

**Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners
Meeting Summary
of
October 28, 2015**

Board Members Present: Frank Boehm, William Harris, Steve Meinbresse and Kim Johnson

Board Members Absent: Commissioner Betty Johnson

Metro Legal Advisor: Josh Lee

Mayor Liaison:

Commissioner Harris called the October Metro Social Services (MSS) Board of Commissioners meeting to order.

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the August meeting summary. The motion was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Finance

Lisa Ricketts reported for the end of September everything looks normal. For the first quarter, we have a total of \$242,675 with a majority of this being salaries. The projection for the end of the year is \$578,775. The Social Services Donation Fund has a balance of \$32,472.51 and Metro Homelessness Donation Fund has a balance of \$39,596.62. Ms. Ricketts stated that Metro Social Services Contracts are currently on track.

Renee Pratt, Director of Metro Social Services commented on the first quarter total and the majority of these funds are vacant salaried positions with the priority being to maintain the positions. Ms. Pratt further commented on the Camilla Caldwell funds and how the funds are used for emergency services.

Commissioner Harris moved for adoption of Finance report. The motion was approval, seconded and accepted unanimously.

Program Reports

Ms. Pratt stated that at the last MSS meeting, it was decided that the program reports would be handled differently. Commissioners were assigned to each program area and staff would only report if there was an issue or concern in the program.

Commissioner Boehm will report for the Homelessness Commission due to Will Connelly's absence (Director of the Homelessness Commission). Commissioner Meinbreesse will give a report on Planning and Coordination.

Homelessness

Commissioner Boehm began his report by commenting on the How's Nashville Fact Sheet which was located in the board packets. How's Nashville was first launched on June 4, 2013, and since then there have been a total of 1,544 people who experienced chronic homelessness which included some veterans and extremely vulnerable who has since obtained housing.

The goal for this year was that 595 veterans would be placed in housing. To date, 209 veterans have been placed into permanent housing. Commissioner Boehm stated that part of the problem is no affordable housing is available. However, the goal for the chronic homeless for the next two years is to place 1400 people into homes, 435 placed into housing to date.

The other issue involved making Nashville a homeless free zone for families. Commissioner Boehm stated that he contacted Mayor Megan Barry and asked if she would consider putting together a task force that would come up with a plan to fulfill this goal of making Nashville a Homelessness free zone for families. Commissioner Boehm hopes to hear something regarding this request in the near future.

Director

Renee Pratt began her report stating that in an earlier meeting Will Connelly presented Coordinated Entry and what it would look like for Nashville. At the previous board meeting Commissioner Boehm raised the question as to where we are with helping homeless families and looking at prevention for homeless families.

Ms. Pratt stated that she and Mr. Connelly met with all of the Nashville shelters and they also met with the financial providers that assist families with homelessness issues. Coordinated Entry will kick-off in November. MSS has already created an intake unit that will be very involved with the families along with two Social Workers that has been assigned to this pilot. After six months into this pilot, the numbers will be reviewed to see what the next steps should be and what modifications need to take place. Hopefully, we will be able to track where the families are in the shelters, what their needs are and what MSS can do to assist them.

Coordinated Entry will have its own dedicated phone line and the shelter will do a warm hand over to MSS, and the MSS intake unit will do a warm handover to the Social Workers to prevent any gaps in the process of working with the families. Intensive case management will also be provided to ensure sustainability when homes are found for these families. Commissioner Meinbreese asked what has been done internally to prepare for the Coordinated Entry program. Ms. Pratt stated four intake workers have been identified for the family shelter intake team. Each shelter has one designated person that will work with MSS. A daily report of shelter beds availability will be provided so the intake and Social Workers will know where to refer homeless families. Training was provided to staff last week to bring everyone up to date on the various services that are available and the

financial providers that will assist us. The data will be entered into the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS).

Commissioner Kim Johnson had a question regarding after-hour coverage and weekends. Ms. Pratt stated that at this point MSS is unable to provide after hours or weekend coverage at this point. Contingent on the first quarter numbers would determine how MSS will handle the after hour and weekend coverage in the future.

Ms. Pratt further stated that by January 1, all the shelters will be in effect. As far as funds, MSS will continue to look for additional funding.

Ms. Pratt commented that the Metro Council asked that there be a committee that can provide a report on inclusionary zoning and affordable housing. Ms. Pratt serves on this committee and on a sub-committee around affordable housing. The plan is to have a report available by January 2016.

Ms. Pratt also stated that MSS was approved to move the \$50,000 from Homemaker to Financial Assistance, with the main focus being to sustain people in housing and looking long term.

Planning & Coordination

Commissioner Meinbreesse stated at the last board meeting he was given the assignment to work with Planning & Coordination (P&C) staff. To that end, Commissioner Meinbreesse met with Renee and also had some group meetings with P&C and individual meetings with employees.

Commissioner Meinbreesse stated that P&C is currently working under the recommendation of an 11 year old Maximus report. Then in 2009 the first Community Needs Evaluation was put together.

Commissioner Meinbreesse stated that a lot has changed in 11 years and given this opportunity to take a look at what P&C does and what the impact of the Needs Evaluation is on an annual basis. Commissioner Meinbreesse also want to research on how we can help P&C set up an action plan so the evaluation will have a much greater impact both internally and externally.

Commissioner Meinbreesse stated that if we look at the Needs Evaluation over time, it is a good report with a lot of useful information. However, we really do not know a lot about the impact that it has. There is a question about how can we take this information and apply it to what is happening in Metro Social Services. P&C is one small piece of the agency with a huge case management piece on the other side. Sometimes the activities are driven by other monies or certain populations. However, Commissioner Meinbreesse thinks there are other opportunities that need to be identified with all the expertise within P&C. So the question is whether the information from Planning and Coordination could be shared across Metro Social Services

Renee Pratt further commented that MSS should also look at the customers we serve, as well as the Community Needs Assessment.

New Business

Mayor's Inauguration

Ms. Pratt stated that she and Commissioner Boehm attended the Mayor's Inauguration Ceremony. MSS was 1 of 6 departments asked to participate in this ceremony and had staff helping with this event.

Budget

Regarding the budget, Mayor Barry decided to meet with each department individually to discuss their budget prior to sending out any information. The mayor's office would like to know where the real needs are in each department and where cuts would be made, if necessary.

Commissioner Harris suggested the board wait on the budget information and either have a meeting late December or early January to vote on the budget.

Affordable Housing

Commissioner Harris stated that he is in the process of building 18 to 24 one bed room units for low income private housing. Commissioner Harris has agreed to look at MSS customer base first for families and individuals in need of housing.

The board also had a question regarding transportation for people living in areas of poverty to get to jobs outside of the area in which they are living. Ms. Pratt stated that MTA is studying problems regarding transportation and that she is working with transportation committee and a report should be coming out around the first of the year regarding transportation in Davidson County.

Commissioner Harris called for the meeting to be adjourned.