



Executive Director's Staff Report
April 18, 2024
(For the period March 22 – April 18, 2024)

BOARD / STAFF

Board Committees

- **Housing Committee** – The Committee met virtually April 5, 2024, at 2:00 PM and will meet again April 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM. During the first meeting, Director of Clinical Partnerships Dave Haasis presented a report on MHB's Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative's impact 2011 – 2024, along with recommendations for future PSH investments. Due to the length of the presentation, the Committee agreed to conduct a second meeting the following Friday to entertain questions on the presentation, discuss staff recommendations for future housing investments, and discuss a special funding request received for pre-development support for a tiny home permanent supportive housing development in the 13th Ward (Wells Goodfellow Neighborhood).

Staff Activities

- Director of Youth Development Partnerships Poli Rijos completed certification training for Youth Mental Health First Aid March 25 - 27. Director of Prevention Partnerships Lisa Potts completed the in-person Mental Health First Aid instructor training April 11 – 13.
- Deputy Director Serena Muhammad completed her term as Board Chair for the City of St. Louis Board of Health and Hospitals in March 2024 and concluded her service on the board.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS / ALLOCATIONS

(CCSF, CMHF, Funding Partnerships & Initiatives)

- Staff are reviewing FY25 Funding Renewal Applications which closed March 29. Funded Partners have the opportunity to apply for a 3.9% COLA as part of this year's process. Renewal Funding Recommendations will be presented for Trustee approval at the May 16 Board Meeting.
- Staff continue 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.
- St. Louis Catholic Academy will not renew their out-of-school time funding for the 2024 – 2025 school year since a majority of their students now reside in North St. Louis County.

APRIL 18, 2024, STAFF REPORT TO MHB TRUSTEES

- Bilingual International Assistant Services has rebranded and changed their name to Monarch Immigrant Services. The change was announced at an event attended by MHB Staff on March 29.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Violence Prevention Commission

- The Board of Alderman Public Safety Committee engaged the VPC to conduct a community review of its Prop S proposals for youth violence prevention. The Board of Alderman (BOA) has approximately \$1.9 million available for one-year grants that will be managed by the City of St. Louis Office of Violence Prevention. Deputy Director Serena Muhammad conducted a presentation to the BOA Committee to describe the community review process. Later in April, she will share the funding recommendations from the community review process.
- The U.S. Attorney General's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri convened a group of law enforcement partners and representatives from VPC to provide violence prevention programs to the St. Louis Public School District at the request of School Board President Toni Cousins.
- The St. Louis County Children's Service Fund will provide funding for VPC to expand its youth events and youth programming to neighborhoods in North County that are experiencing high rates of youth violence. A portion of the funding will be used to support a Youth Project Director for VPC.

SAMHSA System of Care

- MHB continues to experience significant challenges with changes to the System of Care grant mandated by SAMHSA. New SAMHSA staff are requiring fundamental changes to the program model which was already awarded funding. Deputy Director Serena Muhammad will present an update at the April 18 Board Meeting.
- **SOC Needs Assessment** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad and Director of Youth Development Partnerships Poli Rijos presented findings from the SAMHSA System of Care Needs Assessment at a joint meeting of the Leadership Councils for Project Launch (administered by Vision for Children at Risk) and the St. Louis Region SOC on April 3, 2024. Interactive opportunities were included in the meeting allowing attendees to react to the findings and develop potential quick win solutions to the needs and gaps from the needs assessment that could be easily implemented.

ADMINISTRATION

- **FY23 Audit** – The FY23 audit is in the final stage of completion and will be presented at the Amy 16 Board meeting.
- **Staff Recruitment** – Continues for the Program Assistant position (formerly Account Specialist). An offer has been made and accepted for the Data and Performance Analyst position.

OTHER

Mental Health Awareness

- **Wellness in Neighborhoods Public Awareness Campaign** – Staff have begun delivering community presentations to normalize mental health conversations and are working with Alders and their staff to finalize plans for the campaign. Many of the neighborhood-level activities will kick off in May during Mental Health Awareness Month, continuing through the summer and into the fall. 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) Pam Boyd

Deputy Director Serena Muhammad presented to DMH-funded partners on *Wellness in Neighborhoods* on March 28 at their quarterly meeting. The intent was to encourage their participation in neighborhood-level events.

- **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 that changes are coming to MHB’s Allocations and Grant Making Processes.