



Executive Director's Staff Report
August 18, 2022
(For the period June 17, 2022 – August 18, 2022)

PERSONNEL/BOARD

- Zenique Gardner-Perry, St. Louis Violence Prevention Commission Project Director joined the MHB staff July 18. Zenique will implement the \$1M ARPA Youth Safe Spaces grant from the St. Louis City Dept. of Health.
- David Haasis, LCSW, joined the MHB staff on August 8 as the Director of Clinical Partnerships. Dave will manage a portfolio of both children's and adult clinical projects.
- The Executive Committee did not meet in July since there was no Board meeting, however they did receive a written update on major activities since the June meeting from Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman. The Committee met August 2 to discuss the August 18 Board agenda, for an update on organizational activities, and to discuss the implementation of the \$2M Early Childhood ARPA on behalf of the City's Community Development Agency.
- The Nominating Committee met July 20, July 29, and August 16 to conduct interviews with six candidates that have applied to serve as Trustees.
- Rob Poirier will step down from the Nominating Committee in order to join the Finance-Investment Committee resulting from his recent election as Secretary-Treasurer. This leaves a vacancy on the Nominating Committee.
- The Finance—Investment Committee met August 9 to discuss MHB serving as a fiscal sponsor for the City's Office of Violence Prevention *National League of Cities Municipalities Reimagining Community Safety grant*.
- The Housing Committee met July 5 to review a letter of intent from the Lutheran Development Group (LDG) to support the Marquette Homes Development in Dutchtown and Gravois Park for Veterans with substance use disorders experiencing homelessness. LDG was invited to submit a PSH application. The Committee met again on July 19 to consider a letter of intent from DOORWAYS for the 39-unit Elliott Place development to be constructed as phase II of their new campus in the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood. DOORWAYS was also invited to submit an application. Should the Board approve funding both projects, available PSH funding for FY23 will be exhausted. No applications were received for PSH funding in FY22. Additionally, the Committee currently has a vacancy for a Trustee to replace Phil Minden following his March 2022 resignation from the Board.
- Board Chair Terrell Carter and Cassandra virtually attended the first session of Forward Through Ferguson's Racial Equity Philanthropic Roundtable on July 22. The focus was primarily orientation to the process and level-setting for the upcoming work to be undertaken by the cohort. As MHB's alternate, Deputy Director Serena Muhammad will attend the remaining sessions with Terrell and Cassandra.

AUGUST 18, 2022 STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES

- Staff salaries were increased July 1 following the approval of the 6% COLA. The conversion from sick leave, vacation, and personal days to PTO was seamless. The executive director's personal services agreement was revised to during the closed session of the June 16 Board meeting to reflect recent personnel policy changes.
- All MHB staff participated in one of two Sunshine Law training session on either July 12 or 19.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS/ALLOCATIONS CCSF, CMHF, Investment Management Partnerships, Partnerships & Initiatives

- The Early Childhood American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding program opened August 8, 2022. The grant will provide up to \$49,500 to cover the gap between the State subsidy and actual cost of childcare for City children. The deadline to submit application material is September 9, 2022.
- FY19-22 CCSF grant cycle closeout was successfully completed. Total funding recaptured due to underspending at cycle-end is approximately \$600K. All FY23 contract initiation payments were made via ACH on July 29.
- A FY23 virtual Reporting Training was conducted on July 29 from 9-10:30 AM with one or more representatives from every CCSF funded project in attendance. The training covered Q2 & Q4 reporting, Pre-Site Visit reports, FY24 Renewal Application (CCSF projects). More than 95 participants attended. The training was recorded and the slide deck and recording will be posted to MHB's grant portal.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS/STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) Director Jessica Meyers was interviewed by *The Economist* for a series on crime in American cities including St. Louis. The piece is currently expected to run in the September 10 issue of the magazine.
- VPC is working with a coalition of community partners to launch a public awareness campaign that aims to decrease unintentional shootings and gun violence. The *Stop, Lock, and Drop It Campaign*, which stands for Stop and think, Lock up your guns, and Drop the drama, will be featured on iHeart media and other outlets over the coming weeks. The content is currently available on the www.stlareavpc.org website.
- The SAMHSA System of Care St. Louis held a Juvenile Justice Initiative mapping session in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families to identify diversion opportunities and community-based service delivery options.

ADMINISTRATION & OTHER ITEMS

- During Cassandra's vacation Serena represented MHB on the United Way of Greater St. Louis Beyond the Pandemic panel hosted by Centene University.
- Serena was interviewed on KTVI to discuss the VPC youth pop-up grants and to help promote a Stop the Violence bike ride held in July.
- Cassandra attended the St. Louis Racial Healing & Justice Fund partner meeting in June at the Deaconess Foundation for which MHB is a contributor.

AUGUST 18, 2022 STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES

- Cassandra, Lisa, Keshia, and Serena met with members of the Urban Strategies' leadership team to discuss their upcoming Promise Neighborhoods grant application. They have asked MHB to support their application to the U.S. Department of Education and join the project's advisory board.
- Controller Susan Kabat and Director of Operations Tom Giles completed Youth Mental Health First Aid Training on July 29 which is a companion training to the Mental Health First Aid Training staff completed in FY22.
- On August 10 2022, Cassandra, Susan, STL VPC Project Director Zenique Gardner-Perry, and Tom toured the nearly completed phase 1 construction of the new DOORWAYS campus on Jefferson Avenue. MHB provided a \$250K 10-year forgivable loan from MHB's Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative to support phase 1 construction.
- Digital Director Sue Culli and Tom are developing a Trustee Portal within MHB's website. Go-live is set for September.
- Staff right-sized MHB's agreement with our Salesforce consultant Buzzbold in FY23 which is a 50% reduction from FY22 as MHB is undergoing a year-long evaluation of both our grants management system and our consultant relationship.
- A total of 86 contracts, contract amendments and/or memorandums of agreement have been executed between June 1 and August 17.