**2020 EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION** FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

# Internal Controls in the Time of COVID-19

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**STRENGTH**MATTERS®

## **Getting Started**

- All participant lines are muted.
- You may use the Chat feature to ask questions.
- Please use the Raise Hand feature if you would like to speak.
  - The Raise Hand feature is located in the Participant panel.
- Any questions not answered during the presentation will be addressed at the end of the session.

## Continuing Professional Education Requirements for CPAs

- Polls are Required for CPEs
  - If you are seeking CPE credits, please submit ALL polls and the conference evaluations.
- We use Polls and the Zoom attendance record to verify participation throughout the webinar.
  - Participants must submit ALL polls and be logged in no later than 10 minutes after the scheduled session start time to receive a certificate.
- You may request a certificate of completion via the conference evaluations.
  - Links to the evaluations are emailed to all registrants.
- For more information on CPE credits, contact Lindsay Wells at consult.lwells@gmail.com.

#### Poll #1

#### What best describes your current working environment?

- 1. 100% remote
- 2. 100% in the office
- 3. Hybrid model
- 4. Vacation every day

## **Homeport Statistics**

- Approximately 2,600 Units, all in Central Ohio
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Property Management (2, soon to be 3)
  - Significant Community Space programming
- Parent Company = 40 Staff
  - Internal IT Department
    - Approximately 75% staff had Homeport laptops
  - No prior "work from home" policy
    - Minimal practice working from home
    - All financial training classes were held in person
- Own Our Corporate Headquarters Building
- Pre-COVID processes: very paper-intensive...we were a product of attorneys...save everything & sign everything in blue pen



## Property Management Post-COVID Control Changes



- Resident Interactions
  - Rent Collections (Initially, drop off at Closed Rental Offices; "essential personnel" would collect when no one was around & deposit; back to old routine)
    - Looking to implement Rent Café January 2021 with 1 property mgt company
  - Income Certifications (By appointment now)
  - New Tenant Applications and Move-Ins (By appointment now)
  - Maintenance (Back to routine maintenance)
- Established Best Practices Meetings jointly with both property mgt companies and Asset Management 2-3 X's/Week
  - Continue at least 1 X per week
  - Ensured Consistency of decisions and processes
- Weekly Asset Management/Property Management/Resident Services Best Practices and "What do our Residents Need" Meetings
  - Review Tenant Receivables
  - Food Programs (who is comfortable going to property sites)
- Re-imagined "Eviction Prevention" despite Eviction Moratorium
  - RAFT Fund; Additional Funding and Criteria/Process for Rental Assistance

### IT Post-COVID Control Changes

- Had Zoom and Microsoft Teams and Skype for Business already set up
  - Just none of us had ever used them
- Also SharePoint and Microsoft Planner and cloud-based sharing of documents already established
- First all-team Training on Thursday, March 12; supplied reference booklet; listed additional questions wanted answers to
  - Everyone was to go home and try to get in the system by Monday; report back success or not
  - Second all team IT Training on Monday
  - Went home on Tuesday
- Electronic signatures now whenever possible; ask first: print only if necessary; ask for DocuSign or RightSign or similar for closings and other legal documents from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties; looking into DocuSign for Homeport; learned how to electronically sign on a PDF
- In process of purchasing Homeport computers for everyone who remotely connects from their home computer to eliminate home computer use and increase security of Homeport data; upgrading some other computers as needed
- Changed all in-person training to online Zoom training; 1 on 1 counseling either by phone or Zoom



## Finance Department Post-COVID Control Changes



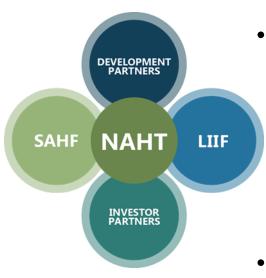
- Own our building...so set the guidelines
  - Tenant area protocols for the building; signage and social distancing floor markings
  - Homeport 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor protocols
    - Still no more than 10 people at one time
    - Only about 20% go into the building for one full day a week...only because choose to do so
- Cash...same process, just takes longer
- Accounts Payable...already electronic approvals; I pick up checks weekly and bring home to sign, copy/scan and mail
- Meet daily as a team…"anything for the group?"
- More quick online meetings to discuss decisions that involve multiple departments...decisions are being made faster and with more input (Daily Executive Team Meeting; Most departments meet daily; more weekly "organizational/cross-departmental" meetings to share information, ask questions, discuss an idea, review grant and other funder options, review grant applications, ask for help, ask for data, etc., etc.)
- Scenario Planning internally and with the Board of Directors

#### Poll #2

# How would you describe your company's remote working capability?

- 1. Seamless transition to remote
- 2. Struggled at first but got the swing pretty fast
- 3. Ongoing struggle
- 4. We never went remote

## National Affordable Housing Trust - Overview



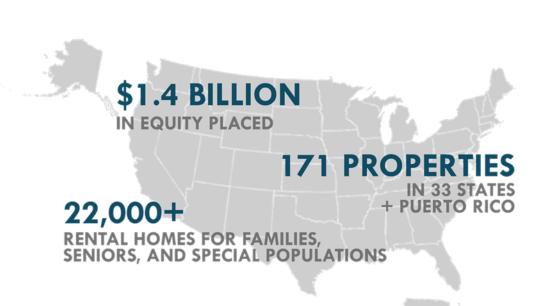
- National not-for-profit LIHTC syndicator
  - \$1.4B of equity placed in over 170 properties in 33 states and Puerto Rico
  - September 30, 2020 Closed joint venture with Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) and Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)



- Corporate office in Columbus, OH
  - Lease space from National Church Residence (also a founding member in 1986)
  - 21 employees in office and 6 work remotely
    - Pre-Pandemic once-a-week work from home policy

## National Affordable Housing Trust – COVID Changes

- Ohio stay-at-home order occurred mid-March; at the height of audit/tax season
  - External IT group
  - Weekly Teams meetings
  - Deal Closings
  - Controls in place
    - Invoices/checks/mail/Docusign
  - 170 Lower tier audits/tax returns
  - 32 Upper tier audits/tax returns
- Investor reporting increased to monthly
  - Rent collections
  - Operating Reserve requests
- Plan to reopen office
  - 50% of staff started June
  - Plan to reopen 100% sometime first of year



#### Poll #3

#### How do you see our future working environment?

- 1. Many changes that were made to work remotely will stay
- 2. Expect to revert to pre-covid times
- 3. Will continue to adopt and look at additional remote working changes
- 4. Unsure

## National Church Residences

- We are our nation's largest not-for-profit provider of affordable senior housing
- Leader in senior HUD housing
- Employ 3,330 staff members nationally and about 1,337 employees in Central Ohio
  - The Housing Accounting Department is made up of 37 people, including Financial and Real estate tax clerks, Accounts Payable and Treasury
- Headquartered in Upper Arlington, OH, where it is the largest private employer.
- Governed by a 24-member volunteer board of directors
- 338 Senior Apartments Communities / 22,671 units; Also have Residential Health Care Communities as well as Home Health Care and Adult Day Centers.

## National Church Residences-by the Numbers

- 338 Senior Apartment Communities / 22,671 units
- 4 Assisted Living Conversion Program (ALCP) Communities / 168 units\*
- 15 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Communities / 1,265 units\*
- 7 Residential Health Care Communities
- 2 Home Health Care Agencies / 3,370 clients\*\*
- 2 Adult Day Centers / 148 client capacity

\*Included in the total Senior Apartment Unit count.

\*\* Number of people served in Central Ohio – Home Care, Hospice, Health & Wellness and Ohio Home Choice Southern Ohio – Home Care, Hospice, Health & Wellness.

# National Church Residences, Pre-COVID

- Rent received in-person and scanned electronically to bank via remote check scanning
- Invoices were scanned and approved electronically.
- Docusign for some documents from external parties (auditors) but most still "wet" signature.
- In Central office, everyone worked in the office, majority of the time.
- Regional property managers and others visited sites frequently

# National Church Residences, Post-COVID

- Dropbox for rent collection, discussion of implementing electronic rent payments by residents
- Converting more vendors to ACH to reduce checks. New rotating schedule for team members to collect mail and checks.
- Additional documents being signed by Docusign.
- Middle of March Central office closed and everyone started working from home –Still working at home until at least Jan 2021 if not longer.
- Many more changes for property managers
  - At onset No visitors, Central office ordered and shipped PPE, Community room closed and events cancelled.
  - "New Normal" essential visitors and vendors allowed. Site level PPT management, resumption of all job duties, common areas reopened
- Creation of CARES Act Team and COVID Task Force



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#### Thank you

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