



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 May 15, 2025, Hybrid Board Meeting

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

Others Attending:

Lyndee Fritz, 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 (MHB) was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Board Chair Donna Schmitt.
- 1b. **Community Comments** – Alderwoman Shameen Clark-Hubbard spoke in support of the Sidewalk Talk event held May 6 on Delmar in the West End Neighborhood in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. Gerry Connolly questioned the Board's process of conducting a vote within the closed session. Chair Schmitt explained that the Board can conduct the vote in the closed session per statute.
2. **Approval of the April 2025 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the April 17, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Rob Poirier, seconded by Carolyn Jackson, and passed unanimously.
3. **FY25 Q3 Financial Report** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman presented the FY25 Q3 financial report.
4. **Resolution to Approve FY26 Continuation Grants from the Community Mental Health Fund** – Vice Chair and Program Committee Chair Rob Poirier presented the resolution and made the motion to approve FY26 continuation funding for year three of the Community

Mental Health Fund grant cycle. Ronald Griffin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Resolution to Approve FY26 System Change Planning Grants from the Community Mental Health Fund** – Vice Chair and Program Committee Chair Rob Poirier presented the resolution and made the motion to approve FY26 funding for three System Change Planning Grants from Community Mental Health Fund reserves. Marcia Hayes-Harris seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Resolution to Approve FY26 Continuation Grants from the Community Children’s Services Fund** – Program Committee Member Marcia Hayes-Harris presented the resolution and made the motion to approve FY26 continuation funding for year four of the Community Children’s Services Fund grant cycle. Carolyn Jackson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
7. **Resolution to Approve FY26 Community Children’s Services Fund and Community Mental Health Fund Intergenerational Continuation Grants** – Vice Chair and Program Committee Chair Rob Poirier presented the resolution and made the motion to approve FY26 continuation funding for year four of the Community Children’s Services Fund and Community Mental Health Fund Intergenerational (a.k.a. Hybrid) grants. Marcia Hayes-Harris seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
8. **May 6 Mental Health Awareness Sidewalk Talk Event Presentation** – MHB Prevention Partnerships Director Lisa Potts showcased the day’s activities conducted as part of Mental Health Awareness Month.
9. **Staff Report** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman provided a written report on the major activities and accomplishments of the staff covering the period from April 18, 2025 – May 15, 2025. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.
10. **Closed Session** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion 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 Chair Schmitt conducted a roll call vote to close the meeting:

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

Resolution to Approve FY26 Community Children’s Services – Early Childhood Fund Project Grants and Partnerships

– Program Committee Member Marcia Hayes-Harris presented the resolution and Deputy Director Serena Muhammad facilitated the Trustee discussion for FY26 year one funding for Community Children’s Services – Early Childhood Fund project grants and partnerships. Marcia Hayes-Harris made a motion to approve FY26 year one funding for the Community Children’s Services Fund – Early Childhood project grants and partnerships.

Chair Schmitt moved to amend the motion made by Marcia Hayes-Harris to include the allocation of unspent funds from the FY26 Mental Health Education for Parents/Caregivers Partnership appropriation, FY26 Professional Development for Childcare Providers Partnership appropriation, and \$36,000 from reserves to cover project grants and partnership funding for the 16 organizations listed on pages 1 and 2 of the resolution attachment, not to exceed \$2,860,949. Vander Corliss seconded the amended motion. Chair Schmitt conducted a roll call vote to approve the amended motion:

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

Board Chair Donna Schmitt then moved to end the closed session, seconded by Rob Poirier. Chair Schmitt conducted the roll call vote to end the closed session:

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

- 11. Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Donna Schmitt 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 7:13 p.m.