

Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2014
at Metro Social Services
800 2nd Avenue North, Suite 100

Present: Diane Kuhn, Kirby Davis, Megan Barry
Staff: Will Connelly, Judy Tackett, Deon Trotter, Karri Simpson

The meeting began at 8:37 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the August 19, 2014 meeting were approved. Megan Barry made the motion; Diane Kuhn seconded. All approved.

Financial Report and Budget

Pam McEwen reported that both the invoice for the month of July was received for Room in the Inn's Day Center and Guest House. While this initial invoice makes it appear that the programs will be over budget for the year, Room in the Inn bill's in excess but never go over the annual allocation. Fees for internal services have started to be billed, which currently appears to be \$21,000 over budget but this is misleading and inaccurate.

Currently no money has been spent from the Project Homeless Connect budget; an event is currently being sponsored and expenses are expected soon.

To date, \$13,000 has been spent from the How's Nashville fund for the current fiscal year. Donations for August totaled \$200. There is currently \$20,000 in NES funds remaining and \$18,000 to purchase bus tickets.

In August, \$5400 was spent from the CDBG fund. Megan Barry then asked if CDBG was only for a year. Will Connelly responded that originally this is correct; however MDHA expanded the contract to continue to spend the CDBG funds until January 2015. Megan Barry then inquired if there is more money within the CDBG that How's Nashville could acquire? Will Connelly stated that he talked to Angie Hubbard at MDHA regarding this, and while yes MDHA has more money they want to put it toward permanent housing for veterans.

Pam McEwen went on to add that because of the limitations to the CDBG funds, the expenditures are low. If this money could be used toward all homelessness related expenses, it would have been expended by now; the cap on this fund will not be hit. Megan Barry stated that is her concern, that there will be unused money left at the end of the contract. Diane Kuhn stated that CDBG funds are being spent as fast as possible. Will Connelly added that they are encouraging partner organizations to utilize these funds.

Director's Report

- **Mission Statement:** Judy Tackett stated that the staff of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission met and came up with a mission statement and coordinated values, expressing the goal of the Commission. At the full Commission meeting, held on September 5, Commissioners suggested changing the term "homelessness" to "housing stability," which derails the meaning of the original goal. Diane Kuhn asked to clarify if she meant the new wording makes the mission statement weaker? Judy Tackett responded yes. Diane Kuhn stated that the Commissioners preferred that language because it implies keeping people in housing. Judy Tackett responded

that is where the values come into play; keeping individuals stably housed could be a core value. Will Connelly added that the phrase “out of homelessness” implies housing stability.

The finalized mission statement will be brought back to the full commission at the November meeting to present but not ask for further input.

- **Strategic Planning:** Will Connelly is drafting a proposal for the strategic planning process. Additionally, Will Connelly is working with Erik Cole on a draft proposal to apply for funding. At the next full Commission meeting, Will Connelly is going to ask the Commissioner for something in writing stating they want to be involved in this process.

Diane Kuhn asked what the vision for the strategic plan is. Will Connelly stated he is not exactly sure but maybe an RFP can be put for a session. Diane Kuhn doesn't think that money should be solicited if no one is going to show up; people have to commit to it. She feels Will Connelly needs to envision what this will look like, whether it is two or three days, and then ask for a commitment.

Megan Barry asked what the point of the strategic planning is. Kirby Davis responded that it is to discuss the Unified Funding Agency (UFA) for Nashville. Will Connelly added that there are currently two funding resources steering the efforts focused on ending homelessness in Nashville, the CoC and Metro government.

A general discussion ensued as to the goal of the strategic planning process and the hurdles to Nashville becoming a UFA.

Will Connelly went on to state that while Nashville can apply, UFA status is decided by the federal government. He is focused on becoming a local UFA by merging the two boards.

- **Program Evaluation Committee and SOAR Task Force:** Will Connelly asked five Commissioners to be on the Program Evaluation Subcommittee and all agreed. The next step is the first meeting. Karri Simpson is the staff member that will be working with this group. Diane Kuhn stated this group should be the eyes and ears of the Commission and report back to the full group. The subcommittee should also figure out what type of regular report would be helpful, what is the information the full Commission wants to know. Megan Barry added that any kind of commonality of metrics to compare the contracts would be great.

The SOAR Task Force met once and is now communicating via email to follow up. Burkley Allen and Charlie Strobel are working with Paul Tyson, an executive at a local hotel chain that volunteered, and Cayla Wilson with Park Center.

- **CAHBI Grant and RFP:** This is a collaborative application between the state, Nashville, and Memphis, to benefit homeless individuals awarded by SAMHSA at \$500,000 every year for the next three years with a focus on case management.

Kirby Davis asked if these funds can be used to hire more case managers. Yes, said Will Connelly. There is a lot of work to be done in the next 90-100 days as services have to be contracted out. Pam McEwen has asked the Finance Department what the options are regarding contract options; Diane Kuhn would like Will Connelly to make a recommendation of these options to the full Commission vs. asking their opinions. Will Connelly said that they have 90-120 days to get the program off the ground and he will speak with Pam McEwen and report back.

Kirby Davis inquired if any of the options, put forth by the Finance Department, require approval from the Executive Committee? Pam McEwen stated no.

Megan Barry asked if the MHC is looking for grants all the time. Will Connelly stated no, that is something they could probably monitor better. Most grants require a 100 page proposal, so it helped to collaborate with the state.

Diane Kuhn asked if it is going to take a lot of staff time to administer. Will Connelly said yes. That concerns Diane Kuhn. Will Connelly added that there is 10% within the grant set aside for data but they plan to contract that out. Diane Kuhn added that she thinks this great news should be sent out to Commissioners.

- **How's Nashville Update:** How's Nashville is setting goals again beginning with an all-day retreat that the leadership team attended on September 3. How's Nashville is preparing to apply for Zero: 2016, the next iteration of the 100,000 Homes campaign. Zero: 2016 is focused on the federal goal of ending veteran and chronic homelessness.

The August retention report will be released soon.

- **Hospital to Home:** Hospital to Home is a part of the Mayor's Ideas to Reality program. The group met for the first time and will meet every week for the next several weeks. Judy Tackett will have more to report out at the next meeting.

Cold Weather Report

The Cold Weather Committee is going to meet with Metro this Thursday, according to Judy Tackett. The plan is broken up into four different levels: cold, below 27 degrees, below 19 degrees, and an emergency declared by the city- and that is when the city will actually take over efforts. The committee includes the Mission, Room in the Inn, the Oasis Center, and Open Table.

Megan Barry has questions about an emergency plan for large groups displaced and hotels closed down recently. She wants to know if we see a role for the Commission in situations like this? Will Connelly thinks that there is a role and that a meeting is scheduled for October 3 with the planning and coordination department, who called the meeting. The Fair Housing group will also attend. Megan Barry is happy that the MHC will be involved in this conversation.

Public Library

New rules that may impact people experiencing homelessness was brought to the attention of the Commission at the September 5 full Commission meeting by Steve Reiter. Will Connelly spoke with Kent Oliver at the Downtown Public Library who stated they are implementing new rules because of issues with individuals blocking the front door to the library.

Kirby Davis asked if Will Connelly would feel comfortable talking with Kent Oliver further about this. Will Connelly stated there is a meeting being held on the topic today. Steve Reiter added that they are meeting today but it is not on the agenda because Cory from the Legal Department won't be present.

Diane Kuhn asked that since they just received the wording to the new library policy today, can staff read it and make a recommendation to the executive committee. Will Connelly said yes. Megan Barry thinks that if there are issues after they read the policy that she is sure if we talk with Kent Oliver that they can push the topic to a future date on their meeting agenda. Both Megan Barry and Diane Kuhn feel the Commission should weigh in on this topic and that the Library board will show courtesy to listen. They would like Will Connelly to get this pushed back to the November meeting. Megan Barry went on to add

that she understand the library is concerned with the law, but they are concerned about the people. Steve Ryder stated that this is not the law and referenced the Morales vs. Chicago case.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

Megan Barry motioned to adjourn; Kirby Davis seconded. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

The next full Commission Meeting will be held on Friday, November 7, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the Howard Office Building.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21, at 8:30 a.m. at Metro Social Services.