



2023-2025 Commissioners Subcommittee Minutes
Friday, August 16, 2024 –2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Committee page link: <https://www.nahro.org/about/nahro-leadership/national-standing-committees/commissioners-committee/>

Chair/Presiding: Renee Smith

Attendance: Renee Smith, Fred Banuelos, Gary Allsup, Carol Branham, Joe Grisson, AJ Jones, Jake Joseph, Skye Kessler, Lizette Mill, John Morgan, Joycelynn Straight

Remarks: President George Guy thanked the subcommittees for their time and commitment to the committee and to NAHRO. He asked the subcommittees for suggestions regarding any initiatives or assistance the association can impart to agencies as we prepare to close out year one of the 2023-2025 term. Fred Banuelos suggested a presidential impact report chronicling work done during 2024 with a completion date of December 2024. President Guy noted this was a great idea and will have a conversation with Fred to chair a task force and flush this idea out more. Finally, Mr. Guy encouraged everyone to attend the National Conference and Exhibition in Orlando, FL, in September.

Subcommittee Highlights

Advocacy –Chair, AJ Jones

August Advocacy is still in swing: Week three: Encourage your colleagues to write to Congress. Track letters from commissioners, year 1 of 5 yr. plan to increase by 10%. Secure the average from 2023 (policy/legislative dept. There is a regional challenge for bragging rights for the region that sends the most letters.

Subcommittee members viewed the newly launched legislative page Get Out The Vote (GOTV) that includes great tools to assist those who are interested in sending letters and there is a brief tutorial on how to go through the steps to complete the letters. NAHRO Votes -

<https://www.nahro.org/advocacy/advocacy-and-congressional-resources/nahro-votes/>

Communications - Chair, Jake Joseph

- Using an electronic copy of the current commissioners' handbook, **begin the handbook editing process with a roadmap**. Topics of discussion will include: auditing/HUD process, diversity, equity and inclusion, updated acronyms, best practices for online meetings, etc.
- **Goal: Complete the roadmap by the conclusion of this term, September/October, 2025**
- Creation of standard operating procedures for handbook updates in the process. Additionally, members received an overview of the commissioners' resource page. Work on this page will complement the handbook work, with update suggestions and ensuring page access to non-members.
- Discuss ways to increase committee exposure to new commissioners, i.e., Commissioners committee members meet/greet/network with commissioner delegates during the summer symposium receptions.

Governance – Chair, Gary Allsup

What is the meaning and purpose of governance

- Protect the public and stakeholder interests
- Recognize/execute fiduciary responsibilities
- Recognize the scope of being on the Board of Commissioners
- Comply with legal and directional housing authority requirements
- Develop/monitor housing authority internal/external policies
- Hold Executive/CEO accountable
- Recognizing and protecting the housing authority brand
- Bias may exist against resident commissioners vs. non-resident commissioners

The members talked about where this information should reside; in the handbook, commitment of governance/code of conduct.

National Conference Commissioners Booth – We now have over 1500 delegates registered for the conference! We need to make the commissioners booth lively and informative. The booth will be a stop on the Treasure Trek scavenger hunt. Participants will visit the booth and we will stamp their Treasure Card...more exposure to the booth.

- Sign up sheet booth duty
- Two handbooks will be available for a raffle one per day (Thursday and Friday)
- NAHRO swag (suggestions lens cleaner, writing pens, etc., candy)
- Carol Branham will ask for a sponsor for a \$50 gift card
- Chair Renee Smith will match with an additional \$50 gift card

Final Thoughts/Wrap Up - Chairs

Commissioners Committee Chair Renee Smith commended the commissioners including Lizette Mill, Gary Valentine, AJ Jones, who are working on the two sessions to be presented during the National Conference in Orlando.

- Board Evaluations
- Voices of Residents

Reminder of Champion requirements with agenda – four champions will be recognized at the Commissioners Committee meeting in Orlando. See Chair Renee Smith if you have questions regarding the Champions.

Adjourn at 3:23 p.m.

Measurable Outcome

Subcommittees

Discussion of Commissioners Committee Measurable Outcomes – Georgi Banna and Members 6-21-24

- a. MO 1 – Update Commissioners Handbook - Communications Subcommittee
- b. MO 2 – Increase advocacy letter writing by 10% over five years - Advocacy Subcommittee
- c. MO 3 – Increase Commissioner Certification by 100% by 2028 - Governance Subcommittee
- d. MO 4 – Increase on-demand Commissioner training - Governance Subcommittee
- e. MO 5 – Increase resident empowerment, -DEI Subcommittee

ADVOCACY	
CHAIR: AJ Jones CO-CHAIR:	
MEMBERS	
Gary Valentine	Alanna Conard*
Joe Grisson	Thomas Jefferson*
Dirk Hoek	Carl Richie
TomiRene Hettman	Anthony Sawyer
<u>Willie Haynes</u>	Susan Ulrich

COMMUNICATIONS	
CHAIR: Jake Joseph CO-CHAIR:	
MEMBERS	
Phil Bernal	Fermika Smith
Carol Branham	Jan Murphy
Joycelynn Straight	Miguel Garcia*
Lizette Mill	Skye Kessler
Commissioner of the Year jury Group Chair Johnny Johnson	

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION	
CHAIR: Zella Knight CO-CHAIR: Angela Reed	
MEMBERS	
Carleen Cumberbatch	Dorothy Carty Daniel
Angela Reed	DeLois McKinley-Eldridge
Emmett Robbins	Henrietta Snipes
John Morgan	George Perez*
GOVERNANCE GROUP	
CHAIR: Gary Allsup	
MEMBERS	
Sam Bergami	Carl Richie
Wilmer Roberts (guest) Travis County, TX	Renee Smith
Johnny Jackson	