



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 21, 2026 Hybrid Board Meeting

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

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 Rob Poirier.
- 1b. **Community Comments** – There were no community members present who wished to address the Board.
2. **Approval of the April 2026 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the April 16, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Donna Schmitt, seconded by Carolyn Jackson, and passed unanimously.
3. **FY2026 Third Quarter Financial Statements Presentation** - Executive Director, Cassandra Kaufman presented the FY2026 Q3 financial statements.
4. **Resolution to Approve Transitional Housing Emergency Gap Funding Request** – Trustee Brian Phillips presented the resolution and made the motion to rescind the \$500,000 permanent supportive housing award for Peter & Paul Community Services approved by the Board at its October 16, 2025 meeting. Brian then made a motion to award Peter & Paul Community Services \$307,000 from the Community Mental Health Fund Permanent Supportive Housing Fund, in response to an emergency gap funding request. The motion was seconded by Julia López and passed unanimously.

5. **Behavioral Health Care Team Presentation** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad presented a plan developed by consultant Alana Green, Founder and Principal of Community Development Solutions, to implement a local Behavioral Health Care Team (similar in concept to MO DMH’s Behavioral Health Strike Team) which can be activated to address the behavioral health needs of city residents when disasters occur. A resolution to approve implementation of the Behavioral Health Care Team will be presented for a Trustee vote at the June 18 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 April 17, 2026 – May 21, 2026. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.

7. **Closed Session** – Board Chair Rob Poirier 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. Brian Phillips seconded the motion and Chair Poirier conducted a roll call vote to close the meeting:

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

The closed session began at 6:29 p.m., at which time matters that were the purpose of the closed session were discussed. Board Chair Rob Poirier made the motion to end the closed session, seconded by Cassandra Pinkston. Chair Poirier conducted the roll call to end the closed session:

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

After adjourning the closed session, the Board returned to its Regular Session at 7:54 p.m. with eight Board members present.

8. **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Donna Schmitt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian Phillips. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees adjourned at 7:55 p.m.