



**Executive Director's Staff Report**  
**August 17, 2023**  
*(For the period June 16 – August 17, 2023)*

**BOARD / STAFF**

**Housing Committee**

- DOORWAYS' Elliott Place 39-unit permanent supportive housing project closed July 31. Construction of the new 50-unit facility is slated to begin this fall.

**Program Committee**

- The Committee met July 20. The agenda included an update on the Behavioral Health Network Medical Respite Project, information the Committee would like to receive from the first-year implementation of the Community Children's Services Fund grant cycle in FY23, an overview of the Youth Mental Health First Aid Initiative in partnership with the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, and scheduling the discussion of action items from the January 2023 Board retreat.

**Nominating Committee**

- The Committee reviewed a candidate for the remaining Board vacancy. The Committee would like to interview additional candidates before deciding on the nominee for the last available seat.

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

- FY23 Community Mental Health Fund cycle close out occurred in July with final June 2023 payments made July 28.
- CCSF Funded Partners submitted FY23 Q4 reporting and FY24 contracts were executed with first payments of the new fiscal year also made July 28.
- An Out-of-School Time RFP process was conducted June 26 – July 17. Final recommendations will be included in a resolution on the August Board agenda.
- A Capacity-Building RFP was conducted in July. Applications were reviewed by Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman and Deputy Director Serena Muhammad. Final recommendations will be included in a resolution on the August Board agenda.
- **Liv Sober Recovery Living has withdrawn from the FY24-26 CMHF grant cycle due to the significant loss of state funding resulting from cuts made by the Governor in the FY24 state budget.**

## **AUGUST 17, 2023, STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES**

- An FY24 Virtual Reporting Training was conducted August 2 for CCSF Funded Partners. A second in-person training for new CMHF partners and those with provisional contracts is scheduled for August 31.

### **FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

#### **Violence Prevention Commission**

- This summer the Violence Prevention Commission partnered with the City of St. Louis to provide programming for extended hours at the Wohl and Marquette Recreation Centers. Both locations opened their doors from 6 pm – 1 am every Friday and Saturday to provide a safe space for youth. From June 24 – August 12 more than 600 youth were served through extended hours. An additional youth safe space was coordinated downtown on Saturdays from 7 pm – 11 pm. That location was visited by 815 youth. The initiative is scheduled to end August 26, 2023.
- The SAMHSA 1-year Community Project Grant 9/2022 – 9/2023 for VPC's Gun Violence Response Network has been approved for a 1-year no-cost extension through 9/2024.

#### **System of Care St. Louis**

- A 12-month no-cost extension is pending as is a new 4-year SAMHSA SOC Cooperative Agreement for 9/2023 – 9/2026. The focus of the SOC grant is children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance or at risk for an SED that identify as LGBTQIA+ and/or are experiencing or at-risk for homelessness.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **New Office Space**

- The move to the new office at Peabody Plaza on June 27 occurred without issue.
- The remaining office furniture at the Union Station office is being donated to Funded Partners and to other nonprofit organizations.
- Peabody Plaza tenants held a security meeting August 3 to address building safety protocols in light of an intruder that gained unauthorized access to the building during the business day. The intruder was apprehended by the off-duty police officer on site.
- Staff are planning to schedule an open house for the new office this fall.

#### **Other**

- Serena and Cassandra met with the Incarnate Word Foundation and St. Louis Community Foundation July 21 regarding a potential partnership for the Capacity-Building Initiative. They have also had discussions with the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund.
- Cassandra and Serena met with SLPS Board of Education President Toni Cousins and Dr. Diedre Murphy-Thomas July 5 to re-establish relationships with SLPS due to leadership changes at the District, to discuss partnership opportunities, and the Board of Education approval process for MHB Funded Partner MOUs.
- Cassandra and Serena met with SLPS Chief of Staff Dr. Claire Crapo and Dr. Molly Beck, Director of Research and Evaluation July 20 regarding MOUs for currently funded CCSF school-based partners and outcome measures that the District is currently tracking.

## AUGUST 17, 2023, STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES

- The buildout and implementation of the *CommunityForce* web-based grant application/ reporting system that replaced Outbound Funds on the Salesforce platform has been delayed due to the software provider.
- January 2024 is MHB's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, planning will begin for an event to be conducted in calendar year 2024.

### Staff

- Director of Prevention Partnerships Lisa Potts was a guest on *St. Louis on the Air* on August 14 to talk about her work with Delmar Main Street and the upcoming Delmar Black Business Expo August 26. Lisa's personal community development work is significant. Not only does she serve as the Vice President for Delmar Main Street, but she has also been a leader in planning for the revitalization of her neighborhood, the West End. In May of this year, the West End and Visitation Park Neighborhoods, known as *WeCollab*, were recognized with an international award for the development of a community-led plan for bottom-up revitalization. The Charter Awards ceremony marked the recognition from the Congress for the New Urbanism, a Washington, DC based nonprofit whose mission is to champion walkable urbanism.