

**Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Summary  
of  
July 24, 2013**

**Board Members Present:** Frank Boehm, Chrissy Kirkwood, William Harris and Mary Rolando,

**Board Members Absent:** Renard François, Betty Johnson and Bill Sinclair

**Metro Legal Advisor:** Josh Lee

**Mayor Liaison:** Erik Cole

**Mayor's Office** Kristine LaLonde, Office of Innovation

Commissioner Boehm called the July Metro Social Services (MSS) Board of Commissioners meeting to order. Commissioner Boehm stated that he would like the Strategic Planning Retreat process to give the staff and Board an idea of where we are now and where we are going.

Commissioner Boehm did make mention of our new Board of Commissioner, Betty Johnson, whom was unable to attend today's meeting.

**Finance**

Pam McEwen described the 2013-2014 budget differences between these two times frames. Some funds were moved around according to what area needed it at the time.

The financial report for June 30 is not finalized. However, the entire department is about \$380,000 under budget, with \$340,000 being salaries and fringe benefits and \$40,000 is in other.

Special Revenue Fund ended up with a balance \$32,000 split between the Nutrition Program and Camilla Caldwell Fund. House Nashville Fund ended with \$70,000 and funds continue to be raised for House Nashville Initiative. The 4% Fund has approximately \$5,000 remaining for Case Management Development Project.

**Directors Report**

Renee Pratt began her report by picking up where Pam McEwen left off regarding the Homelessness Commission and the House Nashville Initiative and what a great job that is being done with the fund raising.

The House Nashville Campaign kicked off on June 4 with a goal of housing 200 people in 100 days. They are currently up to 43 people housed, so they are well on their way to accomplishing their goal.

All new Commissioners are required to take Sexual Harassment and Diversity Training which is now offered on Audio CD or in a class. Bonnie will contact Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Kirkwood to determine their preferences.

Ms. Pratt stated the Nutrition Program has had cuts due to sequestration. The first cut was in last year's budget totaling \$47,000, and plus another cut of about \$41,000 this year and possibly anticipating another 20% cut in October of this year. If this cut occurs, it will definitely impact services. Ms. Pratt stated that she and staff are currently researching options as to what could be done if this cut transpires. Hopefully, there will be more information available at the August meeting as to what the next move will be.

Commissioner Boehm had spoken about the Nutrition Program at a previous meeting and at that time MSS had about \$70,000 left in salaries that could be used for financial assistance. Since then, the across the board raise and increments absorbed part of the \$70,000 and MSS is left with approximately \$45,000 with hopes that these funds can be moved to financial assistance.

Commissioner Boehm asked Eric Cole to speak with Mayor Karl Dean and ask if MSS can have an exception to the typical process and use the \$45,000 left over from salaries for the vulnerable citizens in Davidson County instead of the funds going back to Metro's General Fund.

Commissioner Boehm asked Eric Cole whether there is a process that would exempt MSS from returning funds to the general fund. Eric Cole stated that he and Renee Pratt decided to hold off due to uncertainties about the federal cuts and sequestration. Mr. Cole stated that he is ready to carry the process to the Finance Director's office if that is the wish of the commission. Commissioner Boehm asked Ms. Pratt if she and her staff could prepare a report to support the proposal for the Mayor with the focus being financial services.

Dinah Gregory further stated there have been concerns for the last few years as the Community Needs Evaluation is being prepared concerning the need for housing and utilities. The other unmet end need is work force issues.

After speaking with various people in the Nashville area, it was determined that financial assistance providers in Nashville do not communicate with each other resulting in possible duplications. A meeting has been scheduled for August 9 to talk about some of the issues and closing some of the gaps. Renee Pratt and Demitria Norman will work together on this process for the 2014 budget.

***Commissioner Boehm made a motion to approve the May meeting summary. A motion was properly made, seconded and accepted unanimously.***

## **New Business**

### *MSS Chair and Vice-Chair*

Commissioner Boehm stated that his term as chair will end in September and the Personnel Nominating Committee met a few weeks again. The committee consists of Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Rolando and Commissioner Boehm. The committee nominated and voted unanimously Commissioner Rolando as Chair and Commissioner Sinclair as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Boehm then asked for questions or comments or additional nominees.

***A motion was made for the appointment of Commissioner Mary Rolando as Chair and Commissioner Bill Sinclair as Vice Chair. A motion was properly made, seconded and accepted unanimously.***

Kristine LaLonde complimented on the leadership of Commissioner Frank Boehm over the last two years, during a very challenging time. Commissioner Boehm stated that it has been a great experience to work with the staff of Metro Social Services.

## **Program Reports**

We had brief program reports from each of the following:

Adult & Family	Demitria Vaughn
Homeless	Giovanni Achoe
Homemaker	Pat Wingfield
Indigent Burial	Carol Wilson
Nutrition	Carol Wilson
Planning & Coordination	Dinah Gregory

## **Mayor's Office of Innovation – Kristine LaLonde**

Ms. LaLonde stated that the Office of Innovation model being used in Nashville is technology focused. One of the ways in which this office is unique is the charge of being able to look at the vulnerable population, poverty and equity. A lot of time is being spent at looking at employee empowerment; and how to help employees to take risk and do things differently, finding partners that want to do things differently and better. Ms. LaLonde further stated that her office would also be looking at having a cross collaboration between the different areas in Metro and meetings are being held with the majority of Metro Department Heads.

Commissioner Boehm then commented on the proposals that Commissioner Rolando and the Ad Hoc Committee came up with. Erik Cole is in the process of scheduling meetings for

both of these proposals, Aging Population and In Home Services. The Aging Population meeting should be scheduled by the end of August.

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