Metropolitan Homelessness Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
Aug. 22, 2017 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.
at Metro Social Services, 800 2nd Ave. North

Present: Liz Allen Fey, Renee Pratt, Wendell Segroves, Paula Foster
Staff: Judith Tackett, Nicole Williams
Visitor: Tim Leeth, Rachel Hester

Called meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Minutes:
Wendell Segroves made a motion to approve the minutes from Aug. 4, Paula Foster seconded the motion. All approved.

Governance:
Liz Allen Fey said that as the executive committee one task was to set the agenda for the next full Commission meeting. One of the agenda items will be to continue updating the Commission on the governance discussions.

Judith Tackett reported back on the Continuum of Care (CoC) full membership meeting on Aug. 17, where the nomination committee presented a slate of candidates to be voted on for a new CoC Governance Board. Ms. Tackett reported that she was not nominated onto the CoC Board and would roll off, which raised questions amongst the executive committee.
Ms. Tackett reported that she reached out to the nomination committee prior to the final meeting and urged them to carefully think about the message that they are sending to Metro by severing that link to the Homelessness Commission.
The nomination committee took that email into consideration and responded to it in the full CoC meeting saying that they determined that there would be too much conflict of interest if anyone from MDHA, the Homelessness Commission or Catholic Charities would serve on the CoC Governance Board at this time. Ms. Tackett said she respected that decision, but did not fully agree with that argument since she was not a staff member of the CoC collaborative applicant nor was Metro currently in the running for the CoC collaborative applicant.
Paula Foster who was present at the CoC meeting as well said she understood and respected the CoC nomination committee's reasoning because the nomination committee's feeling was to keep clear lines and if there ended up being a merger, it would be a moot point.

Liz Allen Fey said that at the Commission meeting someone should report out on that meeting. It was determined that Angie Hubbard should be asked whether she would do so and also report on why there is no longer a cross-over on the MHC on the CoC board, so that everyone is hearing the same message.
In addition, the timeline that Erik Cole put together should be shared as well – either by Angie Hubbard or Judith Tackett.

Paula Foster reported that there was some discussion that the old CoC Governance Board would meet with the new CoC Governance Board at the first meeting for a combined meeting.

New Commission Members:
Judith Tackett reported that John Krenson, Bob Freeman, Tim Leeth, and Theresa Skiles were appointed by the Mayor as new Commission members. Charlotte Peacock will also attend her first meeting representing the MSS Board of Commissioners.
Liz Allen Fey said that this meant that she would likely go around the table to ask Commissioners to introduce themselves and talk about what brought them there.

Assistant Director Search:
Judith Tackett and Renee Pratt have gone through the resumes of applicants. Liz Allen Fey will go through the stack next. Then there will be a joint decision on whom to invite for an interview before the same panel that met to interview for the director position. Judith Tackett was asked to start scheduling for possible interview times.

Fundraising:
Liz Allen Fey said that the idea of creating a fundraising committee was brought up to the Commission. She said we needed to go back and identify where How's Nashville is now and what we needed to do. What is the role of it, what's the purpose of a fundraising committee or task force. Judith Tackett will do a presentation on How's Nashville and talk about the purpose of a flex fund. She explained that other cities have found that having a flexible fund to pay for move-in costs that are accessible to partner agencies is a huge part of being able to assist people obtain housing quickly. Ms. Tackett also said that using the term fundraising is a red flag for many provider agencies. She was asked what other term she suggested to use instead. Ms. Tackett responded that she did not want to shy away from what it was, which is fundraising. But it needs to be made clear that 100% of any funds raised for the How's Nashville fund are accessible only by partner agencies' housing navigators to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Thus, if we could tab into new funds through businesses, it would benefit the entire community. This was not fundraising for the Commission, this was fundraising for provider agencies.

Announcement:
Judith Tackett asked whether it was possible to hold a moment of silence at the future meetings for the Rev. Bill Barnes.

The Executive Committee also discussed the Commission Retreat and what its purpose should be considering the transition it's in. It was decided that Judith Tackett would put an agenda together and present it at the next executive committee meeting. The half-day retreat will be held on October 6, the date of the regular Commission meeting. Judith Tackett will focus on educational information about the role of the board and the director, as well as about the director's priorities during this transition phase. In essence, it will be an orientation of the board focusing on what is essential for commissioners to understand.

Renee Pratt said she would like to address one issue that comes up over and over, which is the fact that the Commission is housed under the MSS Board. She said it posed a major concern for in discussions. She said she wanted to make sure the executive committee was aware that the Metro Social Service Board of Commissioners never cut the budget of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission and never blocked a vote of the Commission. She said the Commission was always allowed to run over budget and even during administrations where all departments were asked for budget cuts, the Commission's budget was never reduced. In addition, the benefits for the Commission to be housed within another Metro Department included that MSS provided access to its CFO, HR, and a partnership for direct services. The Commission overall has only benefitted from being housed within MSS. If the Commission were to be a standalone, then it would have to look at additional administrative costs and coming up with internal service fees, which are now covered by MSS.
Liz Allen Fey said if there were to be a shared governance structure, wouldn't that governance structure exist no matter where management is located?
Paula Foster said there probably should be in the MHC/CoC Governance workgroup a quick discussion on whether to create a department. Ms. Foster said in her view, "if we come out of our meeting saying we need a whole new department in government, … we have failed. Let's come up with something that is feasible." She said the goal was to build something that is going to move the city forward.

Liz Allen Fey said she was again going back to limit public comments to 3 minutes. And if a person has spoken already, they go back into the queue. The reason for this change back to time limits was based on voices that felt they did not have a chance to get heard anymore.
Paula Foster said it was time to revise the By-Laws.
Ms. Fey agreed saying we ought to know by November what our work should be moving forward.

Meeting was adjourned.