

**Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 23, 2019**

**Board Members Present:** Michael Bradley, Steve Meinbresse, Betty Kirkland, Phil Orr and Brandon Thompkins

**Board Members Absent:** William Harris and Charlotte Peacock

**Metro Legal Advisor:** Alex Dickerson

**Mayor Liaison:**

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

Renee Pratt Director of Metro Social Services commented on Commissioner Michael Bradley being named Board Chair of the Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners with his term starting the October meeting. Ms. Pratt also thanked Commissioner Harris for his time and dedication given to Metro Social Services during his time as Chair of the Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners.

***Commissioner Bradley requested a motion to approve the June and August Meeting Minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Meinbresse and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland and accepted unanimously.***

Finance Report – Lisa Ricketts, CFO

Ms. Ricketts stated that this report is for the first quarter fiscal year 20, and as of September 2019 we are under budget \$656,254 due to turnovers and open positions. The burial expenses are over budget for the first quarter by \$1,257.

By Type, the Personal Services budget is where it is due to turnovers, open positions and postponed positions to meet our assessment requirement. Contractual Services are lower than planned due to vendor billings coming late and the change in the new system.

In the MSS donation fund as of the end of September, the Nutrition Donation Fund has a balance of \$27,839.97 and this fund is combined with Camilla Caldwell, Meals on Wheels and the Two Generational Fund.

Metro Homelessness Commission Special Donation Fund has a balance of \$49,639.49. The total for all the Grant Funds is \$51,396.41.

Lisa Ricketts also provided a breakout of the Operating Budget by business units so you can see the increase between last year and this year.

This concluded the budget report and Lisa Ricketts asked for any questions.

Executive Directors Report – Renee Pratt, Executive Director

Ms. Pratt began her report by discussing The Knowles Home Foundation with the assistance of Lisa Ricketts. Ms. Ricketts began by stating The Knowles Home Foundation was opened back in 1918 to be used for food purchases to support the Nutrition program. The Knowles Home Foundation has approximately \$3000 in the SunTrust Bank to be used for the purpose stated earlier.

However, with the assistance of Metro legal it was decided we would close The Knowles Foundation account with the remaining monies to be donated to a non-profit organization.

Ms. Pratt then stated that it was decided to donate the balance of The Knowles Home Foundation to The Second Harvest Food Bank and Second Harvest has accepted the donation. Ms. Pratt stated that the board would have to bring the dissolution to a vote for it to be closed.

***A motion was made for the dissolution of The Knowles Home Foundation. The motion was made by Phil Orr and seconded by Steve Meinbresse.***

Ms. Pratt continued her report by commenting that Lisa Ricketts, MSS CFO will be retiring in December so today will be Lisa Ricketts official last MSS board meeting.

Ms. Pratt discussed the Winter Overflow Shelter. Ms. Pratt stated that there have been some questions as to whether the shelter would be opening this year or not.

The Winter Overflow Shelter will be opening to provide a warm bed and a hot meal for our friends here in Davidson County. So, the process will be starting to pull all the stakeholders and partners together. Ms. Pratt reiterated that this will be strictly an Overflow Shelter and some of the processes may look a little different, but it will still have the same purpose for Davidson County.

There are several Metro Departments involved with the Overflow Shelter in which it is really combined efforts throughout Metro.

Ms. Pratt also spoke on the 2019 Know the Community document produced by Strategic Planning and Research and this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. The document provides information on the 35 council districts, including social economic data along with demographic information specifically for each district.

All the Commissioners should be receiving the MSS Board of Commissioners meeting dates for 2020 with the next meeting to be scheduled for February 2020. Ms. Pratt further commented that she does not have knowledge of the budget schedule at this

time, however it might be necessary to have a called meeting regarding the proposed budget and if so, Bonnie will inform all the Commissioners.

Next thing on Ms. Pratt's schedule was concerning a proposal for our Commissioners regarding the MSS Board of Commissioners current meeting time. Ms. Pratt suggested we change the meeting from 3:00 pm in the afternoon to 11:30 am during the day. Ms. Pratt felt like this may make it easier for the Commissioners to make meetings without having to fight the traffic at the end of the day.

Ms. Pratt stated that the board may need further discussion, but she wanted to ask for a vote.

***Commissioner Orr made a motion to change the current Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners meeting to every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every other month to 11:30 a.m. here at Metro Social Services. The motion was seconded by Steve Meinbresse.***

This concluded Ms. Pratt's report.

#### Strategic Planning Update – Abdelghani Barre/Garrett Harper

Abdelghani Barre began his report by making sure all the Commissioners had received an invite to The Forum on Economic and Social Mobility to be held on October 28.

Next we had Garrett Harper provide us with a preview of the information you will hear at the forum. Mr. Harper stated that some of this information you will hear was also provided at the prior board meeting.

Mr. Harper stated that this Forum should provide the realizations about poverty in Nashville and the needs going forward along with a solution. This Forum will also provide a greater understanding of poverty. Because as Mr. Harper further stated there are those gaps in knowledge and understanding the structure of poverty. Approximately one third of the population in Davidson County live below the 200% poverty level.

Mr. Harper then stated with the nature of economic growth there are still difficulties with the financial struggle, jobs and education. While important, jobs and education alone will not end the financial hardship.

Mr. Harper commented on how children that are born into, and grow up in, a lower earning household will probably be earners of about the same level as their parents were. Mr. Harper stated that a booming economy does not necessarily increase mobility for children and pointed out that the area where children are born and raised has an important effect on children's outcomes. Mr. Harper stated that we should try and reconstitute some of that mobility across time from one generation to the next.

Mr. Harper stated that economic growth alone is not enough, so mobility is where we are driving the society and to do that we must work more with data and the society. Mr. Harper stated that they have received great representation for the Forum. Mr. Barre added that we currently have 25,000 more people in poverty than we had in 2005 and this is where we would then ask what is missing here. We see there is a lot of poverty in Nashville, but where do they go for services.

The Forum will be held at 8:30 am at West End Community Church, 235 White Bridge Road. There are currently 160 people that have signed up to attend the Forum

**Commissioner Bradley called for the meeting to be adjourned**