

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Running the Room: Robert's Rules of Order & Open Meeting Law Essentials for Boards

Race Point

Effective governance starts before the gavel comes down. This session equips housing authority board members and staff liaisons with the practical tools they need to run - or participate in - meetings that are orderly, legally compliant, and productive. The first half of the session provides a working refresher on Robert's Rules of Order, the parliamentary framework most housing authority boards have formally adopted. The second half turns to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18–25), the legal framework that governs when and how public bodies may meet, deliberate, and act. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how these two frameworks work together - Robert's Rules providing the procedural structure inside the meeting room, and Open Meeting Law setting the boundaries around it. Participants will be able to conduct and participate in compliant, well-run board meetings; recognize and correctly respond to common procedural challenges; and identify Open Meeting Law obligations that apply before, during, and after a public meeting.

Presenters: Cylas Martell-Crawford, Director of Policy and Program Development, MassNAHRO; Jennifer Polito, Executive Director, Concord H.A.; Stephan Bader, Board Member, Concord H.A.; Caileen Foley, Executive Director, Lexington H.A.