



701 Market St., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63101
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*** MEETING MINUTES ***

City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees
Minutes of the August 21, 2025, Hybrid Board Meeting

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

Others Attending:

Andrew Bramman, Lashly & Baer
Cassandra Kaufman, Executive Director
Serena Muhammad, Deputy Director
MHB Staff

- 1a. **Call to Order** – The regular meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by Board Chair Donna Schmitt.

- 1b. **Community Comments** – Christi Griffin of The Ethics Project presented a proposal to fund training in the Trust-Based Relational Intervention with law enforcement, educators, and judiciary members to address mental health challenges among 50,000 children in St. Louis. The Board clarified that while they were not the same entity as the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Leadership Council, they would consider a formal grant proposal submitted during MHB's regular application cycle, though Ms. Griffin inquired about alternative avenues for quicker consideration.

2. **Approval of the June 2025 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the June 18, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Rob Poirier, seconded by Ronald Griffin, and passed unanimously.

3. **Missouri Budget Project Presentation** – Missouri Budget Project Executive Director Amy Blouin delivered an educational presentation on Missouri's state budget, changes to Medicaid and SNAP funding, and legislative committees exploring property tax reform.

4. **Resolution to Correct FY26 Community Mental Health Funding (CMHF) for Legal Services of Eastern Missouri** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman presented the resolution to correct FY26 CMHF funding for Legal Services of Missouri’s Legal Advocacy for Adults with Mental Illness. Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion to correct the award amount to up to \$306,683 (\$296,886 + \$9,797 the 3.3% COLA). Vander Corliss seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. **Resolution to Change FY25 Funding Source from the Community Mental Health Fund Emerging Needs to the Community Children’s Services Competitive Fund** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman presented the resolution to change the FY25 funding source for the \$35,500 funding award approved at the February 20, 2025 Board Meeting from the Community Mental Health – Emerging Needs Fund to the Community Children’s Services Competitive Fund for the International Institute of St. Louis. Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion, Cassandra Pinkston seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Resolution to Appoint New Personnel Committee Chair** – Following the death of Trustee Linda Grayson in June 2025, Board Chair Donna Schmitt presented the resolution and made the motion to appoint Trustee Andi Blaylock as the new Personnel Committee Chair. Ronald Griffin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
7. **Resolution to Appoint Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt presented the resolution and made the motion to appoint five Trustees to serve as members of a time-limited Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee to guide the strategic plan refresh conducted this fall. The Ad Hoc Committee will consist of:

Donna Schmitt, Chair
 Rob Poirier, Vice Chair
 Julia López, Secretary/Treasurer
 Andi Blaylock, Personnel Committee Chair
 Ronald Griffin, Nominating Committee Member

Cassandra Pinkston seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. **Roll Call Vote to Close Meeting** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion to close the meeting for the purpose of discussing sealed bids and proposals, and related documents, or documents related to a negotiated contract, pursuant to Section 610.021(12), RSMo. Rob Poirier seconded the motion, and Executive Assistant Alicia Lee called the roll:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Andi Blaylock	Yes	Julia López	Yes
Vander Corliss	Yes	Cassandra Pinkston	Yes
Marcia Hayes-Harris	Absent	Rob Poirier	Yes
Ronald Griffin	Yes	Donna Schmitt	Yes
Mario Hamell	Yes	Janice Thomas	Yes
Carolyn Jackson	Yes		

9. **Closed Session** – The closed session began at 6:44 p.m. at which time matters that were the purpose of the closed session were discussed. After adjourning the closed session, the Board returned to its Regular Session at 7:30 p.m. with ten (10) Board members present: Andi Blaylock, Vander Corliss, Ronald Griffin, Mario Hamell, Carolyn Jackson, Julia López, Cassandra Pinkston, Rob Poirier, Donna Schmitt, and Janice Thomas.

10. **Early Childhood Grant Review Process Feedback** – Due to time constraints, Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion to table this agenda item until the September 18, 2025 meeting. Ronald Griffin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
11. **Staff Report** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman provided a written report on the major activities and accomplishments of the staff covering the period from June 19, 2025 – August 21, 2025. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.
12. **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Vander Corliss made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Julia López. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees adjourned at 7:31 p.m.