



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

FROM: Rob Poirier, Program Committee Chair **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE: February 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Allocate \$139,200 to purchase psychological evaluation services for city residents

BACKGROUND

In March 2024, Trustees approved the establishment of a partnership with Saint Louis University’s Psychological Services Center awarding \$115,000 to conduct psychological evaluations at a flat rate of \$1,200 per evaluation, not including administrative costs. Funding was approved to address the significant wait lists and lack of psychological evaluation services available to city children and adults. Often, those in need of an assessment could wait four to six months to receive a psychological evaluation. Of the \$115,000 awarded, approximately 1/3 or \$38,000 would be allocated from the Community Mental Health Fund to primarily serve adults and the remaining 2/3 or approximately \$78,000, would be allocated from the Community Children’s Services Fund to serve children and youth age 18 and under. The program is managed as an expense reimbursement contract.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM

The Clinical Psychology PhD Program has been continuously accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1964 and is accredited through 2031. The program admits an annual class of seven (7) trainees, with a total average of 28 trainees throughout the program. Students provide psychological services under the supervision of a licensed clinical psychologist in their second through fourth years. Advanced clinical psychology doctoral students are trained in psychological evaluations for children and adults in the following areas: Psychological Disorders (trauma/PTSD; personality disorders; Obsessive Compulsive Disorder; etc.), Diagnostic Clarification, Attention-Deficit /Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Learning Disorders, IQ and Giftedness, Neuropsychological Evaluation, and Memory and Aging Concerns.

PROJECT SUMMARY

At MHB’s request, the SLU Clinical Psychology PhD program proposes to continue providing psychological evaluation services for children, youth, and adults, but to also conduct up to two (2) assessments per month for youth involved with the Family Court. Currently, the Family Courts face barriers in accessing quality psychological evaluation services that aid in the appropriate diagnosis of court-involved youth to inform interventions and treatment recommendations. SLU will continue to provide psychological evaluations for up to four (4) city residents per month who seek out services on their own, as well as through referrals from MHB-funded partners. The program will provide psychological evaluations for a variety of cognitive, educational, emotional, and behavioral difficulties for ages 4+.

FUNDING REQUEST

The Saint Louis University Psychological Services Center proposes a flat rate of \$2,200 per evaluation for up to two (2) youth per month involved with the Family Court for a total of \$52,800 in FY26. They estimate approximately four (4) city residents could be served per month at the rate of \$1,800 per evaluation or \$86,400 during the FY26 fiscal year for a total funding request of \$139,200. The cost per evaluation has increased because the initial flat rate was only calculated on staff time. The proposed new rate includes the cost of evaluation supplies, staff training, translation and interpretation services, and administrative costs. Due to a timing issue related to assigning doctoral students to conduct the psychological evaluations, this request is being presented earlier than the typical May Board Meeting timeframe.

CITY OF SAINT LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APPROPRIATE FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FUND AND COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S SERVICES FUND TO PURCHASE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis, Missouri has levied taxes pursuant to the laws of the State of Missouri Sections 205.975 – 205.990 RSMo. to fund the Community Mental Health Fund and Sections 210.860 – 210.861 RSMo. (2005 and 2020) to fund the Community Children’s Services Fund (CCSF); and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous to implement its responsibilities to ensure the provision of high-quality behavioral health, prevention, and early identification/intervention services for children, youth, and adults within the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, access to affordable and timely psychological evaluations is limited; and


WHEREAS, the Clinical Psychology PhD Program at Saint Louis University has the capacity to increase access to psychological evaluation services through an existing accredited program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:


The Board awards up to \$139,200 in FY26 funding to Saint Louis University to purchase psychological evaluations for city residents ages four and older.

1. Using an expense reimbursement approach, MHB will fund services from the Community Mental Health Fund to provide an average of two (2) psychological evaluations for adults aged 18 and older per month (\$1,800 each) at an estimated cost of \$43,200. The exact amount may vary depending on services rendered.
2. MHB will fund services from the Community Children’s Services Fund to provide two (2) psychological evaluations per month for court-involved youth (\$2,200 each) or \$52,800 per year and provide an average of two (2) evaluations for city children age 18 and under per month (\$1,800 each) at an estimated cost of \$43,200. The exact amount may vary depending on services rendered.
3. The Board Chair and Executive Director are authorized and directed to enter into an expense reimbursement contract with Saint Louis University in an amount not to exceed \$139,200.

APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

Board Chair/Officer Name (printed):	Signature: 
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ATTEST:

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature: 
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