



Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 11:00 am CST
Membership Meeting
Minutes
Alabama Power Conference Center
Clanton, AL

Board Members in Attendance: Mary Jones, Bill Tilly, Rayanthnee Patterson, Greg Carlson, Randy Russell, Russell Bennett, Jim Fenstermaker, Marcie Porter, Acquanetta Knight, Jennifer Clarke, Paul Carruthers

Board Members Absent: Karen McCauley, Dr. Edwards (Proxy: Rusty Bennett), Ron Gilbert (Proxy: Randy Russell)

CSI Staff Present: Ashley Kerr, Becky Blalock

LIHCA Members in Attendance: Derek Hall (South Alabama Cares); Marion Johnson, Jr. (Department of Mental Illness/Mental Health); Karen Pendleton (Shelby Emergency Assistance); Holly Morrison (Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama); Lisa Clarke (2nd Chance, Inc.); Amanda Shipp (AIDS Alabama); Susan Shipman (2nd Chance, Inc.); Deidra Lemons (AARP); John Whitfield (Community Foundation of South Alabama – Mobile); Ron Anders (Alabama Habitat for Humanity); Hilda Dent (Old House Specialist, LLC);

Guest: Will Fisher, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

Marcie Porter, Chair and Board President

Administration

Marcie called the meeting to order & welcomed everyone at 11:15 am. Members present were asked to introduce themselves and review the minutes from February 19 meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from February 19 membership meeting:

1st: Greg Carlson

2nd: Deidre Lemmons

Yes: All

No/Abstention: 0

LIHCA has achieved 501c3 status.

Financial Report

Income: \$21,480.00

Recent Expenses:

Feb/March billing from CSI: \$1,107.68.

Account balance: \$13,221.20

Greg expressed appreciation for CSI charging minimal amount to LIHCA for services.

Membership and Education

Jim Fenstermaker, Chair, reported that LIHCA is working on increasing its membership base. There will be a membership drive in late August/early September for the new membership year beginning on October 1. LIHCA still has less than 200 members and must increase membership to truly be statewide as well as inclusive of all interested parties. There will also be a fundraising drive during the Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday season.

*Those members who are interested in serving on the Membership and Education committee, especially those from rural parts of the state, are encouraged to see Jim after the meeting. This committee is also responsible for the educational components at quarterly membership meetings.

LIHCA needs access to larger distribution lists and agencies to reach a broader audience. LIHCA board members are working on a speakers bureau and tools to make it convenient for LIHCA members to speak to local groups.

Policy Committee

Rusty Bennett, Chair, reported that the Housing Trust Fund legislation was introduced in March, but did not move out of the House Governance Committee. LIHCA now has the time to build support for next year. LIHCA will spend the next 7 months gathering information and building support for the beginning of the legislative session in January 2010.

The policy committee is also looking at what other issues to take on now that the Housing Trust Fund legislation has been introduced. This committee is interested in regional issues that exist.

*Members are also welcome to join the Policy Committee if they are interested.

Membership Goal Setting Discussion

Randy reviewed the history of LIHCA's formation and led a discussion to gather opinions from LIHCA members about the future of LIHCA.

Key points from the discussion:

- LIHCA members have a higher level of accountability & responsibility now that LIHCA's 501c3 status is secure.
- LIHCA has 2 main goals: 1) strengthen communities – focus on increasing the number of affordable units AND the capacity building of nonprofits to manage those units; 2) build the coalition of LIHCA members and continue to educate

- members. LIHCA has reached a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations throughout the years. Must continue to strengthen these relationships by engaging members.
- There is an ongoing need to seek funding. Applications are in progress to the Daniel Foundation and Babcock Foundation.
 - The question of LIHCA's membership has become *Who isn't at the table?* Are LIHCA members aware of who in their community is building and who is not part of the conversation.
 - The Housing Trust Fund legislation has been LIHCA's main focus for the last few months. Until it is passed, it will remain one of LIHCA's top priorities, especially as LIHCA is being established as a source of information regarding housing trust funds.
 - It is necessary for LIHCA to work towards developing additional units as well as developing individuals' skills and abilities to successfully remain in those units. There is a need to increase supportive services and training to individuals and families. Community organizations must collaborate with other agencies to do job training, provide child care and provide other supportive services to increase the self-sufficiency of clients.
 - LIHCA member raised the question of definition of "low income." HUD defines low income as 30% or below of AMI. USDA has a different structure. LIHCA's mission states that LIHCA supports those "with greatest financial need," but LIHCA will support all individuals and families along the spectrum.
 - There was discussion about what LIHCA's vision for low income housing looks like. There was no readily available answer, which is one of the tasks the board is working on.
 - The HTF legislation forced the conversation about housing policy before housing policy existed. When the task force was working on the legislation, those at the table made sure that supportive services were included, that the legislation would not focus just on bricks and mortar.

Presentation by Will Fisher from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

Motion to Adjourn

1st: Greg Carlson

2nd: Randy Russell

Yes: All

No/Abstention: None