



**Executive Director's Staff Report**  
**June 18, 2025**  
**(May 15, 2025 – June 18, 2025)**

**BOARD / STAFF**

- **Special Executive Committee** – The committee held a special virtual meeting on May 21, 2025, at 5:30 PM to discuss establishment of a Tornado Response Fund for MHB funded partners following the May 16, 2025, EF3 tornado.
- **Executive Committee** – The committee held its regular virtual monthly meeting on June 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM to review the June 18, 2025, Board Meeting agenda and to receive updates on important staff activities since the May 15, 2025, Board meeting.
- **Finance – Investment Committee** – The committee met virtually on June 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM to discuss amending the FY25 annual budget to include the Tornado Response Fund and to review and approve the proposed FY26 annual budget. As the committee had questions, a revised FY26 budget was sent to them on June 13 for final review and comments.
- **Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Conference** – Prevention Partnership Director Lisa Potts attended the conference May 21 – 23. MJJA is supporting the state-wide implementation of Handle With Care sponsored locally by the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission. Lisa was instrumental in the development and implementation of the program in St. Louis City and County, as well as contributing to the state-wide roll-out.
- **Cambio De Colores 2025** – Congratulations to Dr. Julia López who received an award at this year's conference. Additionally, Clinical Partnership Director Poli Rijos and Program Assistant Cameron Saari attended the conference June 4 – 6 at Saint Louis University which focused on research and promising practices on integration, the Latin American experience, and our every changing communities.
- **Grantmakers in Health Conference** – This week Deputy Director Serena Muhammad and Early Childhood Program Director Denise Carter are attending the conference in New Orleans, LA, June 16 – 19.
- **American Institute of Certified Public Accounts Conference** – Accountant Deanna Shea is attending the Non-Profit Industry conference June 16 – 18 in National Harbor, MD.
- **988 Missouri Department of Mental Health Training Videos** – Poli Rijos is featured in DMH's new 988 training videos.

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

- **Early Childhood Grantee Orientation** – An orientation session was held June 6, 2025, from 3 – 5 PM at the Delmar DevINE for all recently awarded FY26 early childhood funded partners. Topics discussed included contracting, communication, performance expectations, and reporting.
- **Contracting Meetings** – Denise is conducting individual contracting meetings with each FY26 early childhood funded partner so that all contracts can be executed prior to June 30.

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

- **System of Care St. Louis** – SOC has added two new clinical service providers, Healing Spaces and College Bound. College Bound will support youth in college having a hard time navigating transitions. Healing Spaces specializes in serving BIPOC and the LGBTQIA+ community.
- **St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission** – VPC began extended hours at City Recreation Centers with a glow party at the Tandy Recreation Center on June 13. On June 20, VPC is hosting a skating party at the Cherokee Recreation Center. For a full schedule of youth safe space activities planned for this summer in St. Louis City and St. Louis County check out <https://www.stlareavpc.org/weekend-youth-activities>. Dellwood's North County Midnight Basketball League, funded by VPC, continues with tournaments every week during June and July. St. Louis County activities are paid for through a grant from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund.

**ADMINISTRATION**

- **FY26 Budget** – The budget will be presented for approval at the June 18 Board meeting.
- **FY24 Audit** – The auditors are presently conducting the audit.

**OTHER**

- **Board of Aldermen Meet & Greet May 16** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman joined the Executive Directors of the city's other two tax levy funds for a meet & greet with members of the Board of Aldermen where they shared donuts and coffee, as well as information about the work of MHB, DD Resources, and the Senior Fund.
- **Tornado Response** – Numerous MHB staff members were involved in the immediate response to the disaster working on the ground in affected neighborhoods clearing debris, tarping roofs, distributing supplies and meals, checking on residents, providing psychological first aid, participating in local response planning, meeting with other funders to coordinate the local response, coordinating with the Mayor's Office and City Health Department, working with funded partners providing response services, and much, much more. Lisa Potts (West End) and Denise Carter (Visitation Park) both live in neighborhoods directly impacted by the tornado.

- **Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) Behavioral Health Strike Team** – Poli attended training last fall to become a member of the state-wide DMH Behavioral Health Strike Team (BHST). The strike team is comprised of trained individuals from around the state who deploy upon request of the State Emergency Management Agency, Department of Health and Senior Services, or other entity to deliver psychological first aid to survivors and first responders after a disaster or critical event. Members can be from behavioral health provider organizations, the SEMA Chaplaincy Program or DMH staff. They receive specialized training on disaster response and must complete annual continued education to maintain their qualification to serve. When asked to deploy, the expectation is that they can be ready and leave within two hours to any area of the state where they are needed. Deployments can last from one day to two weeks and in shifts lasting from two hours to 12 hours depending on the event. A BHST video will be shown at the June 18 Board meeting featuring Poli.
- **Meeting with New Lutheran Foundation President and CEO June 2** – Cassandra met with Matt Miller who succeeded Ann Valezquez in January 2025 to discuss funding alignment and opportunities for future partnerships.
- **Regional Early Childhood Implementation Workgroup June 4** – Cassandra, Serena, and Denise attended the meeting where Watershed Advisors presented a draft implementation plan for St. Louis City and County and further discussion occurred on the governance structure. A five-year pilot project was discussed as part of the proposed plan.
- **St. Louis Job Corps Potential Closure Planning Meeting June 16** – Cassandra attended a meeting convened by the Core Collective at St. Vincents comprised of youth serving organizations, MHB, and the St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund to engage in pre-planning for youth currently participating in the program in St. Louis City and County should federal funding be eliminated and the program forced to cease operations June 30. Approximately 31 – 33 youth ages 18 – 24 will likely become unhoused should the program close.