

**MINUTES of the
POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 20, 2020**

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Policy Advisory Council (PAC) was called to order by Robert Cooper on Monday, April 20, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. via teleconference due to Governor Sisolak's mandate on COVID-19 of no physical address for any public meeting until further notice.

Council Members Present

Chair Robert Cooper, At Large Representative
Vice-Chair Jennifer Rose, Utility Company Representative
James Dondoy, Sub-grantee Representative
Tamera Saida, At Large Representative
Angela Haskett, At Large Representative
Jacob LaRow, NHD Representative

Nevada Housing Division (NHD) Staff Members Present

Shelly Calvert, Weatherization Analysis
James Wallace, Weatherization Inspector
Stephen Aichroth, Administrator NHD

Nevada Housing Division (NHD) Counsel Present

Colleen Platt, Platt Law Group

Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) Staff Members Present

Betsy Ransdell, DWSS

Others:

Jessica Mahon, Community Services Agency Development Corporation
Dr. Gil Peach, Gil Peach and Associates

Call to Order and Roll Call

Robert Cooper asked if there was a quorum and it was confirmed there were 6 out of 7 members present.

Public Comment

Robert Cooper opened the meeting for public comment.

No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an Agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. (Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker is

limited to three (3) minutes and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.)

There were no public comments at this time.

Approval of PY 2020 DOE Application

Robert Cooper asked for the next item to be addressed and for possible action.

Shelly Calvert begin as to say that this is an annual plan that is submitted to DOE each year.

The first change is last year we received \$1,199,608 and this year we with be receiving a little over 1.5 million dollars. \$1,215,118 is for program use, and \$294,101 is for Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA). Overall, this is an increase of approximately \$309,611 more received than last year. We continue to receive increases every year, which allows our program to grow.

The other change this year is the Average Cost per Unit (ACPU) has increased from \$7,541 to \$7,661. DOE does not have a maximum per unit allocation requirement, although, we, as a state, are limited to a maximum of \$8,000. We do have authority to increase the maximum if the amount is requested by the agency. We allow this if we feel a total weatherization cannot be completed on a particular project. This is so we don't have to go back later and address some of the issues that should have been performed the first time. This justifies the Subgrantee to do a thorough weatherization if we allow the project to go above the \$8,000. The main mark we need to comply with DOE is the ACPU. Keeping the maximum at \$8,000 per project helps keep projects at or below this limit. We do see projects that are at below \$7,000 or even projects that need minimally work done on the unit.

During a conference call with our DOE Project Officer on April 2, 2020, NHD was advised on some of the things DOE were trying to implement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The only reason I bring this particular change up is that it does have some impact on the next year's allocation as well as the program's current year allocation.

The item discussed was the ability of the Subgrantees completing projects during the current program year. In a WAP-060 Memo from DOE, they are aware that it would be difficult to complete projects during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this said, program year 2019 will possibly be carried over to program year 2020 by either 6 months or even a year. This will allow the Subgrantees time to complete their DOE projects for program year 2019. In addition, because the Subgrantees are spending less Program Operations money on projects and using it for the salaries of the field staff that are still doing some project activity or participating in On-Line Training opportunities, the ACPU will be higher than what DOE allows for this quarter and next. DOE will allow the higher ACPU amount of \$7,661 for current program year 2019 with the next program year 2020, which in turn will help with lowering the ACPU in the long run.

Jim Wallace gave a status of the Sub-grantees. Jim said currently only one of the Subgrantees are doing some limited assessments and completions and that is NRHA in Las Vegas. Ron Evans and his staff are doing very limited in-home assessments while being careful and cautious due to COVID-19, and still proceeding forward. Two of the other Sub-grantees, CSA and NRHA North, are proceeding on emergency only basis, also limited jobs for DEAL, which has been completed recently. At this time, HELP of Southern Nevada is in Shelter in place status with their employees, they are currently accepting applications and processing them creating a backlog list and once they go back to work, the list will be addressed. RNDC is shelter in place with no new jobs at this time. They also have created a back-log list and will address them when the mandate has been lifted. In addition, all of the Sub-grantees are reviewing previous applications of those who did not qualify due to over income and were denied. They are revising them now as there are more applicants who now no longer have a job so their income has dropped. Some of those applicants with lower income will possibly qualify for the program. These applicants could now be added to the back-log list.

Jim Wallace said this is what is going on with the Weatherization Assistance Program at the moment. Are there any questions on what was presented?

Robert Cooper said it was good that DOE was entertaining that program year 2019 may be carried over to the next program year.

Jake LaRow in Las Vegas, asked Shelly to clarify on what is the recommended course of action for comments on the application. Shelly Calvert said requested changes should be submitted to NHD by the end of the week. Jacob LaRow also asked if any of the feedback would be required for the Public Hearing scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 10:00. Shelly Calvert replied no, comments on the application is not needed for the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing is for the funding of the Sub-grantees.

Shelly Calvert asked if there were any other comments. Jim Wallace spoke up and said that during the conference call with DOE with our Program Manager and Technical Advisor, it was said that the State of Nevada was in far better condition regarding the ACPU than the majority of the United States. Also, last year when they did the DOE national survey, NHD was 5th in the Nation. He believes DOE recognizes the hard work our Weatherization Program is doing, and the concern of getting the most value for the money we are spending.

Robert Cooper said it was great we were in the top five (5) as we are at the bottom five (5) for DOE funding among the states. This is good news that Nevada's cost per unit is high on the ranking.

Robert Cooper asked if there were any other comments on the DOE application. Hearing none, he asks for a motion to approve:

1st motion – Jacob LaRow, 2nd motion – Tamera Saida. All in favor, aye – 5, nay – 0. Motion carries.

Agenda items for next Policy Advisory Council Meeting

- Doug Hanons, CEO of NV Energy remarks on NV Energy;
- Update on DOE Carryover and what is implemented;
- Approval of February 20, 2020 and April 23, 2002 Minutes; and
- Possible update on NV Energy Usage and how they are dealing with residents.

Next Meeting Date: June 18th at 2:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Robert Cooper closed the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments at this time.

Adjournment

Robert Cooper adjourned the meeting at 2:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Shelly Calvert, Grants & Projects Analyst