

Housing Selection Committee meet

By: Titus Nez, CSC – tnez@navajochapters.org

PINEDALE, NM – The Pinedale Chapter Housing Selection Committee met for the first time since May 2017. Committee President Gloria Gray called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. with Committee Member Frances Price, Chapter Vice-President Clara Daye, and Chapter Community Services Coordinator Titus Nez in attendance.

The committee discussed policies issues that are currently affecting applicants and negative outcome in terms of required documentation. CSC Nez had send a Memo to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice to inquire about utilizing a signed affidavit by land owner in place of homesite lease requirement. Nez stated that potential audit reviews and the lack of proper documentation will give the chapter a negative finding and publicity. "The community does not need to be publicize about mis-use of funds; we need to follow these simple rules as passed down by the Navajo Nation Council. This Housing Discretionary fund is their funds, it is not the chapter's or the Administration. We must account for each dollar spent," stated Nez.

Committee Member Price further requested the Administration to do follow ups on this year's recipients. Vice-President Daye suggested going out to all recipient homes and inquiring if materials were used as requested. CSC Nez mention that there were 19 recipients in the 1st quarter, 20 in 2nd quarter, 13 in 3rd quarter and potentially 4 in the 4th quarter. Committee members were reminded that the community approved a resolution this year to create and establish the Housing Selection Committee. Most of the selections made in 1st and 2nd Quarter were selected by the previous Administration.

Committee members reviewed 5 applicants, all were found with missing documentation and incomplete applications. Committee requested Administration staff to follow-up with recipients in completing the applications for approval. Committee adjourned meeting at 3:45 p.m. Housing Discretionary Applications are not being accepted now due to shortage of funds. Next Committee meeting will be posted online. ##