



March, 2, 2018, 9:30 am
Howard Office Building, 700 2nd Ave. South

Roll Call:

Present: Renee Pratt, Wendell Seagroves, Tim Leeth, Paula Foster, Mina Johnson, Charlotte Peacock, John Krenson, Bob Freeman, Treva Gilligan), Adriane Harris, Theresa Skiles, Tom Turner, Freddie O'Connell, Marvin Cox, Angie Thompson, Patrick Combs, Tom Turner

Staff: Judith Tackett, Sally Besuden, Deon Trotter, Josh Lee

Renee Pratt chaired the meeting.

Approval of minutes:

Add John Krenson to present for last meeting's minutes.

Tim Leeth reported there needs to be a correction to last meeting's minutes. There is an issue with how the person who moves a motion is reported; it needs to be clearly stated who makes a motion and who seconds a motion. Judith Tackett said she would correct the omission on the last page of the minutes.

Minutes will be held, corrected and brought back next month for approval.

Financial Report and Budget update:

Lisa Ricketts gave the financial report. Judy Tackett reported on her budget proposal to the Mayor. She will ask for a total investment of \$770,000 – all of which is related to systems building with staff investments, technical assistance, and increase in software investment for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Judith Tackett said she has been talking to MDHA and made the CoC Governance Board aware that the Homelessness Commission/Metro Social Services would ask the CoC membership to be considered for HMIS lead.

Freddie O'Connell asked if MSS has reviewed budget proposal and Renee Pratt said staff has reviewed and supports it, but proposal has not been seen by the board. It will be presented to the Board at their April meeting. Freddie O'Connell asked if the proposal stands regardless of whether MHC becomes HMIS lead. Treva Gilligan reported MDHA is aware of the Homelessness Commission's intentions. Treva Gilligan said MDHA supports the move because there needs to be additional resources for HMIS. MDHA does not have the resources to build out system. However, Treva Gilligan stressed that the decision is a community decision and the CoC membership will have to vote on any potential change in HMIS lead.

Judy Tackett stressed again that HMIS and CES needs to be together. Tim Leeth asked if recommendation will be taken to COC. Treva Gilligan said yes, but before anything goes to the COC, MDHA will consult with HUD and make them aware of proposal. Tim Leeth inquired about timeline. Treva Gilligan reported as soon as possible.

Tom Turner asked about how much of HMIS proposal are one-time costs. Judy Tackett reported about \$100,000 for the TA. Tom Turner asked if there is an annual fee for software? Judy replied that comparable cities budget for running software is over \$200,000 and ours is a little over \$50,000, and that has been increased from \$27,000 to \$53,000 last year.

Renee Pratt asked for motion to approve budget for HMIS and Commission

Paula Foster made a motion to approve the budget request. Wendell Segroves seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

MHC/CoC governance update:

Mina Johnson reported that the conversation continues about COC and MHC consolidation. Mina Johnson reported the group is trying to imagine what the model will look like and what end result is wanted. The example given was that right now they are looking at 25 board members and the reason for that number of members is to have people from all sectors. The group is looking at end results and breaking down what is needed to achieve those results. To accomplish the consolidation, the existing Commission will need to be dissolved. The intent is not to take over COC but to unify MHC and COC governance. The conversation is continuing and the goal is to propose ordinance to be adopted by the end of June. The ordinance will then have to be introduced to Metro Council for readings.

Extreme Weather Ad Hoc Committee Report:

Bob Freeman reported that the first meeting was held on Wednesday (2/28/18) and the intent was to introduce the committee on the scope of the work and to gather information to make an informed decision. The Ad Hoc committee will be meeting every 3 weeks to meet June deadline to report back to board.

Public Input Session:

Steve Reiter said he wanted to remind the Commission that the mayor has asked for status quo budget proposals from all departments and will MSS be exempt from that. He thinks the budget proposal is premature and not well advised. Steve Reiter asked about the stipends for board members and would there still be the allocation of money? Renee Pratt reported that this issue would be touched on in more detail later. Josh Lee answered the question with yes. Steve Reiter said he will be filing a complaint with the Metro Social Services board regarding this issue.

Howard Allen said there is a difference of listening and hearing and read aloud the definition of the words. Howard Allen said nothing will come out of the Commission because the answer relies within those on the streets. Land to build housing and a cold weather plan are needed. Howard Allen

reminded everyone that on April 1st the cold weather season ends and asked what will be done if there is a cold weather event and there is no response in place. I am fighting MDHA right now because I was evicted and things aren't being fixed. I don't think there will be any difference between this current group and if there is a combination with the CoC. Howard Allen said his comments and Steve Reiter's comments are needed to disrupt the Commission and that the Commission isn't doing enough.

Samuel Lester said thank you to MSS and the Commission for making more efforts to provide winter shelters. The difference has been much better than in earlier years. At the end of the cold weather season it needs to be determined what funding the shelters have available. He is concerned the community will be facing the same situation next winter. We know of people who have died of exposure. We need to make budgetary plans for next year already in place so we are not in the same position. The money will not be there unless it is planned for. There needs to be an allowance for the cold weather and other emergency situations like floods to open shelters for people who are on the streets.

Renee Pratt reported concerning flooding that when the Lewis St. apartments flooded MSS spent 40,000 dollars on hotel rooms. MSS does try to be accommodating for people on the streets in these situations.

Moment of silence

Renee Pratt read the names of people who passed away in February. A moment of silence in their memory was held.

Stipend

Renee Pratt acknowledged that this was Josh Lee's last meeting as he is leaving Metro. All of Josh Lee's hard work has been appreciated. Josh Lee reported it has been a pleasure representing you all.

Renee Pratt then reported that Josh Lee would speak on the legality of the legal stipend.

Josh reported that the stipend has been researched due to a complaint that the Commission is without authority to pay stipend. Based on what Metro Legal viewed, this is not true. 2005 explicitly provided for stipends to be paid for people experiencing homelessness. Josh Lee reported the Homelessness Commission is not an official boarded commission and that adds flexibility including the stipend issue. The charter provision does not restrict paying for stipends.

Consolidated Plan Input Session:

Judy Tackett reported MHC has partnered with MDHA, the Mayor's Office and others to work on the Consolidated Plan. Per HUD, every 5 years Nashville is required to create a strategic plan on how certain federal funds are being spent. Judy Tackett presented a power point to group providing more detail on what the Consolidated Plan is. MHC has agreed to help assist and draft parts of the Consolidated Plan dealing with homelessness. The first stakeholder input session is just with Commissioners. After this stakeholder group session, there will then be a half hour break and a public input session following the meeting. The start of the process is to listen to the community. The Commission will be going through

the handout together and providing feedback. The handout is divided into different sections. There will be about 3 min per question and brief discussion.

Section A:

1. Freddie O'Connell asked the distinction between question 1 and 2. Judy Tackett explained the difference question 1 is what HUD is looking for and question 2 is expanded for city use. Tom asked for the definitions of transitional, bridge, rapid rehousing. Transitional housing is up to 24 months with a program. Bridge housing is no longer than 90 days when a person has identified a permanent housing placement. Rapid rehousing is short term rental subsidies. Marvin Cox said for him it is about prevention. If there are avenues of prevention then homelessness becomes small if it can be prevented. Nashville looks too much on reactive end vs proactive end. Renee Pratt said people get to the point of losing housing and then it is too late to do prevention and they are in a crisis. Freddie O'Connell said he struggles because prevention is important, but the truth is that Nashville already has at least 1,000 experiencing homelessness. Tom Turner said he thinks Marvin Cox is talking about where Nashville wants to be, but it's not where Nashville is. Mina Johnson said I don't think question 1 addresses chronic homelessness and it does not address how to address length of homelessness. Bob Freeman asked is ranking based on the situation as it is today or how we would like it to be? Theresa Skiles said as a person who could be defined as chronically homeless, the Salvation Army financial responsibility program is wonderful. For chronically homeless people assistance should be tied to people who are not mentally ill and substance abusers because there are many homeless not in these two groups. State and Metro need to think about institutionalization again particularly dealing with mental health. Patrick Combs said talk about prevention needs to involve not just the first instance, but also for people who have been housed before to not fall back. John Krenson said if prevention isn't more prioritized than it has been, the funnel will always go to crisis. Episodic homelessness needs to be better addressed. OSDTN has seen success with this type of prevention.
2. Included in above discussion.
3. Judy Tackett defines chronic homelessness to inform discussion. Marvin Cox asked why does there need to be prioritization? When someone is homeless they are homeless and the situation needs to be dealt with. How do you justify putting a veteran before a senior? Theresa Skiles said priority should be put on a child before the whole group because if you can get to children and youth a lot of good can happen. Theresa Skiles said the VA needs to be held more accountable for veterans. Tim Leeth asked why none of the list references the severely handicapped? Judy Tackett said that suggestion should be added in the space listed for comments. Bob Freeman said I don't know I feel comfortable leaving anyone off this list- everyone needs to be equal on the list because homelessness is a condition.
4. Judy Tackett described the activities listed below for the group. Angie Thompson said prioritizing between prevention and people already homeless is very hard to address and is in

two separate categories for this question. Freddie O'Connell said it is hard not to prioritize permanent supportive housing generally because Nashville has such low supply. Paula Foster said in talking about prevention there should be focus on the short-term option because it will help with prevention. Mina Johnson asked what does access mean for public housing? Does it mean building more public housing? Freddie O'Connell said it should be interpreted as meaning prioritizing access to already existing MDHA housing. Angie Thompson said the issue right now is that people have vouchers and they don't have place to use them. Theresa Skiles said someone told me that some developers stepped up to the plate at a council meeting and said they would build but council members said not in my district. Freddie O'Connell responded that THDA offers low income housing tax credits and the issue that Theresa mentioned was with a smaller group about zoning issues.

5. Freddie O'Connell asks questions about variety of neighborhoods category. Judy Tackett provided example (allow people to choose to move out of their current geographic environment, which can be important if someone wants to get sober). Angie Thompson said I think background history is very important, it blocks access to so many different services. Freddie O'Connell said I think that also could fall under housing stock and lack of affordable housing and that is the fundamental issues. Mina Johnson said we need to think about removing barriers on shelters because they don't operate at capacity. Mina Johnson asked what else can be done to utilize existing shelters. Wendell Segroves said shelters need to change how they are operated. Theresa Skiles said there needs to be more education around prison and mental health and prioritizing apartments.

Section B.

6. Judy Tackett said please make notes when putting something as weak. Renee Pratt commented on people being discharged from health facilities that are discharged directly to the streets with no plan, they're in a wheelchair, in a hospital gown. It is a major issue that maybe not everyone realizes. Shelters sometimes can't take someone and they need a facility that accommodates their health issues. Theresa Skiles asked doesn't Bordeaux facility do that? Renee Pratt answered we have worked with them in the past, but they are no longer under Metro.
7. Included in above

Section C: Theresa Skiles said some homeless brought up an advertisement inviting registered sex offenders to come to Nashville, but I could not find it.

8-12. John Krenson said something OSDTN is working on is a coordinated care system so everyone is working on the same program with requirements for time to respond. OSDTN is looking at a system called Warrior Serve, but it hard to get everyone to play in the same system and there are legitimate concerns over data safety etc.

13 – 16. Angie Thompson asked are we talking discharge coordination to secure housing? Judy Tackett reported the questions are vague, but it is really about coordination. John Krenson said if

someone is coming out of jail and they are a veteran, there should be a system to discharge to OSDTN.

Judy Tackett reported we will be collecting the information we share. Please feel free to email me with more comments and feedback. We will be taking feedback and documenting it as a group. It will be in a draft document overall. Tom Turner asked when you compile will you be able to compare sessions? Judy Tackett – yes. Wendell Segroves said if there is no affordable housing then there aren't answers to any of the questions.

Announcements:

Freddie O'Connell: Metro Council is processing a couple of grants relating to How's Nashville and hoping they will go through. There is a resolution from Jim Shullman about homelessness in Metro Schools. It is unknown if there will be amendments, but current language is tough that it is a metro schools problem fundamentally. Freddie O'Connell said he's troubled by the lack of input in resolution from provider community but the resolution is out there. In reference to discharge, I have a resolution seeking to eliminate the jail fee for people in pre-charge scenarios. The revenue is not returned to sheriff's office and is disconnected to jailing. I'm trying to eliminate these fees a Metro source of funding.

Samuel Lester – Freddy O'Connell's resolution is very significant because jail fees and court costs add up and people experiencing homelessness result in high court costs. Court costs not being paid can lead to licenses being suspended which can lead to people falling into homelessness. Wendell Segroves – a lot of people aren't even aware of the court costs. Adam Ries – unless you are charged with crime there is no fine connected. If a charge is dismissed no fine is attached. I have had clients with \$64,000 dollars worth of fines and you have to file for indigent help. 86 percent of arrests were dismissed.

Paula Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wendell Segroves seconded.

Meeting adjourned.