PUBLIC NOTICE

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TO: Trustees & Other Interested Persons

FROM: Cassandra Kaufman, Executive Director

DATE: September 11, 2026

SUBJECT: **Board Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5:45 PM, Peabody Plaza, 15th Floor Conference Room, 701 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63101 and via Zoom**
This is a new Zoom link which is different than the link used for the Jan. – Jun. 2026 board meetings in FY 2026
https://stlmhb.zoom.us/j/82678826523?pwd=E5gFU9x06Z6bkC86dZAOkTtDqRdclV.1
Meeting ID: 826 7882 6523 Passcode: 492612 One tap mobile: +13126266799

CITY OF ST. LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
TENTATIVE AGENDA
September 17, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING
5:45 PM

Anyone wishing to address the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees on proposed 2026 property tax rates for the Community Mental Health Fund and the Community Children's Services Fund is invited to attend this Public Hearing prior to the regular meeting of the MHB Trustees. Comments should pertain to Resolutions setting next year's property tax rates for both funds. The proposed resolutions have been posted on the MHB website, City of St. Louis website, and published in the *St. Louis American*.

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1. **Community Comments**
   Opportunity for individuals from the St. Louis community to comment on issues concerning the Community Children's Services Fund and the Community Mental Health Fund or other issues related to the behavioral health needs of children and/or adults. Speakers must sign up in advance and limit comments to three (3) minutes.

2. **Consent Agenda**

   a. **Approval of the August 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**
      Trustees will vote whether to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting held August 20, 2026. Minutes are distributed to all recipients on the MHB contact list.

The Tentative Agenda was posted at the office and on the website of the MHB prior to 24 hours before the meeting of the Board of Trustees and has also been posted on the website of the City of St. Louis, MO. Agenda items may be withdrawn or modified before or during the public meeting at the discretion of the Board.

b. **Resolution to Accept Year 4 Federal Funding Award for SAMHSA SOC 4-Year Agreement**
Trustees will vote whether to accept the year four funding award for the FFY 2023 – 2027 SAMHSA System of Care Four-Year Cooperative Agreement for the project period September 2023 through September 2027. The focus of this SOC Cooperative Agreement is children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) or at risk for an SED that are experiencing or at risk for experiencing homelessness.

c. **Pulled Consent Items**
Any trustee may request that a particular item on the Consent Agenda be considered separately. This requires approving a motion to Divide the Question.

3. **Regular Agenda Items**

a. **Resolution to Approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate for the Community Mental Health Fund**
Secretary/Treasurer Vander Corliss will present the resolution to approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate for the Community Mental Health Fund.

b. **Resolution to Approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate for the Community Children's Services Fund**
Secretary/Treasurer Vander Corliss will present the resolution to approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate for the Community Children's Services Fund.

c. **Resolution to Approve Funding from the Community Mental Health Emerging Needs Fund**
Vice Chair Julia López will present the resolution to approve $15,000.00 from the Community Mental Health – Emerging Needs Fund to support one cohort of MHB-funded partners that primarily serve immigrants and refugees. Support for agency staff will be provided by hosting a Vitality Café, modeled on the World Café model.

4. **Staff Report**

a. **Suicide Prevention & FY26 Children's Mental Health Month Event**
Clinical Partnership Director Poli Rijos, LCSW, will present on the St. Louis Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Nature & Nurture event May 25, 2026 in partnership with the St. Louis Zoo, held in recognition of Children's Mental Health Month.

b. **FY27 Funded Partner Celebration**
Director of Administration Sue Culli-Wilson will present on MHB's FY27 Funded Partner Celebration held August 10, 2026 at Rung for Women. Board Chair Rob Poirer offered opening remarks for the nearly 150 funded partner staff in attendance.

c. **Highlights**
Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman will highlight updates on major activities and accomplishments of the board and staff since the last meeting of the trustees. A written report covering all three presentations will be distributed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

5. **Closed Session**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees shall, subject to a motion duly made and adopted, conduct a closed session, for the purpose of considering one or more of the following matters pursuant to Section 610.021(1), Revised Statutes of Missouri, and engage in proceedings to:

(1) discuss legal actions, causes of action, litigation or privileged communications between the Board's representatives and its attorneys or auditors pursuant to Sections 610.021(1) and/or 610.021(17); and to

(3) discuss sealed bids and proposals, and related documents, or documents related to a negotiated contract, pursuant to Section 610.021(12).

6. **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 5:45 PM Peabody Plaza 15th Floor Conference Room, 701 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63101.

The Tentative Agenda was posted at the office and on the website of the MHB prior to 24 hours before the meeting of the Board of Trustees and has also been posted on the website of the City of St. Louis, MO. Agenda items may be withdrawn or modified before or during the public meeting at the discretion of the Board.

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 September 17, 2026 Hybrid Board Meeting

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

Others Attending:
Andrew Bramman, General Council, Lashly & Baer
Cassandra Kaufman, Executive Director
Serena Muhammad, Deputy Director
MHB Staff

Public Hearing on the 2026 Tax Rates

Board Chair Robert Poirier convened the Public Hearing at 5:46 p.m. and invited comments from anyone regarding the proposed 2026 tax rates for the Community Mental Health Fund and the Community Children's Services Fund. It was noted that the proposed rates were publicized in the *St. Louis American* newspaper on September 3, 2026, as well as posted to the City of St. Louis's website and the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees' (MHB) website. No one present in-person or virtually through Zoom requested to speak about the tax rates. Trustee Vander Corliss made a motion, seconded by Trustee Carolyn Jackson to adjourn the public hearing. The motion was approved unanimously and the public hearing on the 2026 tax rates adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees

1a. <u>Call to Order</u> – The regular meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:49 p.m. by Board Chair Rob Poirier.

1b. <u>Community Comments</u> – James Trust, Founder of End Prisonism Organization, raised concerns about the intersection of mental health services and the criminal justice system, specifically

regarding a case involving Demetri McDowell. Cassandra Kaufman clarified that the St. Louis Mental Health Board does not have jurisdiction over incarcerated individuals, as they fall under state jurisdiction through the Missouri Department of Mental Health, though the board does fund programs supporting reentry into the community.

2. **Consent Agenda** – Rob Poirier made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Cassandra Pinkston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The following items were approved:

   a. **Approval of the August 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**

   b. **Resolution to Accept Year 4 Federal Funding Award for SAMHSA SOC 4-Year Agreement** Passage of the resolution accepts the year four funding award for the FFY 2023 – 2027 SAMHSA System of Care Four-Year Cooperative Agreement for the project period September 2023 through September 2027. The focus of this SOC Cooperative Agreement is children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) or at risk for an SED that are or at risk for experiencing homelessness.

   c. **Pulled Consent Items** – There were no items removed from the consent agenda to be discussed during the regular meeting agenda.

3. **Regular Agenda Items**

   a. **Resolution to Approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate for the Community Mental Health Fund** Secretary/Treasurer Vander Corliss presented the resolution and made the motion to approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate of $0.0880 on each One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) assessed valuation on all real, personal and other taxable property within the City of St. Louis for the Community Mental Health Fund. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Jackson and passed unanimously.

   b. **Resolution to Approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate for the Community Children's Services Fund** – Secretary/Treasurer Vander Corliss presented the resolution and made the motion to approve the 2026 Estimated Tax Rate of $0.2403 on each One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) assessed valuation on all real, personal and other taxable property within the City of St. Louis for the Community Children's Services Fund. The motion was seconded by Cassandra Pinkston and passed unanimously.

   c. **Resolution to Approve Funding from the Community Mental Health Emerging Needs Fund** Vice Chair Julia López presented the resolution to approve up to $16,000.00 from the Community Mental Health – Emerging Needs Fund to support one cohort of MHB-funded partners that primarily serve immigrants and refugees. Support for agency staff will be provided by offering a Vitality Café, modeled on the World Café model. The motion was seconded by Marcia Hayes-Harris and passed unanimously.

4. **Staff Report**

   a. **Suicide Prevention & FY26 Children's Mental Health Month Event**
   Clinical Partnership Director Poli Rijos, LCSW, delivered a presentation on the St. Louis

Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Nature & Nurture event May 25, 2026 in partnership with the St. Louis Zoo, held in recognition of Children's Mental Health Month.

b. FY27 Funded Partner Celebration

Director of Administration Sue Culli-Wilson delivered a presentation on MHB's FY27 Funded Partner Celebration held August 10, 2026 at Rung for Women. Board Chair Rob Poirer offered opening remarks for the nearly 150 funded partner staff in attendance.

c. Highlights

Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman provided a written report on the major activities and accomplishments of the staff covering the period from August 21, 2026 – September 17, 2026. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.

5. Closed Session – Board Chair Rob Poirier 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. Ronald Griffin seconded the motion and Chair Poirier conducted a roll call vote to close the meeting:

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

The closed session began at 6:37 p.m. The board discussed funding two system change proposals and the decision was made to award the Behavioral Health Network's Regional BEACN program $499,978.00 from the Community Mental Health Fund each year, for the next five years.

Board Chair Rob Poirier then made a motion to end the closed session, seconded by Carolyn Jackson. Chair Poirier conducted the roll call vote to end the closed session:

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

The closed session ended at 7:06 p.m.

6. Adjournment – There being no further business before the board, Chair Rob Poirier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Evanna Burkett. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees adjourned at 7:07 p.m.