

**STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
HOUSING DIVISION**

**POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**April 7, 2011  
Minutes**

A meeting of the Policy Advisory Council required by the Department of Energy per 10 CFR Part 440 for the Weatherization Assistance Program was held on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the Nevada Housing Division's Office at 1535 Old Hot Springs Road, Suite 50, Carson City Nevada with video conferencing with the Nevada Housing Division 7220 Bermuda Rd, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Council Members in Attendance:**

Ernie Nielsen, Senior Law Project  
Gary Childers, Manufactured Housing Division  
Ferrel Hansen, Rural Nevada Development Corporation  
Paul Anderson, Public Utilities Commission

**Council Members Absent:**

Pam Hilts, NV Energy

**Others in Attendance:**

Jim Smallridge, Nevada Housing Division  
Norman Kramer, Nevada Housing Division  
Debra Crawford, Nevada Housing Division  
Adam Bonaparte, Nevada Housing Division  
Hilary Lopez, Nevada Housing Division  
Ariel Martinez, Nevada Housing Division  
Craig Davis, Nevada Housing Division  
Albert Weiss, HELP of Southern Nevada  
Stacy Thornton, Las Vegas Urban League  
Bruce Atkinson, Community Services Agency  
Margaret Donnelly, Nevada Rural Housing Authority  
Nick Tolotti, Community Services Agency  
Christine Munro, NHD Legal Counsel

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Remarks:**

Ernie Neilson began by roll call of the council members, a quorum of PAC members were present and the meeting was called to order. Ernie acknowledged all others in attendance.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Minutes from the December 9, 2010 PAC Meeting**

The members were given the draft minutes for the December 9, 2010 meeting to review prior to the meeting. The minutes were reviewed by PAC members, Paul Anderson moved that the PAC minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting be accepted without modification. Gary Childers seconded the motion.

**Discussion and Possible Action on the 2011 Draft State Plan**

Ernie began with the review of the April 5, 2011 revised 2011 DOE Draft State Plan. Ariel noted the recent revisions were made to the allocation of funds; an additional \$70,000 was distributed to Subgrantees. The distribution went to their operating budgets and was available due to remaining T & TA and Administrative funds. Ernie asked if the information in the plan was the same as it has been the last few years. Ariel explained that historically NHD only used the population estimates to determine funding distribution to Subgrantees. The basis for the allocation this year was based on the population estimate with the fraction of the population that is below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines factored in. The allocations changed and were more apparent for the City of Henderson and North Las Vegas due to the number of homes below the poverty guidelines. Ernie said the major thing we always look at is the organizations that are being allocated the funds. Ariel said there are six Subgrantees that were awarded the funds. The main difference between past years and this year is that the city of North Las Vegas has been awarded to Las Vegas Urban League. Ernie asked if formally the city of North Las Vegas was being funded directly to the Urban League. Ariel explained that the city of North Las Vegas was previously serviced by another agency in respect to the base funds. Hilary explained that the evaluation committee made the recommendation to NHD and was not made up of all NHD staff but of outside community members. There was one NHD staff member on the committee who was not a weatherization staff member. There were some subgrantees that applied to service more than one area and so based on the criteria that NHD weatherization staff had come up with such as performance, ranking, the evaluation committee used that criteria to rate all of the applications and their determination of service providers is in the draft. Ernie said that one thing that was always a debate is the criteria NHD uses to choose Subgrantees, he doesn't know if there was any competition for a particular geographical area. Ernie asked where the division has the geographical service areas broken down, Ariel said page 5 and the top of page 4 outlines the service providers and the geographical area they service. Ariel stated that no comments were made by any of the subgrantees at the public hearing for the draft 2011 DOE State Plan. Ariel explained the state plan could still change based on what happens in legislature. Craig noted that the FEAC estimate is included in the draft plan but is just an estimate and again we must wait to see if any change occurs. An amended plan will be distributed if there are proposed changes to any of the allocations in the 2011 DOE draft plan.

Gary Childers wondered why the south does not receive more funds due to the extreme heat and the cost to repair and replace a HVAC unit. Gary pointed out on page 4 there was a 30% difference north to south. Ariel reiterated that allocations were based on potential eligible households that qualified for services in each area. The population estimate and the eligible client are factored in to get the allocations. DOE allows a per unit cost. Craig explained the

plan is based on an average cost per unit of \$5000 statewide. It is an average not a maximum; many times we come across a gas pack in southern Nevada much more than the \$5000 is spent which balances out due to the multi-family units completed. Gary asked about the disparity in north and south in the average cost per job, for example eastern rural's average is \$11,000 per unit while city of Las Vegas is \$6,750. It was explained to Gary the average cost per unit is determined by dividing the amount of funds allocated for program operations by \$5000 for the DOE work and \$4,000 per unit for FEAC work. Ernie asked if there was a way to allocate more money for areas where materials etc are more expensive. Craig explained the funds must be distributed as outlined in the plan. Craig recognized the fact that HVAC units cost more in the south but it is offset by the percentage of multi-family units done by the agencies in the south. Paul Anderson made a motion to adopt the 2011 DOE Draft State Plan as written and Gary Childers seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

At the end of the meeting a discussion was had and it was decided to delegate responsibility to Housing Division staff to make changes to the existing 2011 Draft State Plan to decrease or make increases as necessary. A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Gary Childers, the motion passed unanimously.

### **(SERC) Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers Program Update**

Ariel provided the update for the Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) Program Grant. He reported the program is up and running and we expect Subgrantees to have completions for the month of April. There were 9 technologies approved through DOE for implementation. The four Subgrantees administering the approximately \$7,000,000 project are CSA, HELP of Southern Nevada, RNDC, and NRHA. Nevada Housing Division hired a SERC Project Manager, Norm Kramer, to closely monitor the projects because the project must be completed in a relatively short period of time. Ernie asked about how the SERC Subgrantees were chosen. Hilary explained that the SERC Program was an opportunity only open to Weatherization grantees at a state level that were doing well with their ARRA/WAP funding. Nevada met all the requirements and applied for the additional funding, only 15 states nationwide received the opportunity to apply. The only agencies that were eligible to be subgrantees under the grant were agencies that were currently operating in the ARRA/WAP program. At the time 5 agencies were operating in the ARRA/WAP program, Neighborhood Services did not participate in the SERC program and the Las Vegas Clark County Urban League was not yet operating. The subgrantees provide services to the area's they already serve in the ARRA/WAP programs. Ernie asked if he could have a list of the measures being installed, Ariel said he would send some information to him after the meeting. Adam Bonaparte gave an update by agency. He explained that HELP is leading the way to meeting the goal by already having completions to be submitted. Norm and Adam were present during an installation of an ultra cooling unit with an update from HELP as having 9 projects in progress, with 8 homes having ultra cooling units, 2 solar water heaters, 1 heat pump water heater and all of the aforementioned include a in-home monitor. HELP has outreached to 150 plus homes that had previously or were awaiting weatherized services. Postcards were sent statewide in partnership with NV Energy to outreach to homes weatherized by NV Energy. University of Reno sent the postcards to reach households up to 80% area median income levels inviting them to see if they are eligible to participate in the SERC Program. The postcards directed the potential clients directly to the subgrantees who have been overwhelmed with the huge response to the postcards. Albert Weiss said HELP had received over a 100 phone calls the

past few days. Ernie asked how the funds would be distributed if there is more interest than funds. Adam said it would be on a first come first serve basis, the response to the postcards was much higher than the 5% of the 1700 statewide that was expected. CSA has a plan to install a variety of technologies such as ground source heat pumps, geothermal and in-home energy monitors. Adam shared that NRHA has a multi-family complex in progress. Margaret added the contracts went out and she should be hearing back shortly on when the project can begin. Ariel shared that with the program ending March 2012 it is important that the Project Manager Norman Kramer share his experience in renewable energy and work with the subgrantees to make sure all projects are in place. Gary Childers asked if there are any plans that target manufactured housing. Gary explained some of the technologies being discussed won't work as well as in a manufactured home. Adam explained the Ultra Cooling System is being installed in mobile homes and it is ideal for mobile homes. Albert added that all the moisture is extracted and not expelled into the home which is ideal for manufactured homes.

### **Legislature Update**

Hilary updated the council about AB457 which was introduced by assembly commerce and labor with a proposal to double the mill tax and the second part of the proposal is doubling the mill tax for larger companies. The monies that is derived through the mill tax placed in the Universal Energy Charge fund then it is distributed 75% to Welfare to fund the Energy Assistance Program and 25% to Housing Division to fund the state portion of the WAP program. The bill was proposed by advocates of both of the aforementioned programs and in conjunction with some legislatures to try and become a source of additional funds for the programs. It has not been formally scheduled for hearing and the Housing Division will not take a stance on the bill but will participate in the hearings. Hilary said the Housing Division will remain neutral on the bill. Ariel said he received information that the hearing might be scheduled for this Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> and asked if any members could attend and share success stories for the programs. If anyone is available they can contact John Sasser and his email information was distributed. Ernie said the client success stories are very effective as they speak directly to the legislature. The programs above make an impact on the health and safety of lives.

AB432 was introduced by Marilyn Kirkpatrick and was heard yesterday. Hilary was out of town and was unable to attend the hearing. The bill proposes to repeal a previous section of law which had to do with seller having to have an energy audit completed under certain circumstances and provide the information to new home buyers. The bill proposes language that outlines what an energy audit must consist of and who can actually perform an energy audit. These proposed changes could have implications for the subgrantees and the contractors performing the work for them. It is unclear if the current assessments being done would be considered an energy audit under the bill and if so licensure would need to be received by any party performing an energy audit. Hilary has not had an opportunity to review the bill and it is not clear whether it will affect the subgrantees or contractors.

### **Public comment**

None

## **Agenda items for next meeting**

1. SERC/WAP/ARRA program updates
2. NV Energy Demonstration Plan (Ernie to review transcripts and provide update)
3. Client Education (delivery, more effective, cost, etc)
4. Additional items can be proposed

## **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 9:00 a.m.

## **Adjournment**

Paul made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ernie. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT