Greetings from your chapter president.

Reflection is what you see in a mirror. It is also what others that look at you see.

The Executive Committee recently met during the fall conference in Manhattan and spent quite a bit of discussion time reflecting on our image. Rightly or wrongly, the image that you, the membership, have of the leadership of this organization is important.

Is Kansas NAHRO due for an Extreme Makeover?

Perhaps we haven't done a good job of explaining how this organization works for you and why we are linked to NAHRO. Maybe we haven't made you feel welcome. If that is so, I apologize. We will do better.

As your president, I have stated that the organization is here to serve the needs of the members. I have asked you to send your ideas, concerns and training requests to us so that we can mold this organization to serve you with the best information, training opportunities and certifications. Conference feedback has been positive, yet we know we haven't done a good job with Section 8. Keep sending your requests for training, certifications and ideas for learning sessions. We consider them all.

In closing, I promise to do everything possible to make your next Kansas NAHRO conference experience the best you have ever had.

Thank you,
Tony
The Public Housing Industry is **CHANGING**

*By: Tina Lewis, Sr. VP Kansas NAHRO*

With ever tightening federal financial budgets and many outstanding HUD audits, Congress is pushing HUD to find ways to address audit finding and to decrease the ever increasing demand for more money.

Change is coming, it is now just trying to determine how fast and how much. Earlier this year the Streamlining Administrative Regulation for Programs Administered by Public Housing Agencies was released in the PIH 2016-05 notice and many housing authorities are still trying to approve changes in their ACOP to meet the requirements. Last month the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA) passed but has not yet been implemented. Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a Listening Session hosted by HUDs REAC department on numerous changes being implemented including Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) Reform, Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) Reform, Uniform Physical Condition Standards for the Voucher Program (UPCS-V), HCV Administrative Fee Formula Proposed Rule, and PIC –Next Generation (PIC-NG) and HUD just published PIH 2016-13 with new accounting guidance for insurance proceeds. Today I watched the Congressional Financial Services Committees Hearing on Regionalizing Public Housing Agencies and how it might affect the new initiative to mobilize vouchers to low poverty areas. I am hoping to listen in October to a COCC Listening Session in Detroit as they consider changes to the eligible uses and refederalization of COCC funds.

I can’t imagine any other industry that is so heavily regulated, so underfunded, and so haphazardly creates more regulations for us to follow than they can keep track of. With regulations like Green Physical Needs Assessment (GPNA) and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) not officially implemented or repealed we are now racing to learn about what is coming next. Even as many housing authorities struggle to understand what is required of us, we are being inundated with changes that may or may not help our organizations.

All Housing Authorities need to review the information that is available and provide comment on how your organization is affected. With medium and large housing authorities serving 94% of all tenants, rules and regulations are generally made to address their issues. Small housing authorities are under-represented at the table. If you are a small housing authority and you believe your organization is vital to your community then you need to be telling your story to HUD, to congress, to Senators, to anyone who will listen.

Listening Session Information Comments or suggestions to: PHAInfoSessions@HUD.gov


NAHRO Submit Comments on Fair Housing Tool for Local Governments
On September 22, NAHRO submitted comments to HUD in response to a 30-day notice on the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) Local Government Assessment Tool. Through the notice, HUD proposes a number of changes to the current tool. Most notable is the inclusion of two streamlined “inserts” for use by small program participants when collaborating to submit an AFH with a local government (that is the lead entity). Small program participants are either Qualified PHAs (with 550 or less total public housing/Section 8 units) or local governments receiving a CDBG allocation at or below $500,000. NAHRO’s letter recommends for HUD to further streamline the proposed inserts, due to the limited capacity of small program participants. NAHRO also requests the qualification threshold for the QPHA insert and small local government insert be raised to 2,000 or less total units and a CDBG allocation of $1,000,000 or less, respectively. Furthermore, NAHRO requests an additional 60 days be made available for grantees to review the small local government insert - since many have been busy preparing their annual CAPER report.

HUD Updates the Assessment of Fair Housing Tool for States and Insular Areas
On September 28, HUD published a 30-day notice for public comment on the proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Assessment Tool for States and Insular Areas. This proposed tool will be the vehicle that States and Insular Areas receiving HUD CPD formula grant funding will use to prepare and submit their Assessments of Fair Housing. This tool will also be used for AFHs conducted through joint or regional collaborations (with local governments and/or PHAs) where the State is the lead entity. HUD’s latest version of the tool contains numerous updates, including a streamlined analysis (called an “insert”) for small program participants (i.e., local governments receiving small CDBG grants and small PHAs). This notice marks the second round of public comment for the proposed tool. Read more about the 30-day notice on the NAHRO Blog. Comments are due to HUD by October 28, 2016.

HUD Finalizes Rule on Equal Access to Transgender Individuals in CPD Programs
On September 21, HUD published a final rule that amends HUD regulations to require CPD program recipients and subrecipients to provide transgender persons and other persons who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth with access to program benefits, services and accommodations that are in accordance with their gender identity. The rule also amends the definition of “gender identity” so that it more clearly reflects the difference between actual and perceived gender identity, and eliminates the 2012 Equal Access Rule’s prohibition on inquiries related to sexual orientation or gender identity. An in-depth analysis of the final rule can be found in the September 30, 2016 edition of the NAHRO Monitor.

To strengthen enforcement mechanisms for this rule, HUD has also published a 60-day notice for public comment that proposes to require owners and operators of CPD-funded shelters and facilities to post a notice on bulletin boards and in other public spaces where information is typically made available. Comments are due by November 21, 2016.

HUD Finalizes Rule to Protect Victims of Harassment
On September 14, HUD published a final rule that formalizes the standards that the Department will use to evaluate “hostile environment” and “quid pro quo” (this for that) harassment claims under the Fair Housing Act (FHA). Despite having no formal regulation in place, HUD and various court decisions have long held that harassment in housing or housing-related transactions on the basis of certain protected characteristics (e.g., race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability) is a prohibited discriminatory housing practice. The final rule also describes the standards for “direct liability” and “vicarious liability” that apply to all discriminatory housing practices under the FHA – not just harassment. An in-depth analysis of the final rule can be found in the September 30, 2016 edition of the NAHRO Monitor.

CDBG Updates
Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas in the CDBG Entitlement Program: On September 21, HUD published Notice CPD-16-16 encouraging jurisdictions to adopt Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSA) as a way to target CDBG resources in support of community revitalization efforts.

Continue Reading>>
DISTRICT 1 Update

District 1 Area-Wide Directors met at the Hays Housing Authority on August 18, 2016. Cindy Blair from the KS City HUD office was there to answer questions and hear our issues.

There were 13 directors in attendance. We discussed the No Smoking Policy, HOTMA, and other day-to-day issues we deal with.

Lunch was at Gutch’s where we had fire grilled pizza.

We do not have a fall or winter meeting planned at this time but will have something on the schedule soon.

Sheila Barnett, Executive Director
Goodland Housing Authority

DISTRICT 5 Update

Mark your calendars now for our next meeting:

Date: October 21, 2016
Time: 12:30 – 3:30
Location: The Echo Ridge Community Center
2010 SE California
Topeka, KS 66607

*Sits directly behind the Topeka Housing Authority*

We will go over the latest Hot Topics plus anything that anyone would like to see on the agenda. Send your topics to Annette.Wells@jocogov.org or call me at (913) 715-6607. We have topics regarding Public Housing, Section 8 and Community Development/Rehab.

We would like to get more involvement from the Community Development/Rehab side. Contact Rick Gehlbach at (913) 715-6614 with any concerns you have.

Anyone is welcome to come whether you are in our District or not.

Hope to see you there!!

WHAT DISTRICT IS MY AGENCY?

*Click on the map below to find out what district your agency is in and who your representative it!*
2016 MAINTENANCE PERSON OF THE YEAR

RICK JONES
Colby Housing Authority

Congratulations!
In 2007, Housing America was created and October was designated as the annual month for NAHRO and its members to collectively raise awareness of the need for, and the importance of, safe, decent and affordable housing in quality communities. Events are held around the country by housing authorities, redevelopment agencies and government entities to spotlight the great works that have been done and the successes that so many residents have experienced. Sadly, there continues to be an unmet housing need for many of America’s most vulnerable.

Here you can find examples of what NAHRO members have done to recognize and celebrate Housing America Month.

**Event Media Kit**
Use our media kit to help get the word out about your event!

**Housing America Month logo** (when the page opens, right click and select save as)

**Event Flyer Template** (a Word document downloads to your computer for you to edit)

**Sample Proclamation** (when the page opens, download and edit the file)

**Register your event with us** (scroll to the bottom of the page and fill out the Plan An Event form – that's how we know you are participating!)

Tweet your event with the hashtag #HousingAmerica and @NAHROnational

If you need assistance contact Carmen Smith at csmith@nahro.org

**Event Ideas**
Groundbreaking Ceremony
Property Opening
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
Beautification Project
Resident Activity
Proclamations
Please Make the International Research and Global Exchange Committee (IRGE) part of your NAHRO Conference Plans this October with three great programs!

Two Award-Winning Permanent Supportive Housing Developments Share Physical Design and Programming Success  
**Friday, 10/14/16, 10:45 am – 12:15 pm**

By following different development paths three agencies have found ways to create successful and award-winning projects. In a session joined by our friends from Canada, the panel will discuss the lessons learned and how to establish a successful PSH development in your community. Learn the foundational elements of Permanent Supportive housing, including what is meant by Housing First, Harm Reduction, and the differences in philosophy from "transitional housing" for people with a lived experience of homelessness. How can services and approaches best be used to address the most vulnerable families in our communities? Are we about to experience the problems now being faced in Canada? What answers has Canada found as they struggle with even less funding?

**IRGE Brown Bag Luncheon: Amazing Legislative Advocacy Success Story: How CHRA changed the fate of affordable housing in Canada**  
**Saturday 10/15/16, 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm**

One year ago Canadian affordable housing providers were facing the termination of federal subsidy contracts. The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA), a peer to NAHRO, turned course of this sinking ship through a national education and advocacy campaign about affordable housing. They succeeded in advocating on behalf of its members to compel federal decision-makers to choose a future where all Canadians can access and afford the type of housing that they need. Learn about the similarities between Canadian affordable housing and US affordable housing, both in approach, strategy, and funding mechanisms, and how "what no one ever thought could happen" started to happen in the form of the federal government allowing subsidy contracts to expire.

**Housing allocation mechanisms in France**  
**Friday 10/14/16, IRGE Breakfast Session**

How are housing programs scored in France, and how can that help us, especially as we expand to RAD type programs? How do we measure the intangible? Learn about the criteria used in France, the relationship between financing from companies and selection of renters. Did you know that in France scoring looks at the future priority selection on tenants? This is not unlike our mixed income programs, but how have they worked elsewhere, while we are still learning how they will work in the U.S.? How has the migrant population added unforeseen complexity, and do we see like trends here at home?

We all share similar challenges throughout the world, and the best practices may have already been learned. We look forward to sharing these programs with the membership at the conference.

**And be sure to visit the IRGE Booth in the Exhibit Hall! See how public housing in Australia and the U.S. share challenges! Enter for a chance to win prizes!**
Member Services Update!

Member Services is pleased to welcome new committee members. We look forward to working with Cassandra Withington and Valerie Brashears in the future. We recently selected the Maintenance Person of the Year. Congratulations to Rick Jones of Colby! After the first of the year we will be looking for award nominations. – Roxanne Mason

2017 SAFMRs now available on HUD’s website

HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) has posted “hypothetical” small area fair market rents (SAFMRs) for federal fiscal year (FY) 2017. The data set of 2017 SAFMRs was posted this morning to PD&R’s SAFMR website.

2017 FMRs were published in a Federal Register notice on August 26. That notice explained that while HUD will no longer publish proposed and final versions of FMRs, PHAs may comment on the FMRs and request reevaluation until September 26.

As further explained in the August 26 notice, PHAs may provide data-supported comments or requests for reevaluation of SAFMRs by using HUD’s special tabulations of the distribution of gross rents by bedroom unit size for ZIP code tabulation areas. HUD will post revised SAFMRs after confirming the calculations.

HUD published a proposed rule on the use of SAFMRs in the HCV program on June 16. The rule, which is intended to help reduce the number of assisted families that reside in areas of high poverty concentration, would require the use of SAFMRs in certain metropolitan areas if the area meets a specific set of criteria. SAFMRs may also be used in determining public housing flat rents in metropolitan areas.

Scaling Solutions: Strategies for Building Effective Philanthropy Partnerships

Written by: Salin Geevarghese and Harriet Tregoning

When you think of natural partnerships, government and philanthropy may not be your first thought. In HUD’s new report, Scaling Solutions: A How-To Guide for Unleashing the Potential of Public-Philanthropic Partnerships, we work to turn those perceptions around. This guide describes the unique collaboration between philanthropy and government that emerged during HUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative. On the local, regional, and national levels, philanthropies and the public sector are leveraging each other’s strengths to deliver results for communities and build projects together from the ground up. Continue reading →
Do your commissioners need training but can’t travel?  
*No worries we will come to you!!*

Kansas NAHRO is offering NAHRO’s Commissioner’s Fundamentals and Commissioner’s Ethics onsite training for your commissioner and neighboring agencies who are interested. *(Please see class descriptions below)*

**Ethics Description:** Ethics plays a significant role in the life of a commissioner. Increases the commissioner’s understanding of professional conduct guidelines, and the ability to recognize and appropriately address ethics-related issues and problems that may occur. Learn about industry laws and regulations impacting ethical conduct and build your capacity as a board member. This course, intended for the new commissioner and a refresher for the veteran, uses practical applications and skills assessment exercises to reinforce ethical concepts. Training Duration: 1 day CEU’s: 0.70

**Who Should Attend?** *Both new and veteran Commissioners*

**Fundamentals Description:** This course explores the roles and responsibilities of commissioners, enhancing understanding of the commissioner’s multi-faceted position as advocate, leader, team-builder, strategist—and more. Increase your effectiveness as a board member and leader, while exploring the intricacies of board-staff relationships and boundaries. Provides an excellent training foundation for the new commissioners. Training Duration: 1.5 days CEU’s: 1.0

[CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND AGENDA]

**Who Should Attend?** *New & veteran commissioners, new board officers and Executive Directors*

**DON’T MISS OUT ON THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**

Got Questions? Call us at 940. 521.9982 or email ksnahro@brazosnet.com
FIRST TIME ATTENDEES
Kansas NAHRO would like to Welcome our First Time Attendees who attended the Fall Conference in Manhattan, KS!

Donna Davenport Atchison Housing Authority
Dale Dixon Colby Housing Authority
Dave Koch Colby Housing Authority
Janice Elder Humboldt Housing Authority
Carolyn Moore Humboldt Housing Authority
Whitney Goedeke Parsons Housing Authority
Kim Howard Seneca Housing Authority
Trish Switger Strong City Housing Authority
Debra Nutsch Washington Housing Authority
THANK YOU CORPORATE SPONSOR:
Housing Authority Insurance Group supports Kansas NAHRO

2017 SW NAHRO Winter Conference
January 26-27, 2017 - Grapevine, Texas

2017 SW NAHRO Maintenance Workshop
February 14-16, 2017 – Hot Springs, Arkansas

2017 NAHRO Washington Conference
March 26-28, 2017 - Arlington, VA

2017 KS NAHRO Spring Conference
April 10-13, 2017 - Manhattan, Kansas

Click here to view latest job postings in Kansas.

If you are a member of Kansas NAHRO in good standing and have a position open, e-mail your ad to ksnahro@brazosnet.com for posting on this site. All submissions subject to review and approval.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of Kansas NAHRO NOW! The newsletter will be published at the end of every quarter. We want to hear what is going on in your agency! If you would like to submit an article that you want published in the news please send it to us at ksnahro@brazosnet.com.