cOMMISSIONERS rOUND TABLE

WHAT’S THE MISSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS?  
HOW DO THEY ALIGN WITH THE HOUSING AGENEY?

# Overview

THIS ROUND TABLE BRINGS TOGETHER A GROUP OF COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER AS IT RELATES TO THE COMMUNITY, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND THE LEGISLATIVES WHO MAKE POLICY.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHAT’S THE MISSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, HOW DO THEY ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH THE HOUSING AGENCY?

## HOW DO THEY IMPACT THE PUBLIC?

WHAT SHOULD THEIR RELATIONSHIP BE WITH THE PUBLIC AND THE FAMILIES, THE AGENCY STAFF, AND COMMUNITY?

## HOW DO THEY MEASURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN HELPING THE AGENCIES MEET THE GOALS THAT THEY’VE SPELLED OUT IN THEIR AGENCY GOALS?

IS THERE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITIES THEY ADVOCATE FOR?

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP PRESERVE THE DIRECTION AND FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION? COMMISSIONERS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP, DILIGENCE, INTEGRITY , FLEXIBILITY. YOUR THOUGHTS?

THEY HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PHA TO KNOW THE ANNUAL PLAN, MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES, PLUS HAVE A FAMILIARITY OF THE STRATEGIES FOR UP-COMING YEARS AS THEY ADVISE THEIR EDS.

Resources for commissioners as you develop your role as a commissioner.

Some tools to assist you in your role as a commissioner:

READ THE COMMISSIONERS RESOURCE PAGE- THIS PAGE IS LOCATED ON THE NAHRO WEBSITE, IT’S ACCESSIBLE WITHOUT A LOGIN AND IT CONTAINS VALUEABLE INFORMATION FOR COMMISSIONERS.

DEVELOP A MENTOR LIST, OR BOND WITH A CURRENT COMMISSIONER WHO MAY BE FROM YOUR STATE, OR REGION. OUR MENTORS ARE READY AND WILLING TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND HELP.

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING COMMUNICATIONS FROM NAHRO AND WOULD LIKE TO, ARE YOU AN ASSOCIATE? IF NOT, WE’LL GET FORMS FOR YOU, THEY CAN BE COMPLETED AND YOU CAN BE

RELATIONSHIPS : BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRIMARY ROLE OF THE BOARD IS TO GOVERN

PRIMARY ROLE OF THE ED IS TO MANAGE

ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT THE BOARD-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RELATIONSHIP IS, SO TO SPEAK, THE BOARD OVERSEES THE FOREST; THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TENDS THE TREES. SO THE BOARD APPROVES THE AMOUNT BUDGETED FOR MAINTENANCE AND STAFF SALARIES, THE ADMISTRATOR DETERMINES THE SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT AND THE ALLOCATION OF MONEY FOR STAFF SALARIES.

THE BOARD MUST BE ABLE TO RELY ON THE ED TO CONFRONT AND RESOLVE ISSUES OF DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT, WHILE RESPECTIVELY STAYING OUT OF GOVERNANCE. CONVERSLEY, WHILE RESPECTFULLY STAYING OUT OF DAY- TO DAY MANAGEMENT.

WHO DOES THE BOARD WORK FOR?

1. COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES
2. ALL WHO ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE AGENCY’S SERVICIES

WHO APPROVES WHAT?

1.THE BOARD’S ROLE IS TO PROVIDE STRTEGIC LEADERSHIP FOR THE HOUSING AGENCY.

2. THE BOARD RELIES ON THE ED TO CONFRONT AND RESOLVE ISSUES OF DAY-TO DAY MANAGEMENT. THE ED RELIES ON THE BOARD TO CONFRONT AND RESOLVE ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE.

WHO ANSWERS TO WHOM?

1. ONLY THE BOARD, BY MAJORITY VOTE, HAS AUTHORITY OVER THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.
2. THE EDXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S ACCOUNTABILITY IS TO THE INTIRE BOARD, NOT ANY INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONER OR ANY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD.
3. THE BOARD IS FOR FORMULATING LONG-TERM PLANS FOR THE HOUSING AGENCY AND FOR THE GENERAL POLICIES BY WHICH THE AGENCY WILL ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES.
4. TO AVOID CONFLICT OR CONFUSION, THE BOARD SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED DAY-TO DAY DECISION MAKING.
5. HOW DO WE GET ACCOUNTIBILITY?

SELECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ACHIEVE FULL ACCOUNTABILITY, DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORIY SHOULD BE BOTH TRACEABLE AND UNITARY. MEANING EACH LINK FROM SUPERIOR TO SUBORDINATE MUST BE CLEAR TO ALL PARTIES.

## FOR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE UNITARY, ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY MUST OCCUR THROUGH A SINGLE CHANNEL, RATHER THAN MULTIPLE CHANNELS. THE ED MUST BE GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO GET THE JOB DONE.

## SELECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

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ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE MAY HAVE TO DO AS A BOARD MEMBER IS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SELECTION OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE CHOICE OF A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE TO FILL THE POSITION OBVIOUSLY SIZE, LOCATION , PROGRAM MIX, RESOURCES, AND OTHER PARTICULARS OF YOUR HOUSING AGENCY, THE DECISION RESTS SOLELY WITH THE BOARD.

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