

Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners
Meeting Summary
of
November 16, 2010

Board Members Present: Howard Gentry, Gwen Harris, Frank Boehm, George Price and Bill Sinclair
Board Members Absent: Patrick Willard and Mary Kate Mouser
Legal Advisor: Christy Feldman
Mayor Liaison: Hershell Warren

Commissioner Gentry called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone.

Commissioner Gentry then requested a motion to approve the October meeting summary. Motion was properly made, seconded and accepted unanimously.

Financial Assistance

Renee Pratt began her report by directing the Commissioners to the proposal that was sent out for the target financial assistance to promote employment. Ms. Pratt stated that the department is looking at a budget of \$200,000 for targeted assistance for our 2011/2012 budget year.

Ms. Pratt further stated that the funds will be used in a variety of ways. However the main focus of the funds will be to promote employment and to enhance people's lives to become employed. Staff will also provide intensive case management which will help clients to become self sufficient. Three client populations will be targeted: unemployed/underemployed who are successfully completing job training programs; former ex-offenders with employment skills and work history and youth who have aged out of foster care. Because these types of funds are not otherwise available for the identified categories, there will be no duplication of services in Davidson County. Clients are likely to have different levels of needs, and examples of these different scenarios were provided to the Board.

Commissioner Gentry asked if people who receive services from another agency are precluded from receiving targeted financial assistance from Metro Social Services (MSS). Ms. Pratt stated that these groups are targeted, but the same people could get these services else where. Dinah Gregory further stated that they can get other services, but other agencies are not providing this assistance targeted in this way. Commissioner Gentry then asked if the clients could go to Metro Action Commission (MAC) for the same service. Ms. Gregory stated that MAC's financial assistance focuses on housing.

Commissioner Sinclair suggested that a case need to be made on why \$200,000 and how many people would be affected by this. Ms. Pratt stated based on staffing, case loads and best practices, \$200,000 could serve approximately 200 customers, with the funds used for direct assistance.

Commissioner Boehm stated that it is important to show the Mayor where and how the \$200,000 will be used. Commissioner Boehm also commented on the document regarding the Target Financial Assistance and how well it describes the use of the \$200,000.

Commissioner Boehm then made a motion regarding the proposal for targeted financial assistance to promote employment.

Commissioner Harris had questions regarding the wording of the document and there was discussion on the specific population of youth who had been in foster care. It was clarified that Juvenile Justice youth could be served if they otherwise met the criteria, in addition to those who had aged out of foster care.

Christy Feldman with Metro Legal suggested the previous proposal be withdrawn and asked for Commissioner Boehm to restate the motion. Commissioner Boehm then withdrew his previous motion.

Commissioner Boehm made a motion that the MSS Board of Commissioners adopt this proposal to target financial assistance to promote employment, which has the elements of a focus on three populations: unemployed who are successfully completing a job training program, ex-offenders who have work history/skill and youth who age out of the foster care program. This will be the focus population with an amount of money up to \$200,000 which will explain how the money will be spent and the impact on Nashville's civilians and their employment results. Motion was moved and seconded.

Commissioner Gentry called for the meeting to be adjourned.