

Provisional Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2010 – Washington, DC

Housekeeping:

- March 2 Steering Committee meeting minutes were approved.
- Meeting materials included the draft agenda for the Annual Coalition meeting in May, comments on the Home Star for Energy Retrofit Bill, and the RRP Congressional Action Alert that was distributed to House members the week of April 12th.

Discussion of 1st Annual Coalition Meeting. Jane Malone (NCHH) reviewed the draft agenda for the Coalition Meeting, which will take place May 24-25, 2010 in Washington DC. The agenda begins with out of town guests informally gathering on the afternoon of May 24th, at 333 A ST NE, so that arriving Coalition members can gather and walk to the Senate briefing together. There will be a Senate staff briefing held at G11 Senate Dirksen Office Building at 3pm, with members of the federal agencies speaking briefly on their initiatives and Coalition members presenting policy ideas and priorities. The Senate briefing will be followed by Senate office visits by Coalition members. A reception will be held at 6pm, at the Washington Court Hotel. This will be an opportunity for networking, with light food and drinks. Federal agency staff will be invited to the reception. On Tuesday, May 25th Coalition members will meet in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building (Room 2168). The day will begin with a briefing for Coalition members on the Coalition's federal policy priorities. At 9:30am, Nikki Buffa, from the White House Council of Environmental Quality (invited), will speak about the Administration's priorities as they relate to energy, the environment and sustainability. Nikki's presentation will be followed by a House staff briefing (which will mirror the Senate briefing from the day before). There will be time afterwards for individual House Office visits. Coalition members will walk to the Washington Court Hotel for the Coalition's business meeting. Lunch will be served at 12:30, with invited guest Shelly Poticha, Director for HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. At 1:30pm, the meeting will break into three groups for "salons" on the topics of Energy and Health; Healthy Homes Financing and Resources; and Codes and Standards. The purpose of the salons is to enable discussion of these issues and to surface priority policy strategies that the Coalition can support in the coming year and into the future. Participants will have the opportunity to move from salon to salon or stay with one topic. There will be a facilitator and technical expert(s) (TBD) for each topic who will remain with that salon. After a brief report about what was discussed in the salons, there will be a short break, followed by the Coalition business meeting, including election of the Steering Committee. Meeting will adjourn by 5pm.

The committee members recommended that local experiences or stories be expressed in the briefings, since local examples resonate well with hill staff. Once the briefings are publicized, coalition members should be asked to make direct requests to their representatives' offices for staff to attend the briefings. NCHH will develop a flier/press release about the briefings and distribute it. Casius Pealer (USGBC) raised the idea of announcing a future site visit to Wheeler

Terrace for hill staff or inviting them to attend the HUD event at Wheeler Terrace. Regarding the salons, Bob Cole suggested Sarah Rosenbaum (George Washington University School of Public Health, Health Policy Department) to speak on Medicaid reimbursement issues. He will follow up. Jane Malone will develop a 2 page policy paper to frame the briefings, which will be distributed by April 28th. The first email invitation to the meeting has gone out, to both Coalition members and prospective members. Ruth Klotz-Chamberlin will send another invitation to Coalition members, and Patricia Adkins will send follow-up reminders.

Federal Legislation Work Group, Lars Peterson (Rebuilding Together) delivered the report. The work group developed proposals to strengthen the Healthy Homes “Vision” bill and is coordinating with Senator Jack Reed’s and Congressmen Robert Brady’s offices. Senator Reed is getting ready to move forward. The work group’s goal is to have the bill introduced before the May Coalition meeting. The work group has a meeting with Brady’s office April 23. There was been significant response to coalition advocacy on RRP implementation, especially from Representative Waxman, that staved off the threat of postponement of the rule. Adoption of an amendment in the Home Star legislation will ensure that any work done under Home Star will be consistent with RRP and other laws. Regarding appropriations, Senator Reed is drafting a “dear colleague” letter asking for \$225 million for HUD. Goal is to have 5 republicans sign on.

Casius reported on the status of the Green Act, which will establish standards for HUD projects. There is a mark-up on April 22. Energy Efficiency Modernization act language to be added will provide loans for energy-efficiency and water improvements (possibly including healthy homes improvements). Also there is consideration of requiring evaluation of energy efficiency during appraisals. One major issue is the bill’s cost implications.

National Collaboration/Partnership-Building Work Group, Patricia Adkins (Home Safety Council) reported on additional details for the Annual Meeting. During the business meeting, members of the Coalition will vote on future members of the steering committee. Current members will be asked whether or not they wish to remain on the steering committee and to provide a short bio to ensure the steering committee is composed of a diversity of organizations. This information will be sent out to Coalition members before the meeting, so that those voting can use this information. John Giglio raised the idea of getting CSPAN to cover the briefings; Rebecca will have NCHH’s media consultant pursue it.

Federal Regulatory/Administrative Work Group reported that efforts to implement EPA’s Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule continue. There will be an informal meeting with OMB this Friday.

Organizational Updates

-Rebuilding Together: April 24th is National Rebuilding Day, which will rehabilitate 5,000 units across the country. Also RT has been working in the Gulf Coast region and for the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, going to hold “Fifty for Five” event – to rehab 50 homes in August.

-USGBC: Briefing coming up on the hill regarding rural green housing. Also, the National Housing Conference and USGBC are launching a report on executive authorities for advancing green building without statutory authorization at the National Press Club on April 29th. Casius will circulate the memo.

-Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning: April 20, 2010 is the launch of the Ad Council campaign, which will target parents and caregivers about dangers of lead. Website is www.leadfreetkids.org. The Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, which kicked off about a year ago, has expanded to add Denver and Oakland as well as 2 Indian tribes. Wes will send invitation to NSHHC's Annual Meeting to contacts in the 14 pilot cities.

-Home Safety Council: Wanted to highlight one of its sister organizations, the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA), which has changed its name to the Safe States Alliance to better reflect its mission and membership. The Safe States Alliance is a national organization of public health professionals who focus on injury and violence prevention in all the states and territories with the goal of building a safer, healthier America. Patricia Adkins shared that she has worked closely with them on older adult falls prevention.

-Advocates for Basic Legal Equality: Public interest law firm. Bob Cole directs the public health and environmental justice law group, currently working on a food security project, but deals with many issues of substandard housing. Involved in code enforcement advocacy with municipalities in Ohio.

-Baltimore City Health Department: Still conducting asthma and home visits. Recently launched an IPM project for Baltimore public schools and public housing agencies. The Washington Post had a good article in the April 5, 2010 issue about Baltimore's Healthy Homes program:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/05/AR2010040503763_pf.html.

-Energy Programs Consortium: Working group on home energy and health, project to plan for heat related emergency.

Next Steps:

- NCHH will send the minutes and re-send the email invitation to the May Coalition meeting.
- Steering Committee will not hold a regular meeting in May due to the Annual Meeting, but will plan to hold the next meetings on June 22 and in September.

Steering Committee Attendees:

Patricia Adkins (Home Safety Council)
John Giglio (Non-Profit Edge Consulting)
Melanie Hudson (Children's Health Forum)
Jane Malone (National Center for Healthy Housing)
Rebecca Morley (National Center for Healthy Housing)
Casius Pealer and Katherine Gray (US Green Building Council)
Lars Peterson (Rebuilding Together)
Greg Secord (Rebuilding Together)
Mighty Fine (American Public Health Association)

Other Coalition Member Attendees:

Genevieve Bartleby (Baltimore City Health Dept.)
Robert Cole (Advocates for Basic Legal Equality)
Michael McKnight (Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning)
Dan Newman (Sustainable Resources Center)
Lynne Snyder (Energy Programs Consortium)
Wes Stewart (Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning)