



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 August 15, 2024, Hybrid Board Meeting

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

*Others Attending:*

Matthew S. McBride, Board General Council  
Serena Muhammad, Deputy Director  
MHB Staff

**Call to Order** – The meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees (MHB) was called to order at 5:47 p.m. by Board Chair Donna Schmitt.

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

**Approval of the June 2024 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the June 20, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Vander Corliss, seconded by Ronald Griffin, and passed unanimously.

**Resolution to Approve Permanent Supportive Housing Pre-Development Funding** – Housing Committee Chair Terrell Carter presented the Resolution to approve \$160,425 in Community Mental Health Permanent Supportive Housing Funds to support pre-development costs for a 30-unit tiny home community in the Wells Goodfellow Neighborhood. The motion was seconded by Ronald Griffin and passed unanimously.

**Resolution to Approve Revisions to Community Investment Policies** – Program Committee Chair Rob Poirier presented the Resolution to approve three recommended changes to MHB's Community Investment Policies:

**1. Expand eligible applicants for funding by using the term “prioritize” in place of “only”**  
MHB’s current investment eligibility requirements state that MHB will only invest in organizations that demonstrate fiscal, administrative, and managerial stability, prudence, and diligence. The updated language would instead state that MHB will prioritize investments in organizations that demonstrate fiscal, administrative, and managerial stability, prudence, and diligence. Describing these characteristics as a priority instead of an absolute better aligns with MHB’s intention to establish a Community Building Fund that would be used to help launch pilot projects or support small or emerging organizations who may not yet have a track record.

**2. Expand the length of funding cycles from three-year to multi-year**

The Community Investment Policies currently state that MHB’s primary use of local tax revenues will be investments made in a three-year cycle. The updated language would use the term multi-year instead of three-year to allow greater flexibility for grant periods that could range from two years (for the Community Building Fund) to five years (for the Behavioral Health Safety Net Fund).

**3. Remove maximum funding limit to incentivize collaboration**

For Fiscal Year 2025, MHB will introduce a new collaborative grant opportunity to support the establishment of a Behavioral Health Safety Net (previously described as Essential Services). This fund is intended to support a network model with more than one service provider subcontracted through an intermediary applicant. We recommend that the funding maximum be removed from the Community Investment Policy for intermediaries. This would not prevent Trustees from setting a limit during the application phase or decision-making process.

Program Committee Chair and Vice Chair Rob Poirier made the motion which was seconded by Vander Corliss. The motion passed unanimously.

**FY24 Capacity Building Initiative Status Report** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad presented a status update on the successful implementation of MHB’s Capacity Building Initiative.

**Agency Presentation** – President and CEO Miranda Walker Jones and VP of Compliance and Programs Erica Driver of The Little Bit Foundation presented on their Community Children’s Services Funded *Case Management Program to Expand Behavioral Health Support*.

**Board Retreat** – This item will be discussed further at a later time.

**Staff Report** – This item was removed from the agenda due to Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman’s absence due to illness.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Julia López made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ronald Griffin. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

***The next meeting will be Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 5:45 PM in the Summit Conference Room, Peabody Plaza 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 701 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63101.***