

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
June 20, 2017

Minutes

Present: Liz Allen Fey, Renee Pratt, Paula Foster, Wendell Segroves, Mina Johnson.
Josh Lee (Metro Legal); Rachel Hester
Staff: Judith Tackett, Jessica Ivey

Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:33 am

Approval of Minutes:

Mina Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Paula Foster seconded the motion. All approved.

Budget Process Update

Judy Tackett reported that the budget was still on track and is before the Metro Council. Mina Johnson confirmed that the Council has not touched the Homelessness Commission budget.

Liz Allen Fey said there were three pieces of discussion on the agenda today: policy and contract, director search, and governance, which would frame up the July-7 Commission meeting.

Policy and Contracts Updates

Liz Allen Fey reported that she and Judy Tackett met with Rachel Hester, Charles Strobel and Martina Condon to discuss the Commission's contract with Room In The Inn (RITI), which is up for renewal.

Judy Tackett provided a brief summary of the conversation and the issue before the executive committee: The meeting focus was on exploring the current landscape of where we are right now in our community in terms of building a systems approach. It is clear that RITI has always shared data and they have been the lead with the winter shelter data. The way the contract is currently worded is not operable or obtainable. It also gives the power of oversight outside of the Commission. The goal of the Commission through the building of a coordinated entry system is to identify more people experiencing literal homelessness through a quality By Name List, and RITI is assisting with that, especially around the Veterans goal.

Rachel Hester provided historic background of where RITI stand. She stated that RITI believed in HMIS and has provided the Commission early on with all their data when HMIS was started. RITI, she confirmed, is willing to share data, but wants to ensure that they can still operate their clients to the best of their abilities without creating undue burden on them (lines out to Drexel Street to enter each person as they come to RITI in the mornings is not an option for them).

Further discussion focused on the operations of the Day Shelter. The executive committee expressed their interest in ensuring that aggregated data is available for the contract, which RITI has no problem providing.

The following wording was worked out: “Work with the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission on sharing community data. Provide at a minimum aggregate data of individuals accessing day shelter services.” The same wording will be provided in the Guest House contract.

Director Search Update

Liz Allen Fey reported that the interview panel would interview 6 candidates tomorrow (Wednesday, June 21) and hopes to present a recommendation to the full Commission in July.

Governance Discussion Update

Liz Allen Fey reported that after invitation and support from the CoC governance board, she went to the CoC membership meeting and presented the Commission’s proposal to form a task force to explore the possibility of merging the Commission and the CoC governance board. The CoC membership (while not formally voting on it since that is now the purview of the governance board) indicated strong support to explore this possibility.

The executive committee then discussed who should be representing the Commission on this task force. After some thought, everyone agreed that the executive committee members will take on that task. This would then include Liz Allen Fey, Mina Johnson, Wendell Segroves, Paula Foster, and Renee Pratt as representative of Metro Social Services.

Announcements

There are several open seats on the Commission that we are seeking to fill. Two of the members with lived experience will not renew their terms after they are over on June 30, 2017. Judith Tackett said she would recommend that open seats with lived experience are filled by people who are in housing now and have gone through the housing process. The reason is that we already have a member who is still searching for housing, and with our focus on housing solutions, it would be great to have people with that experience on the Commission. Wendell Segroves nominated Mr. Tim Leeth (which was noted by Judith Tackett). Judith Tackett has emailed several local organizations that are assisting people with housing for nominations. Each representing different populations (families, Veterans, chronic, mental health, etc.)

Liz Allen Fey announced that the Mayor’s Office will present their Housing Report at the July meeting.

The executive committee supported Liz Allen Fey’s recommendation that all media requests to the Commission are directed to the director of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission. Renee Pratt confirmed that this would allow the Commission to inform the Mayor’s Office of media inquiries and coordinate with other departments as needed. All agreed that is a good protocol to follow for all commissioners.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.