



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 January 15, 2026 Hybrid Board Meeting

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

Others Attending:

Matt McBride, General Counsel, Lashly & Baer
Cassandra Kaufman, Executive Director
Serena Muhammad, Deputy Director
Susan Kabat, Controller
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 5:45 p.m. by Chair Donna Schmitt.
- 1b. **Community Comments** – There were no community members present who wished to address the Board.
2. **Approval of the November 2025 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Janice Thomas, seconded by Julia Lopez, and passed unanimously.
3. **Appointment of Officers Nominating Committee** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt announced that Carolyn Jackson, Ronald Griffin, Andi Blaylock had agreed to continue their service as members of the Nominating Committee. Carolyn Jackson agreed to continue serving as Chair. The motion to approve the members of the Nominating Committee was made by Donna Schmitt, seconded by Vander Corliss, and passed unanimously. The Nominating Committee is charged to recommend next year’s slate of officers for election at the March 19 Board meeting.
4. **Resolution to Nominate Dr. Evanna Burkett to the Board** – Nominating Committee Chair Carolyn Jackson presented the resolution and made the motion to nominate Dr. Evanna Burkett to complete the unexpired term of former Trustee Linda Grayson ending December 31,

2027. The motion was seconded by Ronald Griffin and passed unanimously.

5. **Statute Discussion in Preparation for Application Review** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad and General Counsel Matt McBride reviewed allowable uses for funding per the Community Mental Health Fund and Community Children’s Services Fund statutes, in preparation for the FY27 – 29 CMHF/CCSF Application Reviews.
6. **Pathways to Request MHB Funding** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad presented an overview of the pathways to request MHB funding.
7. **Staff Report** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman provided a written report on the major activities and accomplishments of the staff covering the period from November 21, 2025 – January 15, 2026. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.
8. **Closed Session** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion to close the session 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. Julia López seconded the motion and Chair Schmitt conducted a roll call vote to close the meeting:

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

The closed session focused on discussing a negotiated contract. Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion to end the closed session, seconded by Vander Corliss. Chair Schmitt conducted the roll call to end the closed session:

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

9. **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Rob Poirier 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 6:59 p.m.

