



**Executive Director's Staff Report**  
**November 16, 2023**  
**(For the period October 20 – November 16, 2023)**

**BOARD / STAFF**

**Nominating Committee**

- The Committee met October 19 at 5:15 PM to determine if they wished to recommend a candidate recently interviewed for nomination to the Board. After some discussion, the Committee determined that it wants to prioritize recruiting another Trustee from North City and will not recommend the candidate for nomination at this time.

**Staff**

- Maxine Gill, a Coro Public Affairs Leadership Fellow, has been engaged to develop a fiscal sponsorship decision tree and accompanying draft policy. This project is designed to support future decision making by Trustees in determining when it is in the best interest of MHB to undertake a fiscal sponsorship. Her government placement with MHB is from October 23 – November 16.
- Q1 Performance Discussions were conducted with all staff in late October and early November. The purpose of the quarterly performance focused conversations is to dedicate time specifically to focus on the growth and development of employees and to increase the frequency of performance-related discussions. Staff reported on the status of workplan goals and established professional development goals for FY24.
- Serena Muhammad, in her capacity as Chair of the City of St. Louis Department of Health Board of Health and Hospitals, assisted the Department of Health in selecting an emergency vendor to provide medical services for the city jail. The City Department of Health has also added staff to support the city jail, including a new Medical Director position.
- All MHB staff attended the *St. Louis Racial Equity Summit* November 9 – 11 at the America's Center. This was both a team building opportunity as well as an opportunity to provide access to a variety of workshops focused on racial equity.

Director of Prevention Partnerships Lisa Potts served as part of a panel at the Summit, presenting on the *We Collab* resident-driven neighborhood plan development process for the West End and Visitation Park neighborhoods. The City has since adopted *We Collab's* resident-led plan. *We Collab* is developing a playbook for use by other city neighborhoods interested in developing their own resident-driven plans. The effort was made possible by a grant from Invest STL (a project of the St. Louis Community Foundation). Lisa was one of three neighborhood residents that wrote the grant to fund the resident-led process with the support of a consultant.

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS / ALLOCATIONS**  
**(CCSF, CMHF, Funding Partnerships & Initiatives)**

- Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri has withdrawn from its FY24 CCSF—Early Childhood contract effective November 30, 2023, due to underperformance. Their project was given a 6-month provisional contract. Staff met with MHA leadership October 26, following the receipt of Q1 reporting to discuss the organization’s options.
- Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman has agreed to serve on the *Healing to Recovery (Medical Respite pilot project) Governance Committee* along with Dr. Rob Poirier. As you may recall, the Board agreed to allow the Behavioral Health Network to repurpose the \$300K already paid for the sobering center pilot project, to be used for the establishment of a medical respite program, since the sobering center successfully secured sustainability funding through the state in the first six months of operation. The medical respite pilot is designed to provide a place for those with substance use disorders and co-morbid medical issues requiring care following hospital discharge, to heal. The project will begin January 2024 with 8 beds and plans to expand to 20. The Committee held its first meeting on October 26.
- Staff are conducting Q1 site visits with all new FY24-26 CMHF funded partners and those FY23-25 CCSF/CCSF-EC funded partners participating in the capacity-building initiative.
- Director of Clinical Partnerships Dave Haasis and Cassandra attended a site visit at Peter & Paul Community Services’ Garfield Place apartments in the Benton Park West neighborhood on November 8. This is the last site visit for their permanent supportive housing project having reached its tenth and final \$25K loan forgiveness in November 2023.

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

**Violence Prevention Commission**

- St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Director Jessica Meyers attended the *National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm Related Harms* in Chicago, IL November 1 – 3. Attendance at the conference was related to a research-project funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health focused on the prevention of gun violence, in which Jessica is a participant.

**System of Care St. Louis**

- Director of Youth Development Partnerships, Poli Rijos, has been working with the System of Care partners to complete new requirements for the SAMHSA Cooperative Agreement. This included responding to terms and conditions of the Notice of Award and attending a new grantee orientation and several trainings.

**ADMINISTRATION**

- The FY23 audit is still in process. It is projected that the audit will be completed and presented to the Board at its January 18, 2024 meeting.
- Deputy Director Serena Muhammad and Cassandra reviewed seven proposals received for the Community Health Needs Assessment to be conducted in partnership with the St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund, St. Louis County Department of Public Health, and the City

## **NOVEMBER 16, 2023, STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES**

of St. Louis Health Department. Rachel Kyrah, MHB's Lead Evaluator at the Missouri Institute for Mental Health for the SAMHSA System of Care, also participated as a member of MHB's proposal review team. Following a meeting on October 23 of all CSF and MHB evaluators, interviews were conducted on November 3 with the top three finalists. A meeting was held November 14 to select the vendor for phase 1 of the project. The vendor will present to both Boards at their joint meeting December 13, which is scheduled to begin at 5:30 PM and will be held at the Missouri Foundation for Health

<b>OTHER</b>
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- The MHB Staff Holiday Party will be held November 29 in the afternoon.