



**Executive Director's Staff Report**  
**May 16, 2024**  
*(For the period April 19 – May 16, 2024)*

**BOARD / STAFF**

**Board Committees**

- In consultation with Board Chair Donna Schmitt, The following changes have been made to Board Committee membership for FY25:
  - Rob Poirier will step down from the Finance—Investment Committee to chair the Program Committee once again.
  - Julia López will relinquish the leadership of the Program Committee to join the Finance—Investment Committee. At her request, she will remain on the Program Committee and participate as her schedule allows.
  - Vander Corliss has agreed to serve as chair of the Finance—Investment Committee.
  - Ronald Griffin will move from the Program Committee to the Nominating Committee.

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS / ALLOCATIONS**

**(CCSF, CMHF, Funding Partnerships & Initiatives)**

- FY25 Renewal funding recommendations were completed for approval at the May 16, 2024, Board Meeting.
- Planning for the operationalization of Allocation Process Changes approved at the January 27, 2024, Board Retreat continues. The first of the changes will be implemented in Fall 2024.
- Due to concerns regarding implementation fidelity on the part of the IFF to its original proposal in partnership with Gateway Early Childhood Alliance for Joyful Spaces (early childhood capacity-building and facility improvement project), staff are recommending that MHB withdraw this funding commitment.

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

**Violence Prevention Commission**

- Jessica Meyers, VPC Director, joined the Steering Committee of the [St. Louis Public Safety Collaborative \(PSC\)](#). This group uses data-informed community engagement to identify risky places and engage community to design solutions. The PSC helped to identify a cluster of high-risk vacant lots in the Wells Goodfellow neighborhood. In partnership with Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Regional Business Council, the City of St. Louis, and 4 utility providers, the PSC took part in Clean Up, Build Up: Block Builders that cleared vacant lots and alleys and demolished three vacant houses that were beyond stabilization to improve public safety in the area.

- The City of St. Louis Office of Violence Prevention invited the VPC to participate in a meeting with the City of Chicago Office of the Mayor to discuss the youth summer programming that VPC supported downtown and in recreation centers last summer. The City of Chicago is interested in replicating the model and has requested additional technical assistance and possible site visits to learn more about how the partnership was implemented in St. Louis.

## ADMINISTRATION

- The FY23 audit complete and will be presented to the Board at the May 16 meeting. A plan for additional bandwidth has been developed to prevent a similar delay in the future.
- MHB's new Program Assistant Cameron Saari began his employment April 30. AN offer has been made and accepted for the Data and Performance Analyst position, however the start date is yet to be determined.
- The draft FY25 budget is nearing completion and will be presented to the Finance—Investment Committee at their June 6, 2024, virtual meeting at 5:30 PM.

## OTHER

### **Mental Health Awareness**

#### ***Wellness In Neighborhoods Public Awareness Campaign***

- Staff have made a number of community presentations on the importance of mental health/good mental health/how to access resources with the Wards. Beginning May 6, billboards directing people to call 988 when they need help began going up in designated locations near the seven Wards with which MHB is working to promote its Wellness In Neighborhoods public awareness campaign.
- On May 9 MHB celebrated Children's Mental Health Awareness Day with an event for 400 preschoolers and afterschool program participants at the Magic House's Made in the Delmar Maker District. The day's events included informational tables for teachers, school personnel, parents, and school age students, balloon animals, shaved ice, bubbles, and time spent at MADE. The event was well received by the participating children, their parents, and school staff. The purpose of the event was to call attention to the importance of social emotional learning, positive developmental experiences, and the importance of children's mental health.