



Executive Director's Staff Report
January 18, 2024
(For the period November 17, 2023 – January 18, 2024)

BOARD / STAFF

Joint MHB/St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF) Board Meeting—MHB Trustees joined members of the CSF Board for a joint Board Meeting on December 13, 2023, at 5:30 PM. The meeting, held at the Missouri Foundation for Health, had two objectives: 1) Provide a networking opportunity for both Boards; and 2) Community Health Needs Assessment consultant Simply Strategy presented an overview of their Phase 1 scope of work. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions about the joint needs assessment being conducted in preparation for the opening of MHB's next grant application cycle in Winter 2024 – 2025.

Executive Committee—The Committee held a special meeting at 10:00 AM on December 29, 2023, to approve up to \$20K from the Community Mental Health Fund Emerging Needs Funding to support pay for Wellness Checkers and to purchase personal care items and clothing for Northview Village Nursing Home residents relocated on December 15 due to the facility's sudden closure. Many Northview residents were individuals with behavioral health diagnoses under the age of 60; some were in guardianship through the City Public Administrator's Office.

Finance—Investment Committee—The Committee met virtually at 5:30 PM on January 8, 2024, to review FY24 Q1 financial statements and to discuss the proposed FY24 budget revision. Both discussion items will be presented at the January 18 Board meeting.

Personnel Committee—The Committee met virtually at 5:00 PM on December 18, 2024, to review and discuss two new job descriptions, a revised job description, and resulting changes to MHB's organizational chart. Recommendations from the December 18 meeting will be presented to at the January 18, 2024 meeting.

Program Committee—The Committee met virtually at 5:45 PM on January 11, 2024, to review and discuss several programmatic items including:

- Preview of Board Retreat topics related to proposed changes to MHB's allocation's process
- Addition of a public awareness campaign to the Community Health Needs Assessment Participatory Budget Community Engagement Process
- Proposal requesting start-up funding for a Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center in South City
- Increased funding for Adolescent C-STAR outpatient substance use program
- Administrative change to Vision for Children at Risk's Family Support Partner contract to utilize funding over two calendar years due to delayed start

The items discussed by the Committee will be presented as resolutions at the January 18 Board Meeting.

JANUARY 18, 2024 STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES

Staff

- **Holiday Party**—MHB Staff held their annual Holiday Party on November 29, 2023, at Puttshack located at the Foundry. Legal Counsel Matt McBride and Stephanie Herbers, Senior Fund Program manager joined in the festivities.
- **Holiday Open House**—MHB, in partnership with the Senior Fund, held a Holiday Open House to showcase the new office suite and network with stakeholders, funded partners, Trustees, and peer funders. More than 125 people attended the two-hour event held December 21, 2024, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.
- **Beloved Community’s Racial Equity Audit and Racial Equity Lens Mapping**—MHB’s Leadership Team completed an Equity Tools Prep Session on December 12, 2023, with Lauren Young of Beloved Community. The entire staff team completed Beloved Community’s AWA Racial Equity Audit Tool in place of its weekly staff meeting on December 19, 2023. A debriefing session was conducted by Beloved Community staff Lauren Young and Nikki Williams-Rucker on January 16, 2024, during the weekly staff meeting. A system-generated report is available for MHB staff to review the organization’s scoring in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. Additionally, all staff completed the Racial Equity Lens Map Tool which provides an assessment of an individual’s progress on their path toward racial equity. Together both tools will provide the foundation for thought partnership meetings to be held weekly in March and led by Nikki Williams-Rucker from Beloved Community. Together all of these tools and processes will provide the foundation for the Board’s development of a Racial Equity Action Plan.
- **Mental Health First Aid**—Children’s Services Fund Project Director Denise Carter completed Mental Health First Aid Instructor training in December 2023 and is now certified to teach the adult course.
- **Northview Village Response**—A majority of MHB staff assisted with recruiting case management and social work staff from Funded Partners to conduct wellness checks; however, significant staff time over a two-week period beginning January 3 was dedicated to ordering items lost by relocated Northview Village residents.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS / ALLOCATIONS (CCSF, CMHF, Funding Partnerships & Initiatives)

Community Force—Q2 reporting was submitted January 12, 2024, using MHB’s new Community Force grant management system. This week all Lead Staff have been reviewing program narrative reports, participant data workbooks, and Q2 stewardship reports.

Community Force & Q2 Reporting Trainings—Digital Director Sue Culli conducted numerous individual trainings over several weeks on Q2 report submission in Community Force for all Cohort B Funded Partners in December 2023.

DOORWAYS’ Allen House PSH Site Visit—Director of Clinical Partnerships Dave Haasis and Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman conducted the annual PSH certification site visit at DOORWAYS’ Allen House Flexible Housing Program on December 21, 2023.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Violence Prevention Commission

- **Center for Policing Equity Acknowledgement**—The Violence Prevention Commission and its director, Jessica Meyers, were acknowledged in the Center for Policing Equity’s (CPE) [Redesigning Public Safety in the City of St. Louis: A Progress Report](#). VPC has partnered with CPE on workgroups addressing coordination of services for victims of domestic violence, revamping the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department’s Use of Force Policy, and police-community engagement. Jessica also serves on the St. Louis Public Safety Collaborative, which was formed in response to the CPE report.
- **Violence Reduction Center’s Practicum on Partnership-Based Violence Reduction**—VPC Director Jessica Meyers and MHB Deputy Director Serena Muhammad participated in the Violence Reduction Center’s Practicum on Partnership-Based Violence Reduction which was convened locally by the East West Gateway Council of Governments. This weeklong series of planning sessions brought together 30 stakeholders to plan for violence reduction in the St. Louis region. Coverage of the practicum and recommendations are available [here](#).
- **Jessica Meyers Co-Authors Academic Paper**—VPC Director Jessica Meyers is one of the authors on an academic paper “Personal goals of young survivors of violent injury: Implications for practice” which was accepted to the journal Injury Prevention to be published in a future issue. The paper examines the goals of participants in Life Outside of Violence, St. Louis’s hospital-based violence intervention program, and was a partnership between researchers at Wash U, SLU, University of NY at Albany, and local hospitals.

ADMINISTRATION

FY23 Audit—The FY23 audit is still in process. It is projected that the audit will be completed and presented to the Board at its February 15, 2024 meeting.

Communications Team—Staff have formed an internal Communications Team which kicked off its activities with its first meeting November 29. The team’s formation is a result of shared communication goals in the individual workplans of several staff.

OTHER

**Northview Village Residents – Update on Wellness Checks
As of 1/10/2024 – Prepared by St. Louis City Senior Fund**

- On January 2, staff from 16 area nonprofit agencies and the City of St. Louis Department of Human Services began wellness checks with Northview Village residents who were moved out of their home, with no warning, two weeks earlier during the weekend of December 15 and placed into 23 nursing homes. Wellness checks were only scheduled for those residents that were moved to nursing homes in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Jefferson County. There was one resident that was missing and found as of January 9; they are currently in the hospital. There were additional residents who were moved to nursing homes in Illinois and further out in Missouri, or are in the care of family members, that we do not have information for at this time.

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- Wellness Checkers asked residents if they were doing okay, if they were okay with the nursing home they were moved to, and if they needed any items replaced that were lost or missing. Requests for clothing and personal care items were sent to MHB and Senior Fund to process. Initial orders of priority items were placed starting January 3. Below is an update on where we are in the process in terms of wellness checks completed and initial orders placed as of the morning of January 10.
 1. 129 out of 143 (90%) residents were seen by staff carrying out wellness checks.
 2. 105 (81%) have had an initial set of clothing and/or personal care items purchased for them.

Other information we know at this time about residents who were visited. Counties residents were moved to:

- St. Louis City – 43%
- St. Louis County – 33%
- Jefferson County – 24%

Ages

- Median Age – 60 years
 - Under 35 years – 4%
 - 35-49 years – 17%
 - 50-59 years – 20%
 - 60-69 years – 31%
 - 70-79 years – 18%
 - 80+ years – 11%
3. Number of residents with public guardians: 22 (17%)
 4. Number of residents reporting a mental health diagnosis: 26 (20%)
Note: All residents experienced a traumatic event and many during their interviews reported feelings of trauma, anxiety, stress, and being scared. Also, residents over 60 were not asked about any mental health diagnoses due to how questions were worded in the wellness check form; we assume that the number who were living at Northview Village due to severe mental illness is higher.
 5. Number of residents reported to have a developmental disability: 16 (12%)