

**Metropolitan Homelessness Commission Meeting
June 2, 2017**

Minutes

Meeting called to order at: 9:30am

Present: Liz Allen Fey, chair; Renee Pratt, Freddie O'Connell, Mina Johnson, Tanaka Vercher, Wendell Segroves, Norman Humber, Paula Foster, Charles Strobel, Tom Turner, Erik Cole, Jennifer Williams (for Marvin Cox), Rod DeVore, Angie Hubbard, Angie Thompson, Josh Lee (Metro Legal), Lisa Ricketts (MSS Finance Director)
Staff: Judith Tackett, Jessica Ivey, Deon Trotter, Sally Besuden, Troy Jenkins, Joseph Parker,

Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2017

The approval of the minutes was postponed to later in the meeting.

Financials

Lisa Ricketts went over the financials. The Commission is online with this year's budget and if Metro Council approves, expects a budget increase for FY17/18 of \$325,800.

Liz Allen Fey said the executive committee started discussion about how funds are utilized and aligned with goals of ending homelessness.

Policies

Judith Tackett presented two policies that need recommendation for approval. The first policy was in regard to a request by the Metro IT Department about posting of public notices:

The Metropolitan Homelessness Commission posts its agendas five business days prior to public meetings and meeting minutes within five business days after public meetings to its Board Website, which can be found at
<http://www.nashville.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions.aspx>.

Agendas and minutes are posted in searchable PDF format.

Wendell Segroves made a motion to approve the policy. Mina Johnson seconded the motion. All approved.

The second policy was about how the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission responds to requests from media to accompany the outreach team to encampments. There was lengthy discussion of the pros and cons. Commissioners want to ensure that there is a way that the policy reflects that people have a right to decide. After public input the Metropolitan Homelessness Commissioners decided that there needs further discussion around this policy.

Paula Foster made a motion to form a small task force to work on this policy. Wendell Segroves seconds the motion. All approve.

Centerstone Contract update

Judith Tackett explained the current contract and the actual need. She proposed to amend the Critical Time Intervention (CTI) contract with Centerstone to state that approximately 20% of clients may receive case management beyond the 1-year time limit outlined in the CTI model with a goal to link the people who need longer-term case management with other support services within a total of 2 years. Basically it would add another year for people we identified as needing long-term case management, who currently do not qualify for available services. The proposed change would be a stopgap measure to reflect the current need. However, Judith Tackett and the executive committee recommend that the Commission and the community need to identify what the gaps exactly are and work on filling those gaps in services.

Tom Turner makes a motion to approve the contract updates. Paula Foster seconds the motion. All approve.

Governance

Liz Allen Fey said the CoC membership voted on a new charter, which strengthens their current board. She said that begs for the Commission to have a conversation of its role in the governance structure.

Judith Tackett gives an overview of the history of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission:

Recap of the last 10 Years of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission

- 2004 – Mayor Bill Purcell creates task force to develop a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness
- 2005 – Metropolitan Homelessness Commission created.
- October 2005 – Homelessness Services Coordinator hired under Metro Social Services with the goal to work with the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission to implement the goals of the 10-Year Plan
- June 2007 – The Homelessness Commission moves from Metro Social Services to MDHA, the homelessness coordinator officially becomes the director of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission
- April 2008 – A vision plan is developed and approved.
- June 2008 – The Homelessness Commission hires an HMIS coordinator and takes on HMIS.
- August 2008 – The Homelessness Commission decides to meet every two months.
- September 2008 – official launch of HMIS.
- 2008/2009 – additional staff is added (special events coordinator, funds development coordinator, outreach/housing coordinator)
- 2009 – talks about forming a nonprofit arm
- 2010 – The Key Alliance holds board meetings and files for 501(c)3 designation
- 2011 – The Homelessness Commission moves back from MDHA to MSS
- 2011 – HMIS remains at MDHA

- 2012 – Director resigns in July. new director is hired at the end of the year to start in January 2013; the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission officially separates from The Key Alliance
- 2013 – How’s Nashville campaign is launched
- 2015 – Focus Strategies report
- 2016 – Conversations continue to unify the governance structure between CoC and Homelessness Commission
- 2016 – The Key Alliance officially ceases to exist
- 2016 – director resigns

Liz Allen Fey asked commissioners what they observe. They conclude that the Commission underwent a lot of change over the years. Ms. Fey brought to the forefront the goal of the Commission to move people into housing. She gave a brief overview of the governance discussions over the past 3 years with Focus Strategies and then Cloudburst, both outside technical assistance providers, coming to the same conclusion that if Nashville’s goal is to end homelessness, the community needs to unify its governance structure. Basically what that means is to merge the CoC governance board and the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission into once governance entity.

Commissioners engaged in in-depth discussion around the overall goals of the community to build a systems approach to ending homelessness. The discussed what the next steps and move of the Commission should be.

In the end, Paula Foster made the following motion:

“After careful consideration, the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission believes that in order to build an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System (built on prevention and rapid resolution of homelessness) which moves people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible, we must work together to create a more effective governance structure for homeless services in Nashville.

“I move that the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission requests that the Nashville CoC join with us to explore the process for creating a new structure that will include the possibility of merging the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission and the CoC governance board. The purpose of this exploration is to determine the most effective governance structure that will move our city forward toward our shared goal of ending homelessness in Nashville.”

Ms. Foster added the following next steps of the Homelessness Commission:

1. Ask that the CoC bring this request to their membership at the June CoC membership meeting for discussion (and that the request be announced prior to the meeting); and
2. Establish a process to move forward to explore legal, process, and budgetary implications for the MHC, the CoC and the greater Nashville community.

Tom Turner seconded Paula Foster's motion.

Further discussion ensued with some legal questions to Josh Lee. Mr. Lee, who represents Metro Legal, explained that some pieces of this process will be novel, but he was positive that solutions will be found and he viewed a possible merger as doable. He talked about the alignment of a Metro ordinance with the federal HEARTH Act. He further stated that there were several questions that needed to be answered as to appointment of members to a Metro board, the ability of Metro staff to serve on such a board, etc.

Further discussion focused on one portion of the wording of the motion.

Commissioners proposed to eliminate the following wording "for homeless services in Nashville" from the first paragraph and end the sentence with "...we must work together to create a more effective governance structure."

Paula Foster amended her motion to say the following (she reads the statement in its entirety):

"After careful consideration, the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission believes that in order to build an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System (built on prevention and rapid resolution of homelessness) which moves people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible, we must work together to create a more effective governance structure.

"I move that the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission requests that the Nashville CoC join with us to explore the process for creating a new structure that will include the possibility of merging the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission and the CoC governance board. The purpose of this exploration is to determine the most effective governance structure that will move our city forward toward our shared goal of ending homelessness in Nashville.

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2. Establish a process to move forward to explore legal, process, and budgetary implications for the MHC, the CoC and the greater Nashville community."

Wendell Segroves seconded the amended motion.

All approve.

Public Comments

Steve Reiter said this group was really set up by the Mayor. He said there was no need to go through an ordinance. What was needed was an executive order. He proposed that the CoC deal with chronic homelessness issues and the Commission address everything else and start focusing on where the gaps are. He said what was lacking in the process was resources. He said if the Commission wants to start addressing homelessness, it needed to start focusing on where the gaps are. He said

the Commission was too focused on the CoC; it could exist without the CoC. The focus needed to be on what the Commission wanted to try to accomplish.

Howard Allen said he used to have a lot of hope because he had helped put the Commission together. He said it was started as the Mayor's Homelessness Commission. With all the focus on the CoC, nothing was getting done. He pointed to a friend he brought whom he said was attacked on a bench in Nashville. He said the current system was designed to keep people down because land was valued more than people. Mr. Allen gave more examples to illustrate his point.

Judith Tackett asked to address the commissioners briefly. She said during the last two meetings the issue was brought up multiple times that the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission used to be called and was formed as the Mayor's Homelessness Commission. She just wanted to correct that point and make commissioners aware that this is not the case. The Commission was formed by ordinance as the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission.

Randall Vincent of Neighborhood Health brought up the issue of how difficult it has become to maintain housing. He spoke to the need of preserve low-income affordable housing. Properties are being sold. He said the Commission needed to listen to people at the bottom to know what's going on and the Commission needed to find a way to bring grassroots people in so they understand what's going on out there.

Cold Weather Report

Judith Tackett gave a quick update that the community planning group met to go over the plan, which was changed this winter. Metro now opens an overflow beds when temperatures fall to 25 degrees. The main goal for the meeting was to ensure and continue to improve communications between partners. Renee Pratt reported that the Mayor accepted in her budget a request for more funding for the overflow shelter since it was now opening at 25 degrees. Mina Johnson asked for an update whether there is a hot weather response. Judith Tackett said she reached out to OEM because OEM has set up responses in the past, but she has not heard back yet.

Moment of Silence

Announcements

Liz Allen Fey announced that Dayna Lovelady and Steven Samra asked not to renew their terms, which expire at the end of June. Ms. Fey sought input on whether to move ahead and fill open Commission seats, even though we are engaged in the current governance discussions. Commissioners agreed to move ahead and fill the open seats. The public was encouraged to send nominations to judith.tackett@nashville.gov, who will then forward them to Ms. Fey. The Mayor will appoint members to the open seats.

Liz Allen Fey asked whether there was a need to hold a meeting in July. Originally it was determined to skip the July meeting. Commissioners feel there is a need. The meeting was scheduled for July 7, 9:30 a.m. in the Howard Office Building.

Erik Cole announced that his office just released a new housing needs assessment. He asked for time on the agenda to present the report at the next Commission meeting. It is available at oeoe.nashville.gov and clearly shows that the city has a dramatic need for low-income affordable housing (0-60% of the area median income).

Angie Hubbard announced public hearings for the fair housing assessment report MDHA is putting together. It looks at barriers by protected classes.

Renee Pratt gave a brief update on the director search. The interview committee will start interviews possibly this month. There are six candidates for consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.