



**Executive Director's Staff Report**  
**October 19, 2023**  
*(For the period September 22 – October 19, 2023)*

**BOARD / STAFF**

**Personnel Committee**

- The Board met in closed Session during the September 21, 2023 Board meeting to discuss the process for conducting the Executive Director's annual performance evaluation.

**Program Committee**

- The Committee met virtually October 12 at 5:45 PM to continue the discussion begun at the January 14, 2023, Board retreat regarding the possible establishment of multi-year funding for "essential services." The definition of what types of services would be considered essential was discussed, as was possible selection criteria, and key considerations related to an application process and a timeline for implementation.

**Nominating Committee**

- The Nominating Committee will meet at 5:15 PM, October 19 to discuss whether or not to recommend an applicant for nomination as an MHB Trustee.

**Staff**

- St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Director Jessica Meyers will celebrate her 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an MHB employee on October 22. She was certified as a Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor October 12.
- Director of Youth Development Partnerships Poli Rijos, LCSW was certified as a Mental Health First Aider September 22.
- Director of Clinical Partnerships Dave Haasis and Children's Services Project Director Denise Carter participated in media training at the Nine Network Studios conducted by Vector Communications September 27. All MHB program staff have now received media training from Vector.

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

- Staff participated in a monitoring site visit on September 26, 2023 conducted by the Community Development Administration for the \$2M Early Childhood American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding distribution process which occurred August 2022 – January 2023. The four-hour site visit was completed in two hours and to staff's knowledge there were no findings. Staff are waiting to receive the final written site visit report.
- PreventEd has withdrawn as one of two consultants approved by the Board to provide technical assistance through MHB's Capacity-Building Initiative, due to the departure of their

## OCTOBER 19, 2023, STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES

Finance Director. The two funded partners that had chosen to work with them have agreed to work with Limitless Horizons instead.

- MHB is a partner in Urban Strategies' Promise Neighborhood Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Director of Prevention Partnerships Lisa Potts is serving as MHB's representative to the project's Governance Committee. Lisa participated in site visit interview session number three with the Department of Education September 25-26, focused on Developmental Pathways and Key Conditions. For additional information about this initiative, please see the attached one-pager.
- In partnership with the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, and Education Equity Partners of St. Louis, MHB co-sponsored the Well Educator event October 14 at St. Louis Community College's Forest Park Campus. Begun in 2022 as a day of appreciation and focusing on the health and wellness needs of St. Louis County and St. Louis City teachers, the Well Educator event offered wellness workshops, yoga, breakfast and lunch, a resource fair, and vendor fair. The event was well attended and teachers in attendance expressed their appreciation for the event. Director of Youth Development Partnerships Poli Rijos and St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Director Jessica Meyers served on the planning and vendor committees representing MHB. All MHB staff either participated in preparation the week before or assisted the day of the event.

Poli Rijos was interviewed by Fox 2 New's during their September 27 morning show, along with Heather Fullerton of the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund to promote the Well Educator event.

### FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

#### Violence Prevention Commission

- The Youth Safe Spaces initiative launched with the selection of its first three agencies that will increase access to safe space programming for youth. The awardees are StoryStitchers in Grand Center, Lift for Life Gym in Downtown West, and the Whitfield Foundation for Success in Dutchtown.

#### System of Care St. Louis

- The current SAMHSA SOC grant ended 9/29/23. MHB withdrew its request for a no-cost extension due to specific SAMHSA requirements that were not in line with current staffing patterns.

### ADMINISTRATION

- MHB auditors CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) conducted FY23 audit fieldwork September 25 – October 6 with significant involvement of Controller Susan Kabat.
- January 2024 is MHB's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Planning has begun to host an anniversary celebration on Thursday, July 18, 2024, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Piper Palm House in Tower Grove Park. More to follow.

**OTHER**

- Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman and Deputy Director Serena Muhammad met with Linda Aitch of St. Louis Philanthropic Organization on September 29, to discuss partnership opportunities for MHB's Capacity-Building initiative.
- Dave Haasis and Cassandra Kaufman participated in a two-hour leadership planning session led by Clutch Consulting October 5 as part of the development of a homeless services vision and system plan, in partnership with the St. Louis City Continuum of Care and House Everyone STL.
- Director of Youth Development Partnerships Poli Rijos participated in Philanthropy Missouri's People in Philanthropy event at Rustic Roots Sanctuary in North County on October 5.
- Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman met with Senior Fund Executive Director Jamie Opsal and DD Resources Executive Director Shaelene Plank, as well as representatives from the Behavioral Health Network and Gateway Housing First (coordinators of BHN's Housing Collaborative) to discuss the potential for a joint study on the current need for permanent supportive housing units.