



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 March 19, 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
Evanna Burkett	In person	Brian Phillips	In person
Andi Blaylock	In person	Cassandra Pinkston	In person
Vander Corliss	In person	Janice Thomas	Zoom
Ronald Griffin	In person		

*Others Attending:*

Matt McBride, General Counsel, 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 5:47 p.m. by Chair Donna Schmitt.
- 1b. **Community Comments** – There were no community members present who wished to address the Board.
2. **Welcome New Trustee Dr. Evanna Burkett** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt welcomed Dr. Evanna Burkett as MHB's newest Trustee recently appointed by Mayor Spencer and approved by the Board of Aldermen.
3. **Approval of the February 2026 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the February 19, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Carolyn Jackson, seconded by Robert Poirier, and passed unanimously.

4. **Election of FY 2026 – 2027 Officer Slate** – Carolyn Jackson, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the proposed Officer Slate to serve one-year terms beginning April 16, 2026, for a vote by the Trustees. The proposed slate is as follows:

Chair – Robert Poirier (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
 Vice Chair – Julia López (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
 Secretary/Treasurer – Vander Corliss (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Carolyn Jackson made the motion seconded by Donna Schmitt, which passed unanimously.

5. **Bylaws Revision Presentation for Approval at April Board Meeting** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman presented a summary of recommended updates to MHB’s Bylaws to be voted on at the April 16 Board Meeting.
6. **Staff Report** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman provided a written report on the major activities and accomplishments of the staff covering the period from February 20, 2026 – March 19, 2026. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.
7. **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. Ronald Griffin seconded the motion and Chair Schmitt conducted a roll call vote to close the meeting:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Vote</u>		
Andi Blaylock	Yes	Carolyn Jackson	Yes
Evanna Burkett	Not yet present	Julia López	Yes
Vander Corliss	Yes	Brian Phillips	Yes
Ronald Griffin	Yes	Cassandra Pinkston	Yes
Marcia Hayes-Harris	Yes	Rob Poirier	Yes
Mario Hamell	Yes	Donna Schmitt	Yes
		Janice Thomas	Yes

The closed session began at 5:57 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 7:44 p.m. with all 13 Board members present. 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	Carolyn Jackson	Yes
Evanna Burlett	Yes	Julia López	Yes
Vander Corliss	Yes	Brian Phillips	Yes
Ronald Griffin	Yes	Cassandra Pinkston	Yes
Marcia Hayes-Harris	Yes	Rob Poirier	Yes
Mario Hamell	Yes	Donna Schmitt	Yes
		Janice Thomas	Yes

8. **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 7:46 p.m.