

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission (MHC)
Executive Committee Meeting
East Park Community Center
600 Woodland Street
11/21/2017

Attendees: Renee Pratt, Wendell Segroves, Liz Allen Fey, Mina Johnson

Staff: Judith Tackett, Sunni Brimsy, Abigail Dowell

Approval of Minutes

Wendell Segroves motioned to approve October 17 minutes, Second by Liz Allen Fey. All in favor

Wendell Segroves motioned to approve November 3rd minutes, Second by Liz Allen Fey. All in favor.

Governance Next Steps

Mina Johnson gave an update of the presentation at last Thursday's CoC meeting. Sharing that the main feedback she heard was the need to address policy, planning, and coordination vs. day-to-day management.

Wendell Segroves also pointed out that it was recommended to have 5 with lived experience as opposed to 3 and agreed with this recommendation.

Additionally, there was some concern expressed over the number of appointments the mayor will have and how they could sway the Planning Council.

Judy Tackett shared that small groups at the CoC meeting filled out forms providing written feedback that is being collected in one document to assist in the workgroup's efforts.

The next workgroup meeting will be held on December 1st and will need to address the concerns and feedback provided, determine next steps, who will be recommended to be on the transition board, and identify issues to consider between now and Metro Council Approval

Currently Josh Lee from Metro Legal will be unable to attend the next workgroup meeting. Judy and/or Renee will find out if someone can attend in his place.

Overall the sense is that this something we need to do in our community.

Mina Johnson also shared that she does not believe any Council member will oppose this change but they will want to know how it will work and what the process of the change is.

The other question asked, 'Who is in charge of drafting the language to go to the Council?' It was determined that as the governing bodies, we can bring the ideas and the necessary components and Legal will put it into the necessary format

Cold Weather Update

Bill presented by Jim Shulman to Metro Council for MSS to open a Cold Weather Shelter at 32 degrees.

The cold weather group has been working to address his concerns without the need of a bill.

To do this, RITI has offered to open a night center at 32 degrees from January 3rd – March 31st from 8p to 5a. A sack dinner and sack breakfast will be provided; The Mission has also offered to provide a hot meal to anyone staying at the night center. There will be pet sheltering through kennels and the Nashville Human Association Rover as needed. MSS will help staff this overnight center at RITI and every Monday the Cold Weather partners will have a call to look at the week ahead and how discuss issues, needs, capacity, etc. Waiting until January to start because RITI needs time to get everything into place and ramp up for this change.

The largest barrier still to work on will be transportation to and from RITI. Judy is talking with MTA about options and the partners are discussing creative options to help with this.

Still some concern from Open Table Nashville that people will still not go to RITI or the Mission. It was agreed that it was good they are still at the table and discussing about how this pilot can be implemented in other areas in future years expanding the RITI response with other partners.

At last night's budget/finance committee meeting Jim Shulman indefinitely deferred the bill proposal and will do the same at tonight's committee meeting because he feels this collaboration meets his concerns, which was about continuing improvement and collaboration.

For clarification, every night there will be a youth shelter as previously planned and MSS will still open a cold weather shelter at 25 degrees between now and January 3rd and then as capacity is reached after January 3rd.

Liz Allen Fey's suggested that the biggest question is of capacity on site.

Judy talked about the utilization of Sarah Lynes from Nissan to help with capacity and temperature predictions 3-5 days in advance which is discussed with the partners

Director's Report

MTA Annual Bus Pass Programs

Judy Tackett provided information regarding the annual bus pass program including a handout. 119 have been handed out since the beginning of October. 91% of those receiving the bus pass have experienced over 12 months of homelessness over the past 3 years meeting the Chronic Homelessness definition. MHC's Data Specialist, Nicole Williams, will begin creating regular reports of the program at commission meetings and to the community.

Indication has been given that this program may be continued next year if good outcomes can be shown.

To show outcomes the Housing Navigators are utilizing HMIS for bi-weekly documentation and information regarding the individual's work towards permanent housing. Sunni Brimsy of MHC is tracking to ensure Housing Navigators are in touch with the individuals every two weeks and will follow up with housing navigators who are not documenting the bi-weekly contacts.

Liz Allen Fey suggested that there needs to be clear outcomes towards the goals of the program – To end chronic homelessness. Clarifying that the commission needs to understand the context of the program and what it means to be moving towards housing.

Ms. Fey suggested that it may also be helpful to understand where people are connecting to receive the bus passes – encampments, shelters, etc.?

The Public Defender's Office is also interested in learning more about this program and potential links. Does it make sense for their social workers to be trained as housing navigators?

Housing Navigation

MHC is beefing up the training for all Housing Navigators in the city of Nashville. Jessica Ivey at MHC has created a training and Sunni Brimsy will be working closely with Housing Navigators to provide support and pertinent information

As incentive, Housing Navigators will have access to MHC resources – move-in cost payments up to \$1,000, Urban Housing Solutions SRO Units, 18 MDHA Vouchers, MTA Bus Pass Program, CTI Case Management through Centerstone.

MHC will require an initial training and annual refresher training. Additional trainings (quarterly) and meetings will be held throughout the year as needed for support of their work and efforts.

Currently it is unknown how active housing navigators there are right now. MHC has more than 100 names of housing navigators that have been trained in the past four years. An estimated 25-30 of them are the group that is most active with housing navigation.

Mr. Segroves asked if the 18 vouchers are being used every month. Judy Tackett responded that they are not always because some people don't show up to the briefings where they receive the vouchers or are unable to find housing to accept the vouchers. It was agreed that there is a need to look at the data regarding how many of the vouchers are being used.

Announcements

Ms. Fey asked if the commissioners should be asked to participate in the Point in Time Count understand that we don't want it to be a burden for the people working the count. The count is currently set for the night of January 25th. Commissioners will work through Judy if they're able and willing.

It was suggested to provide thanks to Jim Shulman for provoking this conversation around Cold Weather and thanks to the Shelters who provide the assistance year around, every year.

December 1st meeting will be at Sonny West Conference Center. Governance workgroup will meet after the Executive committee meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting – 8:30a – 9:00a

Workgroup Meeting – 9:00a – 12:00p