

Current Illinois NAHRO Board of Directors Roster

President

Dr. Jackie L. Newman, Executive Director
Springfield Housing Authority
(217) 753-5757, Ext. 206
jackie.newman@sha1.org

Senior Vice President

Alan Zais, Executive Director
Winnebago County Housing Authority
(815) 963-2133
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Treasurer

Kim Holman-Short
City of Bloomington
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Vice President—Community Revitalization & Development

Lorraine Hocker, Executive Director/CEO
Lake County Housing Authority
(847) 223-1170, Ext. 2030
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Vice President—Housing

Deb Alfredson, Deputy Director
Winnebago County Housing Authority
(815) 904-2681
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Housing America/Poster Contest

Deb Alfredson, Deputy Director
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Vice President—Professional Development

Kate Brown, Senior Housing Research Specialist
Elevate Energy
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Vice President—Member Services

Latina Faulkner, HCV Manager
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Vice President—NEC Software International

Jeff du Manoir
Northgate Public Services
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Vice President—Commissioner Affairs

Joseph Grisson III, Chairman
Aurora Housing Authority
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NCRC At Large Representative—2 Year

Melissa Huffstedtler, Deputy Director
Springfield Housing Authority
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NCRC At Large Representative—4 Year

Ron Clewer, Illinois Market President
Gorman & Company
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Vice President of Legislative Affairs

Daniel Cruz, Chief of Staff
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Emerging Leaders Representative

Grant A. Henry
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Secretary

Evonite Smith, Executive Assistant
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Vendor Liaison

VACANT

Small Housing Authority Representative

VACANT

Legislative Liaison

VACANT

Illinois Association of Housing Authorities (IAHA) Representative

IAHA President



ILNAHRO Board Members for 2023-2025



Dr. Jackie L. Newman is the Executive Director of the Springfield Housing Authority (SHA), which manages over 800 units of public housing and administers over 2,000 Housing Choice Vouchers. Under her leadership, SHA has self-developed over 140 units of affordable housing using a variety of financing methods and expanded and diversified its HCV program. Dr. Newman served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Peoria Housing Authority from April 1, 2018 – June 30, 2022. PHA manages 800 units of public housing and administers over 2,000 Housing Choice Vouchers. Under her leadership, PHA developed Providence Pointe, which is 140+ units of affordable housing using a variety of financing methods.

Ms. Newman is actively involved in many local, statewide, and national initiatives, including serving on the boards of Housing Action Illinois; United Way of Central Illinois; Vice Chair of Chicago Federal Home Loan Bank Advisory Council; 1st Vice President of Illinois Association of Housing Authorities; President of the Illinois National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (ILNAHRO), member of the Board of Governors for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

Jackie holds a Bachelor's degree in Management, a Master of Arts in Public Administration, and a Doctorate of Public Administration. Dr. Newman is a lifelong resident of the Springfield community, where she resides with her husband Roy of 32 years. In 2005 Jackie helped her husband found Fresh Visions Community Church. She is active in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and in various church ministries, as well as continuing her love for gospel singing through the gospel ministry group, Pastor Jerry Jones & The Fantastic Jones Family.



Alan Zais has worked over 30 years with public housing programs, now serving as the Executive Director of NIREACH (formerly the Winnebago County Housing Authority), the Boone County Housing Authority, and President of the Winnebago Homes Association, an affordable housing development agency, together serving approximately 2,000 families with \$160 million in redevelopment and new construction programs including HOPE VI, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Rental Assistance Demonstration, and USDA rural housing. Ni ReACH is a member of the MTW Collaborative and the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities.

He serves as the Illinois Governor's appointee to the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Affordable Housing Committee and the Illinois Reentry Task Force, the Past Chair of the NAHRO International Research and Global Exchange Committee, President of the North Central Regional Council of NAHRO and Senior Vice President of the Illinois Chapter of NAHRO, as well as the community boards of the RAMP CIL, Rockford Crimestoppers, and OSF College of Nursing. Alan holds a BA from Western Illinois University, an MPA through Walden University, and a Harvard University Kennedy School of Government graduate, Achieving Excellence in Community Development.





Jeff began his journey in Housing in 2010, in Hamilton Canada with a multi-year project of business process reengineering and then implementing a new Housing Management platform. He moved to the USA in late 2012 and rejoined the housing space in the summer of 2013 as the head of NEC Software Solutions' North American business unit, overseeing customer support, implementation, and business development. Much of Jeff's time is spent supporting Housing across Canada at the Provincial and local level, Jeff also supports Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Healthcare as the primary verticals of NEC. Jeff chairs the NAHRO National International Research and Global Exchanges Committee, as well as serving as VP International for the NCRC NAHRO Region. Jeff is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing and the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association.



Lorraine Hocker has served as the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Lake County Housing Authority since 2018. She is responsible for the administration of over three thousand, five hundred affordable and low-income housing units throughout Lake County, Illinois. Consists of Housing Choice Vouchers, Special Voucher Programs, and 495 Public Housing Scattered Site units, (Seven (7) Senior/Disabled buildings, and approximately 160 Scattered Site units, which are in the process of Section 18 Demo/Dispo. She has more

than 23 years of affordable housing administration experience and has been a Licensed Real Estate Agent for eight years. Lorraine serves on various NAHRO Committees as well as participates in various housing and community organizations in the Lake/DuPage area. A Passion for Affordable Housing and Loves to travel! Lorraine received a B.S. in Management & working on her MBA/MPA @ NLU.



Ron Clewer became a Market President for Gorman & Company in March of 2019. Prior to joining the Gorman & Company, he served as Chief Operating Officer of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, now Social Current, where he was responsible for operations of the National Operations Center in Milwaukee, WI and the Public Policy office in Washington DC. He was also charged with improving and advancing nonprofit human service sector outcomes through this strategic action network at a national scale.

He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of Rockford Housing Authority & Bridge Rockford Alliance, providing affordable housing, advancing workforce initiatives, and innovative supportive services to more than 7,000 families annually.

Ron has more than 20 years of leadership experience and over 17 years of multi-use real estate development and asset management experience. Ron has been instrumental in developing creative community-building initiatives across the Midwest. He brings a vision and "can do" attitude to his work with a determination to merge the best practices for both private and public sectors. His passion lies in supporting quality; quality design, services and environments that cultivate and advance equity.

With a Business Management degree from Benedictine University, he has received numerous awards for his leadership approach, pioneering community and neighborhood visions, affordable housing planning and operations, and legislative advocacy.





Kate Brown, Vice President for Professional Development. Kate has extensive experience in affordable housing and community development projects, energy efficiency of buildings, leveraging multiple funding resources, interfacing with state, federal, and public housing officials, and technical assistance.



Joe Grisson, III is a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and respected community-focused leader with over 20 years of active involvement in public housing. After entering the community, he quickly established himself as a valuable liaison between the City of Aurora, community organizations, and the Aurora Housing Authority.

Joe is a versatile professional with a background in human services and communications, along with an MBA and pursuit of a Master's in Public Administration & Leadership (MPAL). He began his career at Fortune 500 companies from 1992 to 2005 before transitioning to entrepreneurship. Deeply engaged in the Aurora and Kane County communities, he serves numerous boards, commissions, and panels, including Chairman of the Aurora Housing Authority since 2017, Advisory Board Member for the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry, and Fox Valley Park District Commissioner. Joe also mentored middle school boys and organized programs for un-



Kim Holman-Short has had a long and successful career in affordable housing, serving as the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington and the Housing Authority of McLean County. With 24 years of experience in that role, she has made significant contributions to these organizations and the communities they serve.

Kim's involvement and contributions to various organizations and committees are truly remarkable. Her dedication to the affordable housing sector is evident through her extensive service. She has served on the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Board of Governors, Members Services Committee, Housing Committee, Steering Committee, and Housing América Campaign. Additionally, she has been a Past President for both the North Central Regional Council (NCRC) of NAHRO and the Illinois Chapter of NAHRO. She currently serves as Treasurer for IL NAHRO.

Kim's commitment to NAHRO is further demonstrated by her participation on NAHRO's Nominating and Election Committee and National Conference Planning Committee. In recognition of her outstanding service, she received the Charles A. Thompson Award for Distinguished Service by NCRC in 2010. As an Emeritus member of NAHRO and NCRC, her contributions continue to make a lasting impact.

In addition to her involvement with NAHRO, Kim has served on the Assisted Housing Risk Management Association and volunteered her time with organizations such as the United Way of McLean County and the Central Illinois Workforce Development Board. She has also been actively engaged with local boards and committees, including her work on the City of Bloomington Human Relations Commission.





Melissa Huffstedtler has served as Deputy Director of the Springfield Housing Authority since September 2005. Melissa started with the organization in 1999 as the Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator. She briefly served as the Executive Director for Communities in Schools from 2002-2005 before returning to the SHA as Deputy Director in 2005. From 2018-2022 she served as Deputy Director of the Peoria Housing Authority through an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Springfield and Peoria Housing Authorities.

Melissa holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign.

Melissa participates in a number of groups addressing poverty and homelessness. She serves on the YMCA Board of Directors and Heartland Continuum of Care Board and formerly served as Board Chair. She is an active member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), Illinois NAHRO and the North Central Regional Council of NAHRO



Deb Alfredson, Freedom of Information Act Officer has worked in the social service realm for over 15 years. Seeing that housing was a foundational issue in helping anyone. They needed a home to be able to create the stability to move through their other barriers. This experience made her passionate about affordable housing for everyone. She serve on the ILNAHRO Board of Directors as Vice-President of Housing and Poster Contest as part of her role as Deputy Director of Winnebago and Boone County Housing Authority.



Latina Faulkner born and raised in the vibrant city of Chicago, Illinois, I was intimately acquainted with the realities of public housing from an early age. Growing up, I had close family members who navigated the challenges of living in the Chicago projects, an experience that would deeply resonate with me throughout my life journey.

Following my academic pursuits, I embarked on a notable career with JP Morgan, dedicating over 12 years of my life to the financial sector. During my tenure with the company, I honed my skills in diverse areas, including meticulous reporting, rigorous quality auditing, efficient data entry, adept problem resolution, and the continuous quest for process improvement. My unwavering commitment, coupled with a knack for fostering a positive and motivated work environment, earned me recognition from management and colleagues alike. I was often viewed as an organized, team-oriented professional who was always eager to lend a helping hand and guide fellow team members.

My journey with the Springfield Housing Authority (SHA) began on July 1st, 2019, when I assumed the role of an Occupancy Specialist. My enthusiasm for learning and my dedication to the task at hand allowed me to excel rapidly in this position. I cherished the opportunity to assist families in their pursuit of safe and comfortable housing, an endeavor that perfectly aligned with SHA's overarching mission of "Changing Lives One Key at a Time." To my astonishment, my efforts were acknowledged, and I was awarded the Employee of the Quarter title for the first quarter of 2020. This marked the start of an exciting trajectory.

In June 2020, I embraced the role of Program Integrity Specialist, drawing upon my financial background to work with tax credit properties while continuing to serve families in public housing.



My commitment and contributions were recognized once more as I was honored with the title of Employee of the Year for 2020.

Driven by the desire to create a more profound impact on our community and its families, I decided to take on a new challenge and applied for the position of Executive Assistant. I knew that in this role, I could make a significant difference by leveraging my organizational skills and dedication to enhancing the lives of those around me. In August 2021, I was delighted to be promoted to the position of Executive Assistant to the Director, Jackie L. Newman. This role resonates deeply with me, as I am wholeheartedly devoted to making the lives of those around me more manageable and efficient. Just as I take pride in lightening the load for my loved ones, I approach my work with the same level of dedication, trust, and dependability.

In my current role as the HCV Manager, I have enthusiastically embraced responsibilities that include overseeing performance evaluations, coordinating program activities, upholding stringent standards, managing personnel allocation, assisting in recruitment, conducting employee training, addressing personnel issues, and recommending and implementing corrective action plans.

Outside of the professional realm, my time is dedicated to nurturing my cherished Five-year-old, who remains the light of my life. My family is my rock, and they have been instrumental in helping me realize my purpose. The love and positivity that my family brings to my life is something I can't help but share with everyone I encounter. My sincere desire is to see all of us succeed, and I am unwavering in my commitment to making that a reality for both my family and the community I serve.



Grant Henry attend Moody Bible Institute, where I am pursuing a degree in nonprofit management. I have a deep-seated interest in housing because I recognize its irreplaceable value and importance in the holistic wellness of communities and through being exposed to the industry partially through my grandfather, I realized how passionate I am towards low-income housing and how pertinent it is throughout the United States. Moving forward I intend to strive towards a MPA and a career full of helping people intend to be known for my dedication, professionalism, and passion. Additionally I was involved in the IHC Emerging

Leaders internship program where I grew in my affordable housing experience through the Springfield Housing Authority.



Evonite Smith, is the Executive Assistant to Springfield Housing Authority's Executive Director, Dr. Jackie L. Newman. She has a passion for helping individuals and families get connected to stabilizing and supportive resources, previously working at Central Counties Health Centers in Outreach and Enrollment. Mrs. Smith was an integral part of the 2023 ILNAHRO Conference planning committee, celebrating the organization's 85th year of advocacy for public housing authorities in Illinois.

Alongside her husband, Pastor Ricky Smith, spiritual mentorship and ministry hold primary importance in her life, overseeing the Music Department and Women's Ministry at their church, Worship Deliverance Praise Tabernacle. She looks forward to the year ahead, serving the affordable housing community as Secretary of the ILNAHRO Board of Directors.





Dan Cruz is the Chief of Staff of the Chicago Housing Authority, a role he has held since 2021. He assists the Executive Office in overall agency operations and planning, focusing on intergovernmental affairs and community relations. Before joining CHA, he ran his own public affairs consulting practice, working on civil rights and philanthropic issues. His background also includes senior public relations roles at Ligado Networks, the U.S. Treasury Department, the General Services Administration, and the Massachusetts state government. He has worked on high-profile federal and local policy and regulatory issues throughout his career. He received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Northeastern University in Boston and was a University of Chicago Civic Leadership Academy Fellow.

