



Executive Director's Staff Report
March 21, 2024
(For the period February 16, 2024 – March 21, 2024)

BOARD / STAFF

Board Committees

- **Finance – Investment Committee** – The Committee met virtually March 4, 2024, at 5:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the FY25 COLA for funded partners. The January CPI was 3.9% with food and energy costs removed. Having reviewed revenue projections for FY25 and FY26, as well as COLA projections from 2.0% to 3.9%, the Committee approved a 3.9% COLA for FY25 Renewal Funding Applications.
- **Nominating Committee** – The Committee met virtually February 20, 2024, at 1:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the recommended Officer Slate for the March 21, 2024, election. After some discussion, the following individuals were recommended to serve one-year terms:
 - Donna Schmitt, Chair
 - Rob Poirier, Vice Chair
 - Julia López, Secretary/Treasurer

All three candidates agreed to accept their nomination. There will also be an opportunity during the March Board Meeting to accept nominations from the floor.

- **Board Committee Meetings** – Staff have requested the opportunity to observe Board Committee meetings and therefore, beginning with the March 4 Finance-Investment Committee meeting, will be invited as optional attendees. Staff will not be invited to observe Personnel Committee or Executive Committee meetings due to the nature and content of the discussions.

Staff Activities

- Director of Youth Development Partnerships Poli Rijos is serving on the Statewide 988 Missouri Taskforce and supports messaging and implementation in St. Louis City and County.
- Poli Rijos was selected as the first woman of color to present at Washington University's Brown School Women at Work: Creating Social Change held March 1. Poli is an alumnus of the MSW program.
- Director of Prevention Partnerships Lisa Potts and Children's Services Fund Project Director Denise Carter are participating in *Black in Philanthropy: St. Louis Coffee Break* conversations monthly.

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- Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman attended the statewide Children’s Service Fund Executive Director’s meeting in Columbia, MO, March 7.

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

- **Site Visits** – Staff have completed site visits with all MHB funded partners.
- **FY25 Funding Renewal Applications** – Opened on-line in Community Force (MHB’s web-based grant management system) on March 11 with a March 29 submission deadline. Funded Partners have the opportunity to apply for a 3.9% COLA as part of the Renewal Application Process. Renewal Funding Recommendations will be presented for Trustee approval at the May 16 Board Meeting.
- **Capacity – Building Initiative Update** – Limitless Horizons, the consultant for MHB’s Capacity-Building Initiative, provided an update to staff on the status of their work with funded partners on February 27.
- **Allocation Process Changes** – Staff are actively planning for the operationalization of Allocation Process Changes approved at the January 27, 2024, Board Retreat. The first of the changes will be implemented in Fall 2024.
- **Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)** – MHB Staff held a CHNA kickoff meeting March 1, 2024, with staff from the St. Louis County Childrens Service Fund (CSF) and Simply Strategy (vendor selected to conduct Phase 1 of CHNA). This team will meet every two weeks to check-in on the progress for the quantitative data collection phase of the CHNA. CSF and MHB intend to re-release a separate RFP for Phase 2 of the CHNA which is the larger and more involved community outreach and engagement portion. None of the vendors which responded to the original RFP that provided an opportunity to bid on Phase 1, Phase 2, or both, met the desired qualifications set by CSF and MHB for Phase 2.
- **Changes at Places for People** – As you may already be aware, MHB Funded Partner Places for People (PFP) is joining Brightli, a nonprofit umbrella organization of which Preferred Family Healthcare is already a part. Although this change is not a merger, joining Brightli will create administrative savings and streamline collaboration and service delivery among other Brightli partners. The change will occur July 1 and current PFP CEO Laura McAllister will become Brightli’s Executive Vice President of Financial Planning & Analysis and Tony Hilkin will become PFP’s new CEO. The change was announced February 23.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Violence Prevention Commission

- **Spring Break Activities** – The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) will support spring break activities at two city Recreation Centers: Cherokee (Benton Park) and Tandy (Ville).
- **Violence Reduction Center** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad continues her participation in the Violence Reduction Center’s local planning efforts coordinated by the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, on behalf of VPC.

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SAMHSA System of Care

- **Requested Changes** – MHB is experiencing some challenges with changes to the System of Care grant requested by SAMHSA. New SAMHSA staff are requiring fundamental changes to the program model which was already awarded funding. An update will be provided at a future meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

- **FY23 Audit** – The FY23 audit is in the final stage of completion and will be presented at the April 18 Board meeting.
- **Staff Recruitment** – Continues for the two new staff positions, Program Assistant (formerly Account Specialist) and the Data and Performance Analyst that were approved at the January 18, 2024, Board meeting.

OTHER

Mental Health Awareness

- **Wellness in Neighborhoods Public Awareness Campaign** – Staff are busy finalizing plans for the public awareness campaign to be conducted in seven city Wards. Many of the neighborhood-level activities will kick off during May during Mental Health Awareness Month. Participating Wards include:

Ward 1 (south)	Anne Schweitzer
Ward 3 (south)	Shane Cohn
Ward 6 (south)	Daniela Velázquez
Ward 8 (central)	Cara Spencer
Ward 9 (central)	Michael Browning
Ward 10 (north)	Shameem Clark-Hubbard
Ward 13 (north)	Pamela Boyd

- **Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day May 9** – This year MHB will host a Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day on May 9 at the Magic House’s Maker Space (Delmar near Union). Staff will present an update during the Staff Report at the April 18 meeting.
- **30th Anniversary Celebration** – A celebration is scheduled for Thursday, July 18 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Piper Palm House in Tower Grove Park. Staff will use this event as an opportunity to announce upcoming Allocation changes to Funded Partners.

Racial Equity

- **Beloved Community Thought Partnership Coaching** – Staff are identifying priorities from the Racial Equity Audit to begin the first of four one-hour Thought Partnership Coaching Sessions/Conversations led by a facilitator from Beloved Community beginning March 19.
- **Trust Based Philanthropy with a Racial Equity Lens** – Cassandra Kaufman, Serena Muhammad and Controller Susan Kabat participated in the three-session *Trust-Based*

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Philanthropy with a Racial Equity Lens series that began last fall. Staff will incorporate their learnings into MHB's Racial Equity Action Plan development, as well as upcoming changes to MHB's Allocations Process.

Other

- **New Salvation Army Substance Use Treatment Bus** – Cassandra Kaufman attended the dedication of the Salvation Army's New Mobile Substance Use Treatment Bus February 14. The custom-built bus funded by a \$500K grant from the Missouri Department of Mental Health, will meet people where they are literally bringing substance use treatment to local communities throughout the St. Louis Region.