

PUBLIC NOTICE



TO: Trustees & Other Interested Persons
FROM: Cassandra Kaufman, Executive Director
DATE: January 9, 2026
SUBJECT: **Board Meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 5:45 PM, St. Louis Mental Health Board Office, 701 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63101 and via Zoom**
<https://stlmhb.zoom.us/j/86129183378?pwd=kV2wU8xtHXnSKaZJWptXxyqwyBSFQP.1>
Meeting ID: 861 2918 3378 / Passcode: 859047 / One tap mobile +1(646) 558-8656

**CITY OF ST. LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
TENTATIVE AGENDA
January 15, 2026**

1. Community Comments

Opportunity for individuals from the St. Louis community to comment on issues concerning the Community Children's Services Fund and the Community Mental Health Fund or other issues related to behavioral health needs of children and/or adults. Speakers must sign up in advance and limit comments to three minutes.

2. Approval of the November 2025 Board Minutes

The Trustees will vote whether to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting held November 20, 2025. Minutes are distributed to all recipients on the MHB contact list.

3. Appointment of Officers Nominating Committee

Board Chair Donna Schmitt will announce the individuals selected to serve on the Officers Nominating Committee, charged to recommend next year's slate of officers--among other duties--in accordance with MHB by-laws.

4. Resolution to Nominate Dr. Evanna Burkett to the Board

Nominating Committee Chair Carolyn Jackson will present a resolution to nominate Dr. Evanna Burkett to complete the unexpired term of former Trustee Linda Grayson.

5. Statute Discussion in Preparation for Application Review

Deputy Director Serena Muhammad and General Counsel Matt McBride will review allowable uses for funding per the Community Mental Health Fund and Community Children's Services Fund statutes, in preparation for the FY27 – 29 CMHF/CCSF Application Reviews.

The Tentative Agenda was posted on the website of the MHB prior to 24 hours before the meeting of the Board of Trustees and has also been posted on the website of the City of St. Louis, MO. Agenda items may be withdrawn or modified before or during the public meeting at the discretion of the Board.

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6. Pathways to Request MHB Funding

Deputy Director Serena Muhammad will present an overview of the pathways to request MHB funding.

7. Staff Report

A written update on major activities and accomplishments of the staff since the last meeting of the Trustees will be distributed.

8. Tentative Closed Session

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees may, subject to a motion duly made and adopted, conduct a closed session, for the purpose of considering one or more of the following matters pursuant to Section 610.021(1), Revised Statutes of Missouri, and engage in proceedings to:

(1) discuss legal actions, causes of action, litigation or privileged communications between the Board's representatives and its attorneys or auditors pursuant to Sections 610.021(1) and/or 610.021(17);

(2) discuss matters involving the leasing, purchase, or sale of real estate, pursuant to Section 610.021(2);

(3) discuss sealed bids and proposals, and related documents, or documents related to a negotiated contract, pursuant to Section 610.021(12); and/or

(4) discuss hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting particular employees pursuant to Section 610.021(3) and 610.021(13).

9. Adjournment

*The next meeting will be **Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 5:45 PM in the St. Louis Mental Health Board Office, 701 Market St., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63101.***

The Tentative Agenda was posted on the website of the MHB prior to 24 hours before the meeting of the Board of Trustees and has also been posted on the website of the City of St. Louis, MO. Agenda items may be withdrawn or modified before or during the public meeting at the discretion of the Board.



701 Market St., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63101
 (314) 535-6964

*** MEETING MINUTES ***

City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees
 Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Hybrid Board Meeting

Trustee	Attendance	Trustee	Attendance
Donna Schmitt, Chair	In person	Mario Hamell	Zoom
Robert Poirier, Vice Chair	In person	Marcia Hayes-Harris	In person
Julia López, Sec./Treas.	In person	Carolyn Jackson	In person
Andi Blaylock	In person	Brian Phillips	In person
Vander Corliss	In person	Cassandra Pinkston	Zoom
Ronald Griffin	Zoom	Janice Thomas	Zoom

Others Attending:

Matt McBride, General Counsel, Lashly & Baer
 Cassandra Kaufman, Executive Director
 Serena Muhammad, Deputy Director
 Susan Kabat, Controller
 MHB Staff

- 1a. **Call to Order** – The regular meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chair Donna Schmitt.
- 1b. **Community Comments** – There were no community members present who wished to address the Board.
2. **Approval of the November 2025 Board Minutes** – The motion to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Janice Thomas, seconded by Julia Lopez, and passed unanimously.
3. **Appointment of Officers Nominating Committee** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt announced that Carolyn Jackson, Ronald Griffin, Andi Blaylock had agreed to continue their service as members of the Nominating Committee. Carolyn Jackson agreed to continue serving as Chair. The motion to approve the members of the Nominating Committee was made by Donna Schmitt, seconded by Vander Corliss, and passed unanimously. The Nominating Committee is charged to recommend next year’s slate of officers for election at the March 19 Board meeting.
4. **Resolution to Nominate Dr. Evanna Burkett to the Board** – Nominating Committee Chair Carolyn Jackson presented the resolution and made the motion to nominate Dr. Evanna Burkett to complete the unexpired term of former Trustee Linda Grayson ending December 31,

2027. The motion was seconded by Ronald Griffin and passed unanimously.

5. **Statute Discussion in Preparation for Application Review** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad and General Counsel Matt McBride reviewed allowable uses for funding per the Community Mental Health Fund and Community Children’s Services Fund statutes, in preparation for the FY27 – 29 CMHF/CCSF Application Reviews.
6. **Pathways to Request MHB Funding** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad presented an overview of the pathways to request MHB funding.
7. **Staff Report** – Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman provided a written report on the major activities and accomplishments of the staff covering the period from November 21, 2025 – January 15, 2026. The report was posted to the Trustee Portal following the meeting.
8. **Closed Session** – Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion to close the session for the purpose of discussing sealed bids and proposals, and related documents, or documents related to a negotiated contract , pursuant to Section 610.021(12), RSMo. Julia López seconded the motion and Chair Schmitt conducted a roll call vote to close the meeting:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Andi Blaylock	Yes
Vander Corliss	Yes
Ronald Griffin	Yes
Mario Hamell	Yes
Marcia Hayes-Harris	Yes
Mario Hamell	Yes
Carolyn Jackson	Yes
Julia López	Yes
Brian Phillips	Yes
Cassandra Pinkston	Absent
Rob Poirier	Yes
Donna Schmitt	Yes
Janice Thomas	Yes

The closed session focused on discussing a negotiated contract. Board Chair Donna Schmitt made the motion to end the closed session, seconded by Vander Corliss. Chair Schmitt conducted the roll call to end the closed session:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Andi Blaylock	Yes
Vander Corliss	Yes
Ronald Griffin	Yes
Mario Hamell	Yes
Marcia Hayes-Harris	Yes
Mario Hamell	Yes
Carolyn Jackson	Yes
Julia López	Yes
Brian Phillips	Yes
Cassandra Pinkston	Absent
Rob Poirier	Yes
Donna Schmitt	Yes
Janice Thomas	Yes

9. **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Rob Poirier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Julia López. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting of the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

