. Boss walked through the minutes then asked each subcommittee chair to recap items from the March 21 meeting with regards to Subcommittee goals for the remainder of the 2021-2023 term.

Subcommittee Updates

Advocacy | Renee Smith

Completed

- Letter writing campaign to Congress for additional funding. (will continue into next term)
- Advocacy training module (online); awaiting implementation by professional development dept.
Comment: When launched, Ms. Smith would like the committee to critique/audit the module. (to be scheduled).

In Progress: Encourage others to become a congressional contact and work to cultivate relationships with elected representatives, if not already established.

Not Yet Begun

- Marketing: How to partner with others to push the advocacy message on housing, best practices, etc. from the national /local and regional perspective.
- Create messaging and vet to include the residents’ perspective.
- Ask Tess to break down specific bills a couple of months prior to the August Advocacy month and the Washington Conference.

Communication | Char Reavis

Completed

- Commissioners resource page, accessible to members and non-members including the commissioners at work video. (continue into next term)
- Fine-tuned the Commissioner of the Year award criteria and eligibility info. (continue into next term)

In Progress

- More collaboration with member services – showcase commissioner offerings, provide flyers on Commissioners’ mentors.
- Articles on commissioners’ mentors; other than the commissioners resource page, what website tools can be used and accessible to everyone. See new JOHCD schedule below (Meeting Materials/Resources section)
- Joint work with DEIAC continue to collaborate on the Housing America (calendar feature).
Comment: Work with LNAC to create a modified letter template for commissioners for review by the commissioners communications subcommittee.

Not Yet Begun

- Forward commissioners mentors list to regions/chapters and state association presidents regarding commissioners and resources available.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | Zella Knight

Ongoing

- Working with DEIAC: Ms. Knight will meet at regularly scheduled time with the subcommittee to discuss talking points – elevator pitch, how your agency connects with school boards or other groups. Work on those talking points and be prepared to discuss at meeting.

In Progress

Present pitch during fall conference to non-traditional partners.

- Work with DEIAC continue to collaborate on the Housing America (calendar feature).

JOHCD Article Schedule

Due to declining open and reading rates as well as feedback from our member survey, the frequency of the Journal of Housing and Community Development will be reduced. This year, two issues will be published: 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, can be added to the Commissioners Committee webpage, publicized in Direct News emails and, in the NAHRO Monitor, space permitting. Please feel free to contact Sylvia at sgimenez@nahro.org with any questions.

May/June

- Alanna Conard's article will be published in this issue.

Topics:

- 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

Call for Proposals – NAHRO National Conference – Deadline May 31

The NAHRO National Conference Planning Committee seeks informative and interactive sessions. They encourage innovative proposals, so if you have an idea that doesn't fit into one of session category topics but would be useful to housing and community development professionals, please submit it! Each session proposal should have a session title, session description (no more than 100 words), three learning objectives and identified panelists. All sessions will be 90 minutes long and be scheduled for October 6-7 in New Orleans. **To submit session proposals**, use the [NAHRO's online submission tool](#). Session proposal submissions are limited to three per person.

Category Topics: advocacy for housing/community development; climate resiliency; commissioners, community development and redevelopment; community partnerships; cybersecurity; diversity, equity and inclusion; emergency preparedness; Family Self-Sufficiency; finance; homelessness; housing choice vouchers; innovation in housing; international housing and community development; leadership and emerging leaders; marketing and communications; mixed finance; moving to work; public housing; resident services; repositioning; youth engagement and leadership.

For the Commissioners Track, the committee agreed to focus on the objectives of the three subcommittees in the areas of advocacy, communications and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Discussion – Commissioners Track Sessions

[NAHRO Conference Sessions spreadsheet](#)

- Advocacy (Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing) – include local, national and election information – Renee.
- Pathways Out of Poverty: Resources to Continuing Education (connect with social determinants of health) –AJ/Renee/Lucille.
- Navigate Through Workplace Violence and Security Options- Learn how commissioners, staff and residents can respond to stay safe –Gary.
- Updating your Resident Services –Char/Lucille
- Funding sources – affordable housing financing/repositioning –Lucille
- Succession Planning – Zella /Lucille
- What is Equity? Follow-up session from Washington Conference- focused on commissioners – Zella

Other suggested topics:

- Legal issues for Commissioners- How to use a Solicitor, panel discussion: How to conduct a Board meeting – Robert’s Rules of Order, etc. Mock board meeting.

Attendance: Lucille Boss, AJ Jones, Fred Banuelos, Phil Bernal, Dirk Hoek, Richard Laferte, Renee Smith, Gary Valentine, Sam Bergami, Thomas Jefferson, Angela Reed, Brenda Honeycutt, Willie Haynes, Johnny Johnson, Bobby Wilson, DeLois McKinley-Eldridge

Meeting Materials/Resources

- NAHRO Commissioners Survey [Responses](#)
- [Updated committee/subcommittee objectives Progress Report](#)
- Commissioners Mentors (as of [August 20, 2022](#))
- [Zoom Meeting Schedule – Full committee and subcommittees](#)
- Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) Goals & Objectives ([link](#))
- [List of Upcoming Trainings for Commissioners](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion literature

Richard Rothstein, and his daughter, Leah Rothstein, co-authored a new book, *Just Action*, to describe what citizens and residents can do in their own communities to redress the inequality and deprivation that are ongoing effects of government-imposed segregation. *Just Action* will be released on June 1 but you can order it now. **Click the image to view and order online.**

