

**NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
HOMELESSNESS PLANNING COUNCIL—SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Council Members Present: Alex Smith, Catherine Knowles, Dawn Deaner, Jaha Martin, Jason Starling, Karri Gornick, Mary Katherine Rand, Sheila Decker, Travis Claybrooks, Freddi O’Connell, Paula Foster, Laura Bermudez, Vicky Batchter, Wendell Segroves, Jeff Gibson, Charles Strobel, Renee Pratt, Treva Gilligan, Hannah Davis	Date: December 3, 2021 Time: 1:00 p Place: Vine Hill Towers
Staff: April Calvin (MHID), Janet Gilmore (MHID), Jay Servais (MHID), Suzie Tolmie (MDHA)	Recorded by: Janet Gilmore

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
I. Welcome, Taking of Attendance, Declaration of Conflicts of Interest, Anti-racism Pledge	<p>► Karri Gornick, Mary Katherine Randy, Sheila Deck, Travis Claybrooks, Paula Foster, Jeff Gibson, and Charles Stobel disclosed conflicts of interest.</p> <p>With sixteen voting members present, a quorum was not present. Therefore, the purpose of the meeting was discussion only, and no votes were taken at the meeting.</p>	
Bill 2021-971 Discussion and Vote to support some, all or none of the Bill	<p>► Laura Bermudez stated that the sequence of the discussion would be as follows: Freddie O’Connell, sponsor of the bill, would be asked to provide an overview of the bill. Hannah Davis would be asked to share the position of the Mayor’s Office. Jay Servais would be asked to provide background and context from the perspective of MHID. After these introductory statements, questions and open discussion would be entertained.</p> <p>O’Connell provided a brief overview of the bill. He stated that an amendment has been offered to make the director of the newly formed office to be accountable to the Barnes Fund. In addition, there has been some discussion regarding a director of housing position in the planning department being moved to the Barnes Fund, but leave MHID organized under Metro Social Services. That is not the intent of the bill as O’Connell proposed it.</p> <p>Hannah Davis, director of housing programs in the Mayor’s office, announced that the director of housing position in the planning department has been filled but not yet announced. This person will also hire a data analyst, and the two Barnes staff will move to this department. This could be incubating a future department of housing. The Mayor’s office has submitted a substitute proposal that would bring in a consultant group to consider housing, homelessness, and social services organizational strugcure prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. No action would be taken until the consultant study is completed.</p> <p>Jay Servais, interim director of MHID, praised the MHID team and their devotion to their work. HUD TA assistance has been enlisted to create an encampment strategy for the next half year. MHID is also discussing with private companies for hotel renovations for</p>	

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	<p>temporary housing. Additionally, the cold weather shelter is open for the season, with about 25% more participants than prior year.</p> <p><u>Topics covered in the discussion and question segment were as follows:</u></p> <p>To O’Connell: Does your bill create an office but then have a period of implementation and study to set it up in the best and most efficient and effective?. Yes. Start with hiring a new director and making the organizational changes, to increase accountability. Then continue to make improvements.</p> <p>To Davis: How does MDHA work with this new office? We have a housing authority but we don’t want it to be the accountable entity for local housing policy. MDHA is not an entity of city government.</p> <p>To O’Connell: What efficiencies will a single office bring? The homeless commission, MHID, and the CoC Homelessness Planning Council are ignored by the administration and their plans. For example, during the recent Charrette meetings in it was said by the Vice Mayor that we do not have a plan. We do have a plan, it is published, it is measured and benchmarked, and it is ignored by the administration. This bill brings this work forward and places it at the hub so that the administration will recognize and work with the expertise and past / ongoing work done by the CoC and MHID. The administration has been clear that they are ok with housing policy and programs being run separately from homelessness services, but going forward they should be working in alignment.</p> <p>To Davis: Does the mayor’s office not support this bill but supports bringing in a consultant to study it and then create a bill? Davis stated that the administration does not perceive much overlap in the functions of MHID and housing work. Other cities typically do not combine these functions. That said, if the study shows we should combine, the Mayor’s office could / would be in favor.</p> <p>To Davis and Ginger Hauser, legislative liasion to Mayor Cooper and representing the Mayor’s Office: Does the Mayor’s office believe MHID should stay in Metro Social Services? The Mayor’s office would prefer that MHID stay focused on the crisis problem of encampments and rapid rehousing rather than restructuring the office. The Performance Evaluation office has started calling other cities this week. Want to do a study rather than act first and study later. We want to work with O’Connell on a substitute bill. We believe the work of the HPC is being elevated and we want this to continue. We have been working on a</p>	
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	<p>study for six weeks and will bring the study to this group when it is ready, which will be soon.</p> <p>To Hauser: Was the performance review in reaction to O’Connell’s bill? Yes.</p> <p>To Davis: Has the Mayor’s administration identified any reason to not support the structure proposed by the bill? Organizational change could delay progress that is being made in affordable housing creation and policy.</p> <p>To Davis: Are you saying there is no need to change? From a housing program stance (creating and preserving housing), the administration is making progress that is desperately needed and it is working, and it would be a risk to delay.</p> <p>To Davis: But isn’t there significant change occurring with the Planning department, the movement of Barnes to that department? Yes, but this is move / change with purpose.</p> <p>To Davis and O’Connell: The Mayor’s director of housing does not have anything do to with homelessness. Is there a department to help with homelessness? Yes, the Homeless Impact Division. But it does not have the power of a department.</p> <p>To Hauser: The Mayor’s office does not have an understanding of what MHID’s charge is, because cold weather shelter is actually not central to their charge, which is what you are saying should be Jay’s focus. Hauser responded that Jay has been given the direct task to get hundreds of people off the streets in to housing within six months, to work with HUD TAs in four week increments to get more people housed.</p> <p>To Hauser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is insulting that the Mayor’s office now has a crisis response because of Brookmeade, when the same problems and crises have been occurring for a very long time. These issues, needs, and concerns have been brought up many times and for many years by this group, by providers in this city, and by people with lived experience. We ask that the Mayor meet with this group or with people with lived experience. - The affordable housing task force completed their report in 2021, and the former director of MHID Will Connelly brought in consultants in the past as well. So there have been plenty of studies in the past and the administration would not respond. It seems like this is another punt / delay. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSS charge is much broader than homelessness. Homelessness needs more focus. It is insulting to study this further. - We ask the Mayor's study to be brought to this HPC meeting each month. - The providers in Nashville have been moving hundreds of people into housing, and we need more support from the Mayor. This is not a new crisis and the work is not new. But we need more support from Mayor, not another study. - Creating a single office does not delay or stop work. Hauser responded organizational change during the winter is too much risk. - The changes proposed in this bill will keep disruption at a minimum each time there is a new mayor elected. - The bill creates one accountable person/ body. All other aspects of organizational change can take time. - HUD Technical Assistance should be seen as the expert source and be leveraged in all of these decisions <p>A summary was provided by Laura Bermudez: There is legislation on the table to make a change now. The Mayor's office is proposing to assess and study, rather than make a change now. The Homelessness Planning Council has communicated today that more study seems like a delay and will not give the council and providers the support we need.</p>	
XIII. ADJOURNMENT	▶ Adjourned at 2:12 p.m.	NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: December 8, 2021