

**Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Summary  
of  
June 22, 2010**

**Board Members Present:** Howard Gentry, Mary Rolando, Frank Boehm and Bill Sinclair

**Board Members Absent:** George Price

**Legal Advisor:** Christy Feldman

**Mayor Liaison:** Hershell Warren

Commissioner Gentry called the meeting to order by welcoming the public to the Metro Social Services (MSS) Board of Commissioners Meeting along with MSS staff. Commissioner Gentry called for the approval of the June Board Meeting Summary, meeting was moved and seconded.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Pratt began her report by stating that MSS would like to show our appreciation to our community vendors for their commitment, dedication and for their services over the years. Ms. Pratt then recognized each vendor by presenting them with a plaque.

The state conducted its annual audit of the MSS Homemakers Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program and the Homemaker Program had no findings.

The budget hearing was held before the Metropolitan Council on May 23. The budget submitted by Mayor Karl Dean proposed the elimination of one MSS Program Manager position. However, we were able to fill the Homemaker position and the Nutrition Site position.

Channel 5 interviewed Carol Wilson and Pam McEwen the previous week regarding the MSS Indigent Burial Program. It was a very positive story in which one of our customers was interviewed and shared her story on how thankful she was for the assistance MSS had provided to her and her family during their time of bereavement.

The resolution to move the Homelessness Commission back to MSS was passed by the Metropolitan Council, and the move is scheduled to be complete by July 2. Commissioner Boehm asked how the move will affect the work of the MSS Board of Commissioners. Ms. Pratt stated that the Homelessness Commission will continue to operate, returning to MSS rather than at MDHA Homelessness Commission. Commissioner Gentry further commented that an MSS Board of Commissioner is always on the Homelessness Commission, and that no issues are anticipated.

Commissioner Gentry and Renee Pratt informed Commissioner Sinclair that a written statement is being prepared that defines the arrangement between the Homelessness

Commission and MSS. Commissioner Boehm suggested that the Homelessness Commissioner report their activities to the MSS board at monthly meetings to facilitate the working relationship. Commissioner Rolando was concerned about the fiscal use of resources and whether we had any overlapping.

Christy Feldman with Metro Legal commented that the ordinance states that the Homelessness Commission's budget falls under the MSS budget, although it is a separate budget. Christy Feldman briefly discussed the legal implications of the agreement between MSS and the Homelessness Commission.

### **Financial Report**

Ms. McEwen began her report by stating that MSS is approximately \$260,000 under budget for the period ending May 31. We are over budget in a couple of places such as the homeless program, burial program and Planning and coordination. Ms. Pratt added that MSS was approved to receive the \$64,600 for the indigent burial program for the upcoming year. MSS is projecting to be approximately \$180,000 under budget

MSS has received approximately \$25,000 in contributions in donations, Camilla Caldwell fund and meals on wheels contributions.

Ms. McEwen stated that we will be receiving \$25,300 for the meal program, \$64,300 for indigent burial program and \$3,000 was added for the telephone service. Ms. Pratt stated that we have added more food to our food boxes so that it would cover move days.

### **Poverty Initiative Implementation Update**

Dinah Gregory reported that a meeting was recently held with the implementation teams to discuss the first Annual Progress Report of the Nashville Poverty Council. The first progress report is due from teams on July 18 and will be distributed in August. Ms. Gregory further stated that the team is currently working on the third annual community needs evaluation, which should be ready for public release in early 2012.

The Planning and Coordination newsletter went out today and it included information on the poverty simulation held jointly with Catholic Charities and the Jewish Federation

Commissioner Gentry ended the meeting by commending the MSS staff for the partnerships that have been established with all the partners throughout Davidson County.

***Commissioner Gentry called for the meeting to be adjourned.***