

City of St. Louis  
*Mental Health Board*  
of Trustees

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*Minutes of the June 20, 2002 Board Meeting*

*Attendance:*

*Leon E. Ashford, Ph.D.*  
*Chrissie A. Barfield*  
*Neil Duncan*  
*Sharon E. Fairchild*  
*Marguerite E. Grandelious*  
*Mary Haberberger*  
*William L. Kincaid, M.D.*  
*Derek C. Mays*  
*Deborah M. Simmons Wilson*

*Don Cuvo, Executive Director*

The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Kincaid, President.

1. **Community Comments** - Shira Truitt, Urban League Head Start, updated those present on the progress made in implementing the new Head Start Program. She said that they were recruiting eligible children.

Rev. Robert Buckner, Executive Director of Friends With A Better Plan, updated trustees on their substance abuse prevention program funded by MHB. Friends With A Better Plan was again awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the St. Louis Public Schools, where their programs are operated. He said that 60 youth in the program went on an out of town trip as a reward for their participation. Rev. Buckner thanked the trustees for their ongoing support.

Peg Franklin, Aid for Victims of Crime, thanked trustees for renewing their grant and discussed their outreach efforts.

Gloria Hercules, St. Patrick Partnership Center, updated the trustees on the activities of St Patrick Center's Substance Abuse Program.

2. **Announcements** - Don Cuvo introduced new trustees, Sharon Fairchild and Deborah Wilson. These new trustees provided some information on their background and why they were interested in becoming a MHB trustee. Don announced that there will be no Board Meeting in July.

Don said that MHB staff have submitted two federal grant applications. The first one to the Federal Center for Mental Health Services to provide an array of services for youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) who are transitioned out of state care and into adulthood. The second, also, to CMHS to develop and implement a training program to assist mental health workers to provide culturally competent services.

3. **Minutes** - The Minutes of the May Board meeting were approved as mailed.
4. **Financial Report** - Don reviewed the July Financial Statement. He said that most expenses were usual and customary, but noted that two categories were slightly over budget. He also reviewed tax revenues received and noted that we had received about 11% more than expected. He said that in MHB's early years it was anticipated that future MHB's tax revenues would remain flat, but, in fact, there have been a slight increase each year.
5. **Monthly Grants Report** - Carter Whitson presented the grant activity reports to the board for the 3-Year Grants and for the Mental Health Board's local Juvenile Justice Initiative. Melvia Forniss presented the grant activity reports for the SafeSchools Project and the HOME Project. Randy Breese presented the grant activity reports for the Federal MST and ACT projects in Lisa Chrisco's absence. All activity was usual and customary. Randy noted that significant items were covered in discussions regarding the grant renewal recommendations for the 3-Year Grants.
6. **Resolution to Approve Continuation Funds for Juvenile Justice Initiative** - Don said that MHB's Juvenile Justice Initiative underwent a review earlier in the year. The impetus for the review was the final spend down of the reserve funds designated to support it. The review confirmed that the Juvenile Justice Initiative has definitely met its initial goals which were to design and implement a special mental health service for juvenile offenders with mental disorders and to repair broken bridges between the local juvenile justice system and the mental health system. This initiative involves the coordination of services offered to juvenile offenders by Hopewell Center, BJC Behavioral Health Services, St. Louis Office for MRDD Resources, Community Alternatives, Legal Services of Missouri, St. Louis Public Schools – Department of Special Education and New Beginnings C-STAR. It was decided to continue the program, but with a reduced financial commitment from MHB. Resolutions were approved to fund Hopewell Center for \$67,360 for a court-based psychologist and related expenses and St. Louis Office for MRDD Resources for \$61,750 for assisting families to access special education. In addition, the trustees approved \$4,679 as transition funds for Community Alternatives to complete their commitment to youth served by them as part of the Initiative.

7. **Safe Schools Healthy Students Update** - Melvia Forniss reported that federal funding for the project will be completed as of September 30, 2002. SLPS has applied to the federal agency for a "no cost extension", authorizing us to continue the program until remaining funds are spent. Meanwhile, she is exploring a variety of alternate funding sources. Melvia reported that the "Boys Conference", held at Forest Park Community College was a great success.
8. **Public Awareness Update** - Stephanie Mesplay, Marketing Works, reported that the latest quarterly e-zine on the topic *Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance* was now available. It is distributed to over 800 email addresses on MHB's data base. The Channel 16 cable show topic for this month's taping is *Co-dependency: The Family's Role in Substance Abuse*. She said that Marketing Works, again, received a Mental Health Media Award which was presented by First Lady Lorie Holden at the Governor's Mansion.
9. **Motion to Close Meeting** - Leon Ashford moved that the trustees go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues as provided for in Section 610.012(3) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. The motion was unanimously approved.