

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission Meeting

Friday, May 1, 2015
at the Sonny West Conference Room
700 2nd Avenue South

Present: Josh Lee, Phil Duke, Tom Turner, Nick Atwood, Glenn Cranfield, Charles Strobel, Brady Banks, Diane Kuhn, Renee Pratt, Megan Barry, Mary Rolando, Angie Hubbard, Burkley Allen, Ellen Zinkiewicz, Marvin Cox, Dayna Lovelady, Angie Thompson, Wendell Segroves, Jason Holleman, Kirby Davis, Metro Police representative

Staff: Will Connelly, Judy Tackett, Karri Simpson

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 20, 2015 Metro Homelessness Commission meeting were approved.

Financial Report and Budget

Pam McEwen reported that the operating budget is on target and most of the money should be spent by the end of the fiscal year.

Project Homeless Connect will have around \$6000 left at the end of the year.

How's Nashville has approximately \$63,000 at the end of April, however the money is being spent at a good rate. Expenses will probably dip into the original balance of \$53,000 before the end of year.

Currently the CABHI grant is spending between \$15,000-\$20,000 per month.

Mayor Dean did not propose a budget cut for the Homelessness Commission.

Diane Kuhn introduced Chief Warrant Officer Nick Atwood who has been appointed to serve as a Commissioner. He has been in the National Guard for 25 years and most of that time he was in active status, serving all over the world. He deployed in 2008-09 with Special Forces group in Operation Iraqi Freedom 6. His current position is Deputy Director of Public Affairs for Tennessee Military Department.

Contract Reports

Diane Kuhn engaged in a discussion regarding the client hours reported on Centerstone's contract.

Director's Report

- **How's Nashville:** Will Connelly reported on the goals of the 2016 by 2016 campaign: to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. This campaign is aligned with Zero:2016, a national effort to end homelessness by the end of 2016.

Discussion ensued around barriers to meeting this goal and if barriers differed for veterans and non-veterans experiencing homelessness. Further conversation occurred around how the number of individuals experiencing homelessness was reached.

- **Strategic Planning:** There is a 2 hour kick-off call next week on Thursday, May 7th at 1 p.m., and all Commissioners have been sent an invitation on this. All Commissioners were encouraged to register. The goal of strategic planning is to analyze our current system and how the system can be improved so that individuals are moved into permanent housing as quickly as possible, prevention is improved, and there is a more developed systems approach.
- **Coordinated Entry and Assessment:**
A small group has been convening every Wednesday morning, focused on the implementation of coordinated entry system. This system will have a hotline as a way people can call in and get prevention services and emergency rental assistance. Another goal is to improve data collection, utilizing the same assessment forms with data being input into one system.
- **VISTA:**
Will Connelly thanked the current VISTA workers, Molly Martin, Marshall Frisckis-Warren, and Elli Whiteway, whose year has come to an end.

James Robertson Apartment Update:

Renee Pratt, with Metro Social Services, reported that the team is still at work locating housing for residents of James Robertson. There was an extension given to current residents, allowing them to stay longer as they locate housing.

Gary Pope was recognized for all his efforts organizing the physical moving efforts. Venus Allen was recognized for all her efforts to locate the residents housing.

Announcements

There were no announcements made.

Public Hearing

- Denis Huey: Today is the last day for Mr. Bill Burleigh, current Executive Director, at Operation Stand Down Tennessee. Mr. John Crinson will serve as the new Executive Director.
- Howard Allen: he invited all mayoral candidates to come to today's Commission meeting. He was disappointed with yesterday's State of Metro address that Mayor Dean gave. He thanked Metro Social Services for having social workers in the library. He thinks the old Sounds Stadium is the perfect spot for tent city.
- Evan McGuire: He feels that the court fees given to individuals experiencing homelessness are ridiculous.
- Steven Ryder: Agrees with Evan that court costs are out of line. He was also disappointed with the State of Metro address. He appreciates Megan Barry for talking about affordable housing needs in the community. Stated that the Barnes Trust Fund will need at least 50 million to make a difference in affordable housing needs.

The next full Commission meeting is on Friday, July 10th, at the Sonny West Conference room.

The next Executive Committee meeting is on Tuesday, June 23rd at Metro Social Services.

With no other comments, all approved and the meeting was adjourned.