

**Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Summary  
of  
October 26, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** William Harris, Steve Meinbresse, Steve Turner, Michael Bradley, Charlotte Peacock and Bettie Kirkland

**Board Members Absent:** Frank Boehm

**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 begin by stating her report is through the end of September. For expenditure by program, MSS is under budget \$191,074 due to invoices from vendors that lagged 30 to 45 days. However, burial expenses are over budget due to the number of burials that MSS assisted with. We are over budget for personal services due to the timing and again with contractual services we are under due to the lag in invoices.

Metro Social Services Donation Fund has a total of \$34,259.77. Renee Pratt commented on the Camilla Caldwell Fund and the Nutrition Program in regards to the donations received in the amount of \$7,000 and she wanted to thank Commissioner Bradley and Commissioner Boehm for their generous donations. Metro Homelessness Commission (MHC) donation fund has a total of \$49,610.77. MHC has been using funds from "How's Nashville" to assist with housing and utilities for the homeless with the Grant Fund operating as usual.

Program Reports

*Family Support* – Lonnie Wade began his report by referencing some of the gaps in services such as transportation, affordable housing, housing related financial assistance, family shelter beds and domestic violence shelter. Davidson County has shelters that do not allow customers to stay if they have a disability, are unable to take care of themselves, have a sick child or are unable to speak English.

Some of the trends that are seen are as follows:

- Families seeking emergency housing/affordable housing;

- Single fathers seeking assistance with the only shelters available being the Men's Rescue Mission. However, you may not want to stay there with your children;
- Individuals being displaced because the landlord can sell property and make more money or they are no longer taking Section 8 vouchers.

The typical customer that would come into MSS for services during FY2016 is described as a single African American female with none or one to two children, with less than or no more than a high school GED education and between the ages of 22 to 40 years old. The living situation is somewhere between renting and living with relatives or homeless. This ends the report on Family Support.

*Nutrition Program* – Carol Wilson began her report by stating that the Nutrition Program is fully staffed. The Nutrition Program has had a total of three audits during 2016 from United Healthcare (known as the Choices Program), State Licenses Board and GNRC (Greater Nashville Regional Council). There were no findings in either audit and MSS was issued licenses for 2017 and the Home Delivered Meals will continue for our seniors.

Training was offered for 20 of our volunteers at the congregate meal site. This training is required quarterly through TCAD (Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability) and also GNRC. This training is required for them to be able to operate the site.

Ms. Wilson also stated that the Nutrition Program received a donation of \$1,000 from one of the customers that receive home delivered meals. The customer was really appreciative for the meals and to have a program such as this available in the Davidson County area. Ms. Wilson further stated that any donations received on behalf of Nutrition receive a personal thank you note.

*Indigent Burial Program* – Carol Wilson began her report by commenting on some of the trends regarding the burial program. Currently, MSS is getting a number of calls regarding out of county customers that have died. Somehow customers are being brought to Davidson County's Live Hospice to pass and this make Davidson County responsible for the burials.

Ms. Wilson asked the MSS Board of Commissioners for assistance in revisiting the current policy and procedure for the Indigent Burial Program. Ms. Pratt stated that we are currently abiding by the Policy and Procedure for the Indigent Burial Program, however, the problem is when the deceased go to the medical examiner's office and it is deemed abandoned and no one claims the body. It is then the responsibility of Davidson County to bury the remains.

MSS Board of Commissioners will receive a copy of the current Indigent Burial Policy and Procedure to review.

*Planning and Coordination* – Dinah began her report by discussing the poverty in Davidson County and the 3% decrease from 2014 to 2015. However, there are over 111,000 people that need help still living in poverty in Davidson County.

Ms. Gregory stated that Planning and Coordination (P&C) are currently working on the Community Needs Evaluation (CNE) and compiling data to be used to make the maps coming out during December. The Commissioners will start receiving sections of the CNE to review in the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Gregory stated that P&C will be doing things a little differently this year, for example;

- *The rate of home ownership differs by race, white home ownership is 61% and black home ownership is almost 40%*
- *Bachelor degrees also differs by race, white percentage is 27% and for black 15%*
- *Graduate or professional degree, whites 17% and blacks 9%*
- *When you look at the medium household income it becomes really obvious. For whites household income is a little over \$60,000 a year, for blacks it is \$34,000 a year.*

Ms. Gregory stated that there are still some disparities and this is an example of some of the information that will be included in the upcoming Needs Evaluation. Commissioner Meinbreese asks P&C to look at other subcategories that might be included instead of just blacks and whites.

Ms. Pratt stated that the Mayor's Office is interested in providing data to the 2017 CNE. So hopefully when the CNE is released it will be Metro Social Services in conjunction with the Mayor's Office.

Ms. Gregory moved on to say that each Commissioner should have received an invite to the Hunger Banquet scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> and this concludes the P&C report.

### Director Report

Renee Pratt began her report by congratulating Commissioner Kirkland on an article in the Tennessean regarding Project Return and the wonderful work that they are doing and how it inspired a TV series called "Rectify".

Ms. Pratt made mention of the MSS Homemaker Program and when the Board of Commissioners meet again the Homemaker Program will be at its end on December 26<sup>th</sup>. We currently have approximately 60 adult cases and 5 children cases remaining. We have reached out to the remaining clients to make sure their names are on the list for other resources once our program end. Joyce Hillman has met with the Department of Children services regarding our children cases.

The Homemaker Program has been closing through attrition for approximately three years now. Ms. Pratt wanted to thank everyone involved that worked to bring the program to an end including the MSS Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Pratt met with Mayor Barry along with Commissioner Harris and Abdelghani Barre to discuss our budget and the work MSS is doing in the Nashville Community. Mayor Barry also had an opportunity to review the MSS Service Delivery Model in which each Commissioner will find documentation regarding this model in their board packets. The Mayor was very concerned with the two generation approach and how we are to make this happen when MSS is dealing with the day to day crisis. Mayor Barry felt MSS need to look at some long term case management and make sure no one is left behind.

So, MSS is challenged to go back and look at our budget and see how more money can be funneled to our customers. Mayor Barry was glad to hear that MSS wanted to align our Strategic Plan with the Mayor's Office. Ms. Pratt stated from this meeting MSS is not prepared to start strategic planning. MSS need to revisit the budget and determine the direction to move in as it relates to case management. Mayor Barry will be informed when the new process is in place. Ms. Pratt is looking to start the strategic plan process in January 2017 and Commissioner Meinbreese has committed to helping with this process.

Next, Ms. Pratt referenced the Cold Weather Shelter Program which Metro Social Services is officially now overseeing for the Homeless. MSS will hire two coordinators for two facilities along with 12 volunteers which will be used on an as needed basis to staff the shelters. We will still use some MSS staff to help at the shelters but the shifts will not be as long.

In closing, the next MSS Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for December 28 and the board generally does not meet during December because of the holidays. However, now that we are meeting on a six month calendar, we are not scheduled to meet again until February of 2017. Contingent on the budget, MSS may have to do a call meeting with the Commissioners sometime between January and early February.

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