

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission

Downtown Library, 9:30am

April 13, 2017

Present: Liz Allen Fey, chair; Wendell Segroves, Paula Foster, Mina Johnson, Marvin Cox, Freddie O'Connell, Angie Hubbard, Dayna Lovelady, Mary Carolyn Roberts, Charles Strobel, Tom Turner, Erik Cole, John Drake, Rod DeVore (for Ellen Zinkiewicz)

Metro Legal Representative: Mark Murray (for Josh Lee)

Staff: Judith Tackett, Deon Trotter, Sally Besuden, Troy Jenkins, Joseph Parker

Welcome & Roll Call:

Liz Allen Fey called the meeting to order at 9:36am. Liz Allen Fey started the meeting with roll call and acknowledged everyone present due to the moving process of the meetings.

Approval of Minutes:

Wendell Segroves made motion to approve, Mary Carolyn Roberts seconded the motion. Two corrections were requested: One to correct the misspelling of Liz Allen Fey's last name in one location, the other to add the name of Tim Smith in the public comment section. With these corrections, all approved.

Financials:

Lisa Ricketts walked Commissioners through the budget stating everything is in line thus far. Mina Johnson said the total revenue seemed a little lower than what was budgeted, especially pertaining to the How's Nashville funds. Ms. Ricketts stated that not all of the invoices have come through at this moment. She said there was usually a month delay in reimbursement.

Public Comments:

Liz Allen Fey called the first public input session for about 10 minutes. Steve Reiter advised he would like to hear the governance discussion before he had any comments.

Governance Discussion:

Liz Allen Fey began the discussion summarizing past occurrences. She said a governance task force was created by the Homelessness Commission and at the same time the community received HUD TA assistance through a request by MDHA on how we can best organize services. The Cloudburst Group (which is the HUD TA provider) gave us three options as choice for the collaborative applicant: keep it at MDHA, form a nonprofit standalone, or move it over to the Homelessness Commission under Metro Social Services. Freddie O'Connell stated that Focus Strategies recommended an option prior to Cloudburst, which was to unify governance under the Homelessness Commission. He said he wanted to point out that we have had two different outside groups making these recommendations. Liz Allen Fey stated that as things have moved along, the CoC charter committee has been rewriting the charter. Erik Cole reported that an existing by-laws committee was expanded to look at the governance charter overall and has been meeting weekly from February through March. Mr. Cole said that this week the CoC governance board and the governance charter committee held a joint meeting and at that meeting made an official recommendation on to the full CoC membership to adopt the new draft of the governance charter. The idea is to present the current draft to the CoC membership meeting next week CoC and to be voted on in May meeting. Any additional changes would be noted and presented as amendments at the May meeting. Ms. Fey stated that the CoC from a Nashville perspective has been made up of service providers and received funding through HUD. CoC is now moving towards a much more comprehensive/expanded community-driven approach.

Erik Cole said the CoC was is moving from a smaller HUD funding focused structure to be more inclusive with broader representation and membership for all participants interested in ending homelessness. This approach is what drove the work of the governance charter committee. Erik Cole said the charter committee had looked at other cities and felt confident in the new governance charter to meet the HUD criteria which helps in expanding dollars, reaching a higher score in the CoC NOFA, and he said it also sets the stage for a community wide representative body that can work hand in hand with the Commission as we move forward. Mr. Cole mentioned the charter committee members: Kyle Duvall, Diane Del Chiaro, Matt Preston, Steve Reiter, Nicole Bridges, Bill Friskics-Warren, Judith Tackett. It was staffed by MDHA's Suzie Tolmie, Angie Hubbard, and Mandy Wood. Charles Strobel then asked who was making up the membership that will vote on the new charter. Erik Cole said the CoC would operate under its current bylaws. Charles Strobel asked if there are two kinds of membership, agency and individuals in the new charter. Erik Cole said yes. He said that in order to vote there was a 50% attendance requirement. The expectation is that the CoC collaborative applicant will keep track of the attendance and who can vote in the future. Tom Turner asked how much the difference of money is that we lost this past year. Angie Hubbard said she would get this information out to the commissioners. Erik Cole said the CoC has requested a report card on why we scored at the level we have scored and the goal is to work with Cloudburst to correct this. Angie Hubbard stated that many of the cuts we had were also nationwide.

Ms. Fey asked whether the governance and collaborative applicant question was a nice move or a necessary move that allows us to do what we need to do as a city. Erik Cole encouraged everyone to come to the CoC meeting next week where Nicole Bridges from Operation Stand Down will present on the governance charter. Erik said that the CoC was strong

right now. Charles Strobel asked whether this vote was a recommendation and where the line of authority was. Liz Allen Fey asked to pause on this question for now, but get back to it because it was important. Mina Johnson asked who were the decision makers on how the community was going forward in the future. Angie Hubbard said that the current CoC Bylaws give each organization one designated representative to vote. Individuals who are not connected to an agency can vote as well. There was not a prior meeting attendance requirement.

Freddie O'Connell said the Homelessness Commission currently had the Governance Task Force to look at this issue and Cloudburst was providing assistance as well. He said Cloudburst was also assisting in answering what stabilizes the CoC short-term to be strong for the next NOFA application. Liz Allen Fey explained the current situation. At next week's meeting the CoC must vote on the collaborative applicant for the 2017 NOFA application. With where we are, it would make sense to get through this NOFA with MDHA in its current role. However, there are three entities now interested in becoming the Collaborative Applicant and HMIS lead: MDHA, MSS, and Catholic Charities. As soon as this year's NOFA application is over, the CoC may vote for next year's collaborative applicant and HMIS lead. Ms. Fey encouraged commissions to be at the CoC meeting. In May, the CoC will vote on a new governance charter. Commissioners, she said, need to be informed about what this means for the Homelessness Commission and have to figure out whether there was a desire by the CoC to align or combine efforts.

Ms. Fey summed it up the following way:

Plan A: Alignment – then the Commission will have to come back and look at its ordinance.

Plan B: The two bodies are kept separate – then the Commission will still need to review its purpose and how it wants to move forward.

Angie Hubbard went over the HUD timeline as far as it was known by now: HUD requires Nashville (an all CoCs) to register for the NOFA by May 1. That means at that time a collaborative applicant must be in place. With this being so short-term, that probably means the CoC members vote MDHA as the collaborative applicant for 2017. That shifts the governance conversation to the collaborative applicant for 2018. But that vote can happen as early as summer/fall of 2017 to help with the transition from one entity to another, if that's the wish of the CoC. Angie Hubbard said the decision should be in place 6-9 months before the next NOFA (for 2018) is released.

Paula Foster asked whether the Commission expects that MHC and CoC governance combine. Liz Allen Fey said yes. Freddie O'Connell made a motion for the Homelessness Commission to recommend the governance charter. Tom Turner seconded. Paula Foster asked that the Commission hold off on a vote because she cannot vote on something she has not read yet. Freddie O'Connell withdrew the motion.

Liz Allen Fey stated that she initially wanted to suggest to cancel the May meeting and ask commissioners to participate in the May 18 CoC meeting instead. However, in light of these

discussions, she said she now believes there needs to be Commission meeting in May with a review of the CoC charter.

Freddie O'Connell suggested that the monthly meetings of the CoC and the Commission should be aligned on the same day. Liz Allen Fey proposed that whoever forms the agendas at these meetings work together to avoid redundancy. Further discussion determined that this suggestion to align the meetings would be taken into account with the goal of starting a possibly new process in July.

Ms. Fey summarized the upcoming calendar of meetings that are important to the governance discussion:

- April 20 – CoC votes on the collaborative applicant and HMIS lead for the 2017 NOFA application
- May 12 – Metropolitan Homelessness Commission meeting
- May 18 – CoC votes on the Governance Charter

Director Search:

Liz Allen Fey reported that the Commission will move forward with the director search for the Homelessness Commission. She said the job description was similar to the previous director search. The job will be posted for 2 weeks. She said it would be posted locally (for financial reasons), but she encouraged everyone to send it out widely to all networks, even national. An interview panel would be put together to then hold in-person interviews. She said she hopes by August 1 a new director would be in place.

Freddie O'Connell quickly reported on the Governance Task Force, which met in tandem with the executive committee in March. He said his goal was for that Task Force to come back to this Commission with a recommendation in May or June.

Second Public Comment Section:

John Zirker thanked the Chair, Liz Allen Fey, for serving. He said that he had been around a while and wanted to make a comment on how it was frustrating regarding who is giving property away. He said the Mayor ran on her passion for homeless and we were excited. Now we make suggestions and put together things and present it to her. He said there were no new development for homeless. There is city property at Greer Stadium and the Barnes Fund doesn't make it to the poor and homeless. He said if the Mayor has compassion, this land would be dedicated to the poor and homeless. Mr. Zirker said we have the land and let's do something that makes us all inclusive. If we don't do it now there will be a trail of tears. Howard Allen asked whether there were any messages from the Mayor. He stated he watched on TV of other departments asking the Mayor for money, but didn't see anyone asking for low income housing for the least. He asked what does the word development mean? Is that for the development of the city? Angie Hubbard of MDHA responded that we will receive 4.6 million dollars outside of the housing authority and half is for housing. \$1.5 million is for home owner rehab for elderly, low income. 1/2 million for landlords to receive no interest loan if they rent to 80% or lower and take a voucher. \$150k for

VASH, SPC, How's Nashville. \$1.9 million in administration for non-profits. We can only use the \$1.9 for developments. We awarded all our HOME dollars to non-profits. Howard asked there is a difference between affordable and low income. Why don't we go back to the old way of building? Erik Cole said with the Barnes Housing Fund is used for project that benefit people with an income at 60% AMI and below. Erik Cole said there were 5 million dollars for developers that want to house those at 30% AMI and under. Angie Hubbard said that every year we develop an action plan and this action plan will be presented next week. Wendell Segroves asked how many low income housing units last year were constructed. Angie Hubbard said she would pull that data. Joe ?? from the audience said he sees that Nashville is growing but homeless are still in the streets and can't stay in certain areas. There is no housing for people on the street and a lot of people need housing. This is a problem and something needs to be done and find them a place to stay. Tim Smith asked whether MDHA made progress did you make any progress with the website and have you posted the meetings online. He also asked Erik Cole if he had made any amendments on the new CoC charter. Erik Cole & Steve Reiter advised there are new document changes since the copy that Mr. Smith has picked up from the Library.

Housing First Philosophy Presentation- Judith Tackett

Liz Allen Fey said it was important for commissioners to determine how do we look at Housing First. How commissioners interact in this discussion was important. She was we need to continue to have these conversations. Ms. Fey suggested to move this presentation to the May meeting. Mina Johnson said the Commission as a group needed to change the public perspective on homelessness. She pointed to the neighborhood opposition for a micro homes development (NIMBYism). She said the Commission needed to take part to change that mentality.

Judith Tackett asked to address the Commission. She stated that she has been a part of the Commission for years and this was the most interactive conversation at today's meeting that she has seen commissioners have. She said from a staff perspective – all staff was working really hard on the common goal to build a system that ends homelessness. However, without a clear governance structure, it felt like we were running as hard as we could on a treadmill toward a goal, but not really moving forward. To get this under control we have to figure out this governance structure and make progress with data to measure outcomes and hold each other accountable.

Moment of Silence:

Liz Allen Fey read the names of people who passed away since the last meeting. Ingrid and another audience member added two additional names.

No announcements

Public Comments:

Steve Reiter said he wanted to reiterate the importance of the CoC meeting next week. He said it was really important each organization makes their presentation but he didn't expect a vote next week. But the presentations, he said, would provide food for thought as to what we will do

moving forward. He said the CoC we have in Nashville was unique as ours does everything while others just provide advisory roles or administrative roles. Steve Reiter said we still have work to do and probably need to have a legal entity look over this. Steve Reiter said big decisions are being made at the Mayors Caucus but we don't know where and when these meetings are. Mr. Reiter said he wanted to make the public notices easier so just put it out there where people can find them. He said the Commission was more about local funding and we didn't look at what our mission was. The CoC, in comparison, is about the federal level. The bottom line is that agencies are being defunded and we have to stop it and get more money. Steve said he would like for the Mayor to weigh in at the Commission level at what is going to be done and Mayor should communicate with us at every meeting. Mr. Reiter pleaded with the Commission to please figure out what our role is and why we should be here. He wants to remind people about the CoC meeting. Ingrid McIntyre thanked Mina Johnson for mentioning micro homes and commissioners for their support. She stated that Open Table Nashville was moving forward with micro housing to use as bridge housing and believes it will be a huge benefit for the city. "We are hoping this will be an interim solution for those waiting for permanent support housing." Erik Cole responded to audience members' critique of the Mayor not mentioning homelessness as much. He said the Mayor understood and was focused on this issue. Mr. Cole said he had to correct the thought that now that Megan Barry was Mayor she was not focused on it. Erik said he was motivated by the need to fix the system and has a boss that encourages him to do it.

The Commission adjourned at 11:02 am