Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners
Meeting Summary
of
July 25, 2012

Board Members Present: Frank Boehm, Mary Rolando, Bill Sinclair and George Price

Board Members Absent: Marlen Santana Perez, Kristine LaLonde; and Renard François

Metro Legal Advisor: Josh Lee

Mayor Liaison: Hershell Warren

Commissioner Boehm called the July Metro Social Services (MSS) Board of Commissioners Meeting to order.

Commissioner Boehm made a motion to approve the June meeting summary. A motion was properly made, seconded and accepted unanimously.

Finance

Pam McEwen stated that the June books will not close until around the middle of August, so this is a preliminary report. Pam stated that MSS is currently about $391,000 under budget and she is projecting that MSS will be under budget approximately $371,730.09, which will go back to the general fund.

The client tracking software project is going well. To-date almost $55,000 has been spent with approximately $82,000 left in the project which will carry to next year.

The Social Services donation fund is closing out this year with $29,079.83, with the bulk being the Camilla Caldwell Fund and the Senior Nutrition Program.

The preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2013 is $7,751,000.00, with an increase of $4,200.00. However, later information on the salary increments may result in a slight adjustment to internal service fees.

The contracts are pretty much where they will be for the year end, with about 91% spent of the budgeted amount. Commissioner Sinclair asked why the food preparation contract with Piccadilly was $190,000 under budget.

In response to a question about how contributions are being used, Ms. McEwen stated that the contributions received by MSS are used to help our customers. Commissioner Sinclair then asked why more of these funds could not be used for some of the needs of the agencies customers and if we have a surplus whether the funds can be used for other purposes.

Ms. Vaughn stated that the Nutrition program keeps track of all new customers and customer's services that have been closed. She explained that senior customers are dying and the baby boomers who were generally not seeking the services MSS are now requesting the services of MSS. Ms. Vaughn stated that with this change a new category to capitalize on the needs of the baby boomers was produced. Ms. Vaughn further stated that a large surplus is not expected next year because services are being expanded for baby boomers aged 50 to 59.

Commissioner Boehm stated that the aging population is an area he will be discussing with the Mayor and that we are currently restrained with the age eligibility requirement for services funded by the Greater Nashville Regional Council's area agency on Aging and Disability.

Program Reports

- *Homeless* – Commissioner Sinclair commented that there have not been any staffing changes since March; however there was an opening in July due to a staff retirement. Commissioner Sinclair stressed the importance of this position being filled due to the staff case load. This past month, the Homeless unit reached a total of 120 active cases which is about 30 cases each for the five staff persons in the Homeless unit.

  During the past year, 83 clients were placed in housing. The partnership with Rooftop assisted 384 clients by preventing them from become homeless. The Family Life Center for Women and the Community Outreach Program will be held on August 7, at the McGruder Family Resource Center as part of the Nashville Night out against Crime. In closing, Commissioner Sinclair asked staff what the Commission should do to make a difference. Staff stated that the Commissioner can continue to be advocates with the Metro Council and trying to find organizations that can assist with deposits when housing is found for clients.

- *Homemakers* – Commissioner Rolando stated that the MSS Homemakers numbers that are reflected in the report are consistent with the previous reports. Commissioner Rolando had anticipated reporting on the marketing event that was held this morning at the high rise. Commission Rolando spoke with Pat Wingfield regarding the last event and it was consistent with the previous events with a good turn-out.

  Commissioner Rolando felt it would be beneficial for the commission to continue to pursue the TennCare reimbursement of Homemaker Services and make sure the community realizes that MSS is qualified to provide these services. Another issue is the situation in which MSS is responsible for payment services after staff has gone to the home and the client has not canceled the service, but does not want the service at the scheduled time and staff has arrived.

  Commissioner Boehm stated that it is important for the MSS Board of Commissioners to make sure the Mayor is invested in helping us solve some of these problems. Commissioner Sinclair wondered if the MSS Board of Commissioners could provide

more input as to where the extra dollars for MSS are allocated to help in some of the areas that were overspent within MSS

Commissioner Boehm asked Josh Lee, Metro Legal Representative, if this is something that we can address and if so whom should we contact. Mr. Lee suggested this discussion be with Finance.

Pam McEwen stated that MSS does have the option to spend the local dollars in other ways and if funds do not have to remain within program lines. MSS basically has to remain within an overall department.

Commissioner Boehm then suggested that the Board wait for the Ad Hoc Committee that will involve both Homemakers and Nutrition. The Committee will develop a report in the coming months about the needs of the aging population.

Commissioner Boehm further stated that he is eager to go to the Mayor with issues concerning the Ad Hoc Committee report about what to do for the aging population, as well as the Nashville Poverty Council. Commissioner Boehm would like each of the seven teams within the Poverty Council to identify projects that will work and have the MSS put a dollar amount to the program in order to show activity with the Poverty Council.

Homelessness Commission Report

Carolyn Grossley, Interim Director began her report by stating that the team is working diligently to come up with some new ideas that the unit can make happen. The Homelessness Commission has scheduled the Poker Run for August 11 to raise funds for housing and case management. The next event will be Art for Change (in collaboration with NOSSI Arts), is scheduled for September 1.

Commissioner Sinclair commented on the press release and went on to comment on the SWOT analysis on the Homelessness Commission. Ms. Grossley stated that the Homelessness unit has work to do and stated that she would prepare a report for next board meeting.

Executive Directors Report

Renee Pratt stated that on June 29 the all staff meeting was held. Mayor Karl Dean, Hershell Warren and Tam Gordon from the Mayor's office were in attendance. The meeting included a financial, health and wellness seminar, facilitated by Abdelghani Barre and others who work in financial education.

Ms. Pratt then commented on the rescheduling of the August and September Board of Commissioner's meetings. It was decided to cancel the August meeting and meet on September 19.with the same location and time.

Indigent Burial

Ms. Pratt began by stating that she met with Rich Riebling and his staff on Monday regarding the Indigent Burial program regarding clarification about the program and land for burial plots. All participants of this meeting left with individual assignments, and another meeting will be scheduled for the following week.

The policy and procedure guidelines were also discussed at this meeting. Josh Lee provided input which will be incorporated into our current policy and procedures, and a draft of procedures will be developed by next month.

Commissioner Boehm asked if a meeting has been scheduled for the Ad Hoc Committee. Commissioner Rolando stated that a meeting has not been scheduled as of yet, but that a meeting will be scheduled for the month of August.

Commissioner Boehm is also interested in getting some information out on the excellent work that MSS is doing. This includes meals being served, people kept in homes; people placed in homes, work that has been done and work we plan on doing in the Davidson County area. Commissioner Boehm asked Judy Tackett of the Homelessness Commission to gather information for a year-end summary and get this information out to the Davidson County area.

Commissioner Boehm called for the meeting to be adjourned.