



## Executive Committee Meeting

Feb. 19, 2013, 1 p.m.  
Metro Social Services, Suite 100  
800 Second Avenue North

Commissioners present: Diane Kuhn, Renee Pratt, Megan Barry  
Legal representative present: Josh Lee  
Staff present: Will Connelly, director; John Hite, Judith Tackett

### **Minutes**

Diane Kuhn made a motion to approve the minutes, Renee Pratt seconded, all approved.

### **Financial Report**

Diane Kuhn reported that Metro Social Services approved that if Metro is requesting a 2-percent budget cut, those 2% will be cut evenly from all contracts.

### **Case Management RFP**

Will Connelly reported that he was working on a new case management RFP, which proposes significant changes to the case management RFP that Eckman/Freeman currently implements. That RFP will be put out for competition.

He said the major changes include an increase in the number of people served, continuation of the quality of services provided, and engagement of landlords in the private housing market. The way to do that, he said, was to increase the case management to client ratio from 1:12 to 1:20. The RFP also includes that a housing specialist position is included.

Diane Kuhn asked where in the process the RFP was. Mr. Connelly said it was going through the Metro system and has been submitted to Purchasing. Renee Pratt added that it should be posted within the next few weeks.

Will Connelly said he didn't want this to look like that Eckman/Freeman was not providing quality services now. "This is not a performance issue. We are trying to promote collaborations." He said he hoped this RFP will provide that.

### **Project Homeless Connect Recap**

Staff gave a brief recap of Project Homeless Connect and showed a brief movie by Russ Anthony 411. PHC was held on Feb. 13, and served more than 850 people. About 600 volunteers and over 70 service providers were present.

Diane Kuhn suggested that the next week staff really evaluate what went well and what can be improved by going to committee heads and gathering feedback. Ms. Kuhn wrote thank you notes to Gail Kerr, Mary Hance (both with the Tennessean) and Nancy Eisenbrandt with the Nashville Chamber of Commerce to thank them for their support in recruiting volunteers. She asked staff to have a PHC budget at the next meeting to show what was spent and left-over dollars.

Diane Kuhn then asked to talk about the by-laws. She said she has about three different copies of by-laws.

Josh Lee reported that there were no by-laws on file with the Metro Clerk.

Diane Kuhn suggested that the executive committee review the by-laws at the next meeting and make some changes, allowing the wording to be general enough that the Commission can adjust the committee structure based on need.

Will Connelly said he had been thinking about a housing committee and an advisory committee. The advisory committee would be called something like evaluation committee or quality improvement committee and allow people who experienced homelessness to offer their ideas and input. He said he was looking for any way to allow for people to have input.

Josh Lee clarified that the executive committee can send out the current by-laws and individual members could email Diane Kuhn their suggestions and feedback, but there could not be any online deliberation. All discussion and deliberation about the by-laws would have to occur in an open meeting, he said.

Diane Kuhn said she was looking at the make-up of the executive committee, which should include a commissioner who represents the homeless community.

Will Connelly also informed the executive committee that staff was working on a comment card for the commission meetings that would allow audience members to give written feedback in case they do not want to speak during the public comment period.

### **Director's Update: Housing Campaign Kick-Off on Feb. 26**

Will Connelly reported that the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> will explain where the Commission will go in the next 2-3 months. It will also introduce the 100,000 Homes Campaign, which is a national campaign with the goal to house 100,000 individuals by 2015. He said the campaign was launched by a group called Common Ground and spun off into an organization called Community Solutions. They are leading this national campaign. So far cities all over the country have decided to participate.

“The main idea is, you identify people most at risk of dying in the streets. They use a tool called the Vulnerability Index, which we already use somewhat here in Nashville,” he said, explaining that the main idea was to identify people at risk and then work on lining up resources.

Director Connelly said the speakers he lined up for the 26<sup>th</sup> are Linda Kaufman from the 100,000 Homes Campaign, who will fly in from Washington, D.C., and Chere' Bradshaw from the Memphis 100 campaign. Linda will provide a national overview, Chere' will talk about another Tennessee city that's already launched their campaign, and then Will Connelly will talk about a 3-month plan for Nashville that outlines where we want to go.

Will Connelly also reported that a group of local leaders will go to a Registry Week Boot Camp that the 100,000 Homes Campaign is offering in San Antonio. He said so far the following people have signed up for the trip: Suzie Tolmie from MDHA, Kirby Davis, a private property manager, and Ingrid McIntyre from Open Table. He said he is also looking to identify someone from Park Center. The idea was to go to San Antonio to be on the same page and then come back and broaden the team to lead the local charge.

Megan Barry asked about the current Vulnerability Index in Nashville. Will Connelly reported that the Vulnerability Index started in Nashville in 2008 and there were more than 1,200 on there with about 600 identified as being vulnerable. But, he said, a lot of the people listed on there are not in the city or alive anymore.

Megan Barry asked how many units Will Connelly was trying to find to meet his goal.

Will Connelly explained that the original focus of the Homelessness Commission was on the chronic population. He said this is what he wants to get back to – a focus on people who are chronically homeless and vulnerable. He said the general idea is that there is a need for about 1,000 housing units. "But people say that's a low-ball number. When we go out and do a Vulnerability Index consistently, then we'll have a better idea."

Diane Kuhn said that we were trying to get a communitywide understanding. She also mentioned that the Commission was paying for the director's trip to San Antonio. The other people's trip will be paid for by private funding. "So it's not costing us."

The executive committee asked for Josh Lee to ensure that there is no conflict of interest with a Park Center representative joining the trip to San Antonio due to the contract MHC has with Park Center.

Josh Lee said there was no conflict of interest, since Will Connelly was not the deciding factor.

Renee Pratt reported that there was no date on the budget hearing yet. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Renee Pratt, seconded by Megan Barry, all approved.