

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Wildhorse Resort and Casino,
Pendleton, Oregon, on September 21 – 25, 2014

DISCUSSION

Monday:

1. Linda Clark, Data Dissemination Specialist, Pacific Northwest, U.S. Census Bureau talked about the Census and American Community Survey (ACS). The Census is conducted every 10 years, 100 percent data, & Point in Time Counts. The American Community Survey (ACS) is ongoing with annual data release, sample data (3.54 million housing units per year or 295,000 per month), period estimates (characteristics). The ACS has questionnaire topics: demographic, social, economic & housing. The ACS data is gathered by means of: (1) e-mail, (2) phone contact, (3) mail, and (4) direct residence contact. ACS numbers are used by tribal planners and administrators, as well as national organizations serving American Indians and Alaska Natives to plan for future economic development, housing needs and access to health and educational services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. There are 157 field staff representatives conducting interviews on federal AIAN reservations on five west coast states. Field interviewers make contact with the Chairperson of each tribe prior to first contact & initial visit. The Federal Register will receive comments Oct/Dec.
2. SamiJo Difuntorum, Chairman, NAIHC: provided an update on Negotiated Rulemaking for the Native American Housing Assistance & Self Determination Act (NAHASDA). The final Committee will not meet until next year; the local Northwest Committee representatives are from Siletz, Lummi, Puyallup and Yakama. The Data Study group will take into consideration the US Census data, ACS, Labor Reports, I.H.S., and numerous other data sources in order to determine whether ACS will be of benefit or submit alternative choices to HUD. The current ACS data financially benefits some tribes, while others may get reductions in the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG). HUD has indicated that the ACS may be instituted in FY 2018, if the Committee does not come to an agreement on final data.
3. Discussion on revising language on a previous resolution tabled from NCAI.
4. Group questions: requested information on new housing development and land leases within local housing authority; appears that politics is a consideration for some tribes. Provided additional information on the importance of completing the ACS in consideration of federal funding awards for grants for all tribes. Wanted to get more information on cleaning up of drug houses: what are other tribes doing to address this problem.

Tuesday:

1. The Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA) Quarterly meeting was held on September 10-12, 2014 at Great Wolf Lodge. The meeting packets, Chehalis Housing

Authority gift bags, and training materials were distributed. The major NWIHA items discussed were:

- a. Housing authority staff directory, NWONAP staff contacts, and associate member contact information.
 - b. NWIHA potential By-Law changes: officers & liaisons holding office for more than one position from a single tribe
 - c. Request signing letters supporting H.R. 4329 NAHASDA reauthorization to Honorable Steve Pearce
 - d. Update on NAHASDA Negotiated Rulemaking: overlapping formula areas, minimum funding, demolished FCAS units, MHOA unit conveyance, undisbursed funds issue, conversion of MHOA units to low rent units. Established a Data Sources Study Group.
 - e. The NWIHA scholarship application are now available, anyone up to age of 24 can apply till March 31, 2015.
2. Elena provided the HUD update because Seattle NWONAP staff unable to attend due HUD Headquarters coming on site: Briefly the 2014 Training schedule was provided showing the various training sessions, the Call for Presentations, the Section 184 program. A local CTUIR staff attorney provided a success story in which she used the Section 184 program to buy her house! The Siletz tribal council member shared that they used the Title VI program to build six houses, which within two years tribal members may buy those houses.
 - a. Lummi Safe House program: plans, operations, and location for transitional housing at Lummi. A success story shared that 3 years sobriety due to residency in transitional housing off reservation. She now has a job and established friendships with cultural circle to assist others.
 3. The NWIHA shared training materials: Methamphetamine Policy & Remediation Standards. All calls and questions to be referred to Lisa Stewart at Seattle ONAP. An excellent source of information regarding Washington, Oregon and Idaho state laws for remediation, and local contractors cleaning standards.
 4. Two resolutions were considered and passed, see below.
 5. Open discussion on housing issues: tribal land development, conveyances of paid off units,

ADOPTED AND RECOMMENDED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Resolution # & Title: **Request HUD to initiate government to government consultation to update the Indian Community Development Block Grant Formula Allocation**
2. Resolution # & Title: **Urging HUD and Department of Labor to Suspend Application of Recent Davis-Bacon Wage Determinations in Indian Country until Tribal Consultation Takes Place**

COMMITTEE – TABLED - None

Minutes/Report submitted by: Elena L. Bassett, Co Chair
Committee Chair