

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**



October 17, 2011

Dr. Kellye Rice, Board Chair  
Morning Star Sanctuary  
PO Box 568  
Madison, TN 37116-0568

Dear Dr. Rice:

Please find attached the Monitoring Report of the Morning Star Sanctuary relating to the contract it has with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.

The Office of Financial Accountability is charged with the responsibility of monitoring grant funds, including Community Enhancement Funds, from Metropolitan Nashville Government to any nonprofit organization. Staff from the Office of Financial Accountability conducted the review on October 11, 2011.

We appreciate the assistance provided by your agency during the course of the review. If you have any questions, please call me at 615-880-1035.

Sincerely,

Fred Adom, CPA  
Director

cc: John Pugh, Executive Director  
Richard M. Riebeling, Director of Finance  
Talia Lomax-O'dneal, Deputy Director of Finance  
Gene Nolan, Deputy Director of Finance

Kim McDoniel, Chief of Accounts  
Mark Swann, Internal Audit  
Kevin Brown, Office of Financial Accountability  
Essie Robertson, Office of Financial Accountability  
Brad Thompson, Office of Financial Accountability



**Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County**

# **MORNING STAR SANCTUARY**

**◆ Monitoring Report ◆**

**Conducted by**



**Office of Financial Accountability**

October 17, 2011

# MONITORING REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Office of Financial Accountability (hereinafter referred to as “OFA”) has completed a monitoring review of Morning Star Sanctuary. A monitoring review is substantially less in scope than an audit. The OFA did not audit the financial statements and, accordingly, does not express an opinion or any assurances regarding the financial statements of the Morning Star Sanctuary or any of its component units. The OFA is responsible for the internal monitoring of Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (hereinafter referred to as “Metro”) agencies that receive federal and state financial assistance, including cooperative agreements and non-profit organizations that receive appropriations and Community Enhancement Funds from Metro government. In summary, any agreement(s) that imposes performance and/or financial requirements on Metro government is subject to review by the OFA.

The purpose of this review was to assess the agency’s compliance with contractual requirements set forth in the following contract with Metro Government:

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Contact Term</b>	
L-2456	Community Enhancement Funds	\$125,600	July 1, 2010	June 30, 2011

### **Agency Background**

Morning Star Sanctuary is a private, non-profit entity offering services to victims of domestic violence. The agency maintains an emergency 17-bed shelter providing safety, support, and refuge for victims and their children, who may remain in the shelter for up to 90 days. In addition to confidential shelter in a safe environment for those seeking immediate protection, the agency maintains a 24-hour crisis hotline to assist domestic violence victims seeking information, safety planning or housing. Morningstar also offers some extended services, both within the shelter and in the community, such as court advocacy, transitional housing and counseling services. A weekly support group for domestic violence victims, with child care provided, and a group program for children who were exposed to domestic violence growing up are also available free of charge.

For further information, please consult their website @ [www.morningstarsanctuary.org](http://www.morningstarsanctuary.org) .

## OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

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The objectives of our review were:

- 1) To determine whether the agency had the resources and capacity to administer the grant funds.
- 2) To determine if costs and services were allowable and eligible.
- 3) To verify that program objectives were met.
- 4) To test the reliability of the financial and programmatic reporting.
- 5) To verify contractual compliance.

The scope of our review was limited to the contract term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Audit procedures included meeting with agency management and staff, reviewing the design of internal controls as a basis for establishing our testwork, reviewing board minutes and obtaining written representations from management. In addition, we examined certain financial records and supporting documentation necessary to ensure compliance with contractual requirements set forth in contract L-2456. Specific procedures included:

- Interviewing the employees responsible for grant management, financial reporting and accountability.
- Reviewing supporting documentation of expenditures for allowability, necessity and reasonableness.
- Reviewing the agency's general ledger and verifying the accuracy of all invoices submitted to Metro.
- Reviewing documentation to determine that funds were used for intended beneficiaries and expended in accordance with the spending plan of the contract.
- Reviewing documentation to support program activities for consistency with grant requirements.
- Assessing the financial stability of the agency and its ability to continue to administer the grant program funded by Metro.

## RESULTS OF REVIEW

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### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Criteria	Yes	No
Sufficient Resources and Capacity to Administer Funds?	✓	
Costs and Services Allowable and Eligible?	✓	
Program Objectives Met?		✓
Reporting Requirements Met?	✓	
Sufficient Internal Control Environment?	✓	
Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements?	✓	

## RESULTS OF REVIEW

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The overall results of the monitoring review are provided in this section. Results are based on testwork performed and include conclusions regarding specific review objectives and, if applicable, recommendations for improvement and an action plan for implementation. Where applicable, the Findings and Recommendations section of this report provides more insight into any issues identified below.

### **1. Sufficient Resources and Capacity to Administer Grant Funds**

Our review of the agency's accounting system and the qualifications of the individuals assigned to manage the accounting records indicate that the agency possesses the necessary resources and professional expertise to effectively administer the grant funds.

### **2. Allowable and Eligible Costs and Services**

Our review covered all of the core compliance areas identified by OMB Circular A- 133: *Audit of States, Local Government, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Costs incurred by the agency complied with applicable guidelines stated in OMB Circular A-122.

Additionally, the Metro Grants Manual requires separate accounting of the Metropolitan Nashville Government grant funds to prevent co-mingling of Metro Funds with other sources of funding. The agency is in compliance with this requirement. Different revenue classes as well as expenditure classes have been established to separately track the sources and amounts of funding. Also, the agency can easily and accurately report their expenses supported by the Metro Appropriation.

Based on our test work, costs and services during the period were allowable and eligible.

### **3. Program and Performance Objectives**

The contract stipulates that the agency shall use the funds to provide the following outcomes:

- 155 victims and children will receive shelter and safety planning



## **RESULTS OF REVIEW**

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- 110 children will receive counseling
- 125 mothers will receive parenting classes
- 2500 victims will receive services in all Courts
- 92% of clients served will feel safer as a result of services received

Based on our review of program documentation and discussions with staff, program performance objectives were not met and the agency is not in compliance with contractual program objectives. Please see Finding # 1 for additional details.

### **4. Reliability of Financial and Programmatic Reporting**

The contract requires submission of an annual audit report performed by a Certified Public Accountant. The contract also requires the agency to submit to Metro year end reports of the program outcome and a final expenditures report, no more than 45 days after the close of the contract.

We reviewed all applicable financial and programmatic reports required by the contract, including audited financial statements. Based on our review, the agency complied with all financial and programmatic reporting requirements.

### **5. Internal Control Environment**

In order to determine the adequacy of the design of internal controls, we obtained and reviewed an independent auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and/or a completed internal control questionnaire. This audit procedure was performed solely as a basis for determining our test work and to assist us in making suggestions for improvement to management.

Our review of the design of the agency's internal controls did not reveal any control deficiencies. Further, nothing came to our attention that would necessitate suggestions for improvement in internal control activities to management.

### **6. Civil Rights Requirements**

Our review did not reveal anything to indicate that the agency was noncompliant with civil rights requirements. The agency also has necessary written policies and

## **RESULTS OF REVIEW**

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procedures relating to civil rights. The agency has not received any complaints regarding any form of discrimination. Further, civil rights and ADA postings are publicly displayed.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### **1. Program Performance Goals Not Met**

Based on our testing and the review of the results of the program activities reveal that the agency failed to meet one of the program objective set forth in the grant contract. The agency's contractual program objective number 3 stated:

- 125 mothers will receive parenting classes;

The agency did not achieve the expected outcome. According to the documentation provided, only 109 women participated in the parenting class which amounts to meeting 87% of their goal.

**Recommendation:** The Performance measures determine the success of the grant program. Management should take all necessary measures to monitor and ensure the agency attains the minimum performance objectives in the grant contract. Management should develop a plan to ensure program objectives will be attained in the future.

### **Corrective Action Plan Required**

Please submit a corrective action plan indicating the actions the agency intends to take to correct the findings identified in this report. The corrective action plan should be submitted within 30 days from the report date to the address below:

Division of Grants Coordination  
PO Box 196300  
Nashville, TN 37219  
ATTN: Brandie Haywood, Director