

Provisional Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2010 – Washington, DC

Housekeeping:

- January 26 Steering Committee meeting minutes were approved.
- Meeting Materials included the revised Highlights of the Safe and Healthy Housing Act of 2009, list of the congressional caucuses, and draft agenda for the April coalition meeting.

Federal Legislation Work Group, Lars Peterson (Rebuilding Together) delivered the report. The work group is developing proposals to strengthen the Healthy Homes “Vision” bill. A meeting with Cheh Kim on Senator Kit Bond’s staff provided helpful feedback on plans for federal healthy homes legislation. One important question is how the bill interfaces with other efforts focusing on sustainable housing. Possible next steps are meeting with Shelley Poticha, Director for HUD’s Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and commenting on HUD’s draft approach to the distribution of funds under its Sustainability grant program. NCHH will draft comments and invite other steering committee members to sign on.

Presentation by James Ahn of Senator Jack Reed’s staff

James Ahn (Housing Legislative Assistant, Office of U.S. Senator Jack Reed) provided an update on recent activities by Reed’s office. They are looking at opportunities to insert sections of the Healthy Homes Vision bill into other bills that are moving. They are coordinating with Rep. Keith Ellison’s office on stand-alone legislation securing subpoena authority for HUD’s lead disclosure enforcement activities. Work on legislation to stem foreclosures includes adding the option of loan modification, grants, and a focus on hardest hit states. Other than a jobs bill and unemployment benefit extensions, the prospect for funds for anything is low – with the exception of a “cash for caulkers” program to incentivize energy saving home improvements. Ahn pledged to stay in touch and continue efforts on healthy homes legislation.

National Collaboration/Partnership-Building Work Group, Patricia Adkins (Home Safety Council) reported on plans for the Annual Meeting. The work group is looking for suitable space for the meeting; dates in the 4th week of April are being considered. The draft agenda was circulated and discussed. It was agreed that salons could feature local-state-federal efforts; or could focus on the summit background paper topics (financing asthma management , integrating health into energy efficiency; healthy housing codes, and financing healthy homes) or on broader topics such as sustainability, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, or healthy communities. The group discussed having a screening of Place Matters (www.unnaturalcauses.org/episode_descriptions.php?page=50). During the business meeting, members of the coalition will vote on future members of the steering committee; the workgroup will ask each current steering committee member if the organization would like to continue participating in the steering committee. To vote in the election, an organization must have joined by submitting a membership form. A Hill briefing is also being planned in conjunction with the annual Coalition meeting.

Federal Regulatory/Administrative Work Group reported that efforts to implement EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule continue.

Updates

Building Safety Day is Monday, May 8 –ICC members will visit the Hill.

ICC-NAHB National Green Construction Code is scheduled to launch March 15 and be available for comment. <http://www.iccsafe.org/CS/IGCC/Pages/default.aspx>

EPA will unveil "Communities of Interest" website on green solutions at the end of April.

World Standards Day, on October 14, will emphasize building accessibility.

Home Safety Council is having a half day meeting on injury prevention with CDC.

State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association meets April 14-16 in Ann Arbor.

Next Steps:

- NCHH will send the minutes and "save the date" for the Coalition meeting as soon as the meeting venue and schedule are finalized.
- A full Coalition meeting is being planned for April 2010. (UPDATE: We are now looking at late May or June to enable additional planning time.)

Steering Committee Attendees:

Patricia Adkins (Home Safety Council)

John Giglio (National Center for Healthy Housing)

Catherine Grey (US Green Building Council)

Melanie Hudson (Children's Health Forum)

Tracy Kolian (American Public Health Assn.)

Jane Malone (National Center for Healthy Housing)

Olivia Morgan (Children's Health Forum)

Rebecca Morley (National Center for Healthy Housing)

Oramenta Newsome (Local Initiatives Support Corporation)

Randy Pence (American Society of Home Inspectors)

Lars Peterson (Rebuilding Together)

Wilhelmine Miller (RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America/George Washington University)

Other Coalition Member Attendees:

Felicity Turner (Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning)

Genevieve Bartleby (Baltimore City Health Dept.)

Kara Eastman (Omaha Healthy Kids)

Farzana Shakir (Indoor Air Quality Association)

Jan Strozer (National Assembly on School-Based Healthcare)

Invited Guest: James Ahn, Office of U.S. Senator Jack Reed