

**Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners
Meeting Summary
of
March 2, 2016**

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

Board Members Absent:

Metro Legal Advisor: Josh Lee

Mayor Liaison:

Commissioner Harris called the March Metro Social Services (MSS) Board of Commissioners meeting to order. Commissioner Harris commended Planning & Coordination along with other MSS staff for a job well done at the presentation on the 2015 Community Needs Evaluation, "The Status of Nashville's Poverty". Renee Pratt thanked all the Commissioners who were in attendance and the parts they played in making the event a success.

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

Finance

Lisa Ricketts reported that for year end, we have a total of \$290,444 in expenditures and we are under budget. For the year, we are \$419,958 under budget. We are \$1,651 over budget due to collections and burials.

Metro Social Services Donation Fund has a total of \$31,496.62 and Metro Homelessness Commission donation fund has a total of \$75,870.89.

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

Program Reports

Homelessness

Commissioner Boehm began his report by stating that his goal is to rid Nashville of family homelessness and find ways to raise money for this cause. Commissioner Boehm stated that he had the opportunity to speak to a group a few weeks ago regarding poverty in Nashville which stemmed from a column he had written for the Tennessean. From this discussion, Commissioner Boehm was contacted by an individual that wanted to learn more about poverty in Nashville and how he could help.

Commissioner Boehm scheduled a meeting for he and Renee to meet with this individual in hopes of soliciting money for the Camilla Caldwell Fund. Commissioner Boehm stated that he hope to do more soliciting to assist with some of the affordable housing needs in Davidson county.

Commissioner Boehm also commented on the article that was in the Tennessean regarding the 13 surplus city properties that was going to be given away by Metro Government. These are properties where people have failed to pay their mortgage and the property has been turned over to the city. Josh Lee with Metro Legal stated that The Barnes Group is still finalizing the transferring of the properties and he was unsure when it is scheduled to go before council. The city of Nashville is also looking to give grants to non-profits to assist with building affordable single family homes.

Judy Tackett began by reporting on How's Nashville. Judy stated that the 2015 report was done on the housing placements and approximately 1,000 individuals had been assisted including families with children. Also, during 2015 a total of 702 chronic homeless were placed in housing along with 294 veterans.

Judy invited everyone to come and help kick off the Homeless Planning Effort scheduled for Tuesday, March 8. This is a four-month community effort to prepare a plan to help end homelessness. Renee stated that an email will be coming out after today's meeting regarding this event.

Next, Renee spoke on the Encampment Task Force which has been meeting for approximately 6 weeks with Judy Tackett being the facilitator. The task force is searching for sanctioned and non-sanctioned camps. The Homelessness Commission charged this task force to come back with recommendations on sanctions and non-sanction camps. A preliminary report will be presented to the Homelessness Commission on Friday.

As everyone was aware the deadline for closing Fort Negley was extended. Renee Pratt commented on how she was included in a census that was conducted at Fort Negley on Friday morning at 5:30, in which they were able to speak with the campers about other options and what their needs are. There was also a group that went out to the camp site that afternoon in order to see and speak with the campers that were missed at the morning visit.

Renee further stated that the board will be informed of any additional information regarding Fort Negley and all discussions will be captured in the Encampment Proposal.

Planning and Coordination

Commissioner Meinbreese began by stating that he has had the opportunity to meet with Planning and Coordination (P&C) individually and as a group. Commissioner Meinbreese stated that he would like to work on an action plan with P&C based on what signals may be coming from the new Administration. Commissioner Meinbreese stated that after participating in the Community Needs event, it was determined that people

attended the event that had never attended before. So, the question now is can Social Services and P&C capitalize on this energy and have some follow through.

Indigent Burial

Carol Wilson stated for the month of February, a total of 18 burials were performed and 2 cremations. This was one of the busiest months MSS has had with burial assistance. Carol also stated if Metro had their own cemetery it would help with the increasing cost of having to purchase plots for each burial.

Nutrition

Carol Wilson stated MSS was able to complete three GNRC contracts being transportation, nutrition and the option contracts. These contracts will allow us to continue to care for the seniors in Davidson County.

Carol made mention of the RFP Nutrition Contract. This contract will be ending for Piccadilly. Piccadilly is the vendor that provides meals for our seniors. We have now started the RFP process in which we will be searching for vendors through the purchasing department and we will keep the board updated on this process.

Directors Report

Renee Pratt began her report by thanking all the MSS staff and Commissioners that were able to participate at the Community Needs Evaluation (CNE) event. Renee stated that we will be looking for different directions to take CNE such as dealing with policy and conversation around data that has been collected for the CNE.

Renee commended Commissioner Meinbreese on questions presented to the audience and how the audience was really stimulated people to think about other ways to conduct the event next year.

Old Business

Budget

Renee began the budget report by stating that each Commissioner should have a board packet with three proposals. The report will not contain a reduction this year, since Mayor Barry did not ask MSS for a cut this year. MSS was asked to be realistic in our budget this year in terms of how MSS can effectively spend monies and spend it down along with collaboration of other Metro Departments. Mayor Barry would like to avoid any overlapping and for all the departments come together to serve the populations that need to be served.

Today, MSS Commissioners need to vote on the 2017 budget since 2018 and 2019 are considered to be estimates. However, the 2017 proposals will be carried over to 2018-19 with additions other than what we are currently asking for this year.

Renee's proposal did not ask for any new incentives. Due to the MSS Homemaker program ending, Renee anticipated after the program end in December 2016, MSS could keep the money in that program to fund any requests MSS may have.

The 2017 proposal is in the order of need and numbered in the order of importance. This is also the same process for the Metro Homelessness Commission (MHC). The proposed plan for Metro Social Services 2017 priorities are as follows:

1. Two Social Workers
2. Two workers
3. Encampment
4. Nutrition snow meals
5. HERO's Program
6. Burial Program
7. Homemaker Reduction (would like to keep to operate these incentives)
8. Food Pantry
9. Office Support

The proposed plan for Metro Homelessness Commission 2017 priorities are as follows:

1. Program Manager 2
2. Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) – Encampment Response
3. Leasing office space
4. Position using data to inform decisions and strategy

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Metro Social Services Proposed Plan for the Budget 2017 and the Metro Homelessness Commission Proposed Plan for Budget 2017. The motion was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Commissioner Harris called for the meeting to be adjourned.