



Peabody Plaza, 701 Market St., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63101  
 (314) 535-6964

\*\*\* MEETING MINUTES \*\*\*

**City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees**  
 Minutes of the October 17, 2024, Hybrid Board Meeting

Trustee	Attendance	Trustee	Attendance
Donna Schmitt, Chair	In-person	Ronald Griffin	Absent
Robert Poirier, Vice Chair	In-person	Mario Hamell	In-person
Julia López, Sec./Treas.	Absent	Marcia Hayes-Harris	In-person
Andi Blaylock	Zoom	Carolyn Jackson	In-person
Terrell Carter	Zoom	Lisa Mulligan	Absent
Vander Corliss	In-person	Cassandra Pinkston	Absent
Linda Grayson	In-person	Janice Thomas	Absent

*Others Attending:*

Matthew S. McBride, General Counsel  
 Cassandra Kaufman, Exec. Director

Serena Muhammad, Deputy Director  
 MHB Staff

**Call to Order** – The regular meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees (MHB) was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Board Chair Donna Schmitt.

**Community Comments** – There were no community members present who wished to address the Board.

**Approval of the September 2024 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the September 19, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Linda Grayson, seconded by Rob Poirier, and passed unanimously.

**Community Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Phase 1 Presentation**-Reggi Rideout and Dr. Eric Armbrrecht from Simply Strategies presented an overview of the quantitative data portion (Phase 1) of the needs assessment. The assessment is being conducted in partnership with the St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund.

**Resolution to Approve FY26 Funding for Behavioral Health Systems Change Initiative Planning Grants**-Program Committee Chair Rob Poirier presented the resolution to approve \$500K in funding for up to five planning grants in FY26. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Jackson and passed unanimously.

**Resolution to Accept Funding from the St. Louis Community Foundation to support Mental Health and Substance Use Programming**-Program Committee Member Marcia Hayes Harris

presented the resolution to accept approximately \$500K per year in funding from the Chiron Community Giving Foundation. The leveraged funding will increase the amount of available funding for the Behavioral Health Systems Change Initiative planning and implementation grants in FY26 – FY32, as well as potentially supplement the SAMHSA System of Care in FFY25 – FFY27.

After discussing the potential of receiving additional funding, the Board agreed to a motion to amend the resolution to the following:

**“NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Board of Trustees authorizes the Executive Director and Board Chair to enter into an agreement with the St. Louis Community Foundation to distribute ~~up to \$500,000~~ **the funds received in each calendar year** ~~in calendar year 2025~~ to increase access to high-quality mental health care for those ages 0 – 26 and their families living in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.”

Rob Poirier made the motion to amend the resolution and was seconded by Carolyn Jackson. The motion to amend the resolution was passed with Vander Corliss abstaining.

The motion to approve the resolution was made by Marcia Hayes Harris and seconded by Rob Poirier. The motion to accept the resolution was passed with Vander Corliss abstaining.

**Board Retreat**-Chair Donna Schmitt requested Trustees to confirm their availability for a Board Retreat to be conducted from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on either Saturday, January 25 or Saturday, January 18, 2025. A tentative date of Saturday, January 25, 2025 was selected and a calendar invite will be sent.

**Staff Report** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman provided a written report on the major activities and accomplishments of the staff covering the period from September 20, 2024 – October 17, 2024. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Marcia Hayes-Harris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carolyn Jackson. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

***The next meeting will be Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 5:45 PM in the Summit Conference Room, Peabody Plaza 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 701 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63101.***