

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

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*Minutes of the March 21, 2002, Board Meeting*

*Attendance:*

*Leon E. Ashford, Ph.D.*

*Chrissie Barfield*

*Mary Calzaretta*

*Neil Duncan*

*Ruby Jones*

*Lois Tegethoff*

*Don Cuvo, Executive Director*

1. Community Comments - Tom Schweizer, Executive Director of Harris House, spoke about the progress made at the residential alcohol rehabilitation center. He announced that John Aliperti is the new Program Director. He spoke about improvements that were made in their core program, "Recovery with Responsibility". He distributed a brochure and newsletter.

Suzanne LeLaurin, Director of Social Work for the International Institute, discussed the effect that the disaster of 9/11 had on the refugee population. These individuals, most of whom experience the effects of post traumatic stress disorder, were further traumatized by images portrayed on TV and the effects on the lives of those affected. She distributed a publication, *Connections*, which contained an article by Ms. LeLaurin titled, "One Agency's Response to September 11: The Work of the International Institute of St. Louis".

Gary Morse, Ph.D., Executive Director of Community Alternatives, thanked the trustees for its support. Gary discussed the intensive home based programs offered for homeless mentally ill persons, youth in the juvenile justice system and their families and other populations. He distributed a chart which showed the improvement in client outcomes, such as a reduction in days homeless.

Elaine Queathem spoke about the PREP program of IAM Cares. PREP is a substance abuse prevention program which uses the research-based curriculum LifeSkills® which promotes cultural diversity and conflict resolution. PREP matches participants with mentors.

2. Announcements - Don Cuvo announced that MHB and the St. Louis Office for MRDD Resources will hold a Rally at Keiner Plaza on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lisa Chrisco, MHB Federal Grants Manager, added more details. She said the purpose of the Rally is to draw attention to the Governor's current budget which allocates a disproportionate share of the budget deficit to the Department of Mental Health. Consumers are scheduled to speak about how the cuts in services will impact them.

Don said that the 2001 Kids Count Report was issued. This report ranks Missouri counties on quality of life criteria for children. Each year that the report was conducted, including this year, the City of St. Louis again ranked last of all Missouri counties.

He announced that a press conference will be held at the MHB office to release the report, *A Choice that Parents Should Never Face: Relinquishing Custody of Their Child to Obtain Mental Health Services*. This report documents a study conducted by Citizens for Missouri's Children that shows that some parents of children with serious emotional disturbance who do not have sufficient resources to pay for their child ongoing care, sometimes must relinquish custody in order for their child to receive services. In addition of losing control, parents are usually charged with parental neglect and their names are placed on the Child Abuse Registry, which will prohibit them from certain jobs involving children and other dependent persons. There are currently about 500 instances of children in care in Missouri solely for the purpose of receiving mental health services.

Don said that it is necessary to review the current pension offered to MHB employees. Ruby Jones, Derek Mays and Mary Calzaretta volunteered to be on the Pension Review Committee.

Don said that trustee Tom Nolan has declined to be renominated, after the expiration of his term, due to increasing work and family responsibilities.

Don said that the Addictions Academy has enrolled about 45 clergy and church workers in the 35 hour course. The program began with a key note address by the Rev. Kenneth Robinson, M.D., a well known physician/minister. MHB has provided financial support for the Academy.

3. Minutes - The Minutes of the January Meeting was approved as mailed.
4. Financial Report - Don reviewed the Financial Report for February. He noted that MHB has received all expected local tax revenues. About 1.7 million in federal grant income has been budgeted this fiscal year. He noted that the federal fiscal year begins in October, so the approximately 25 % collections represents 1<sup>st</sup> quarter income. He pointed out that MHB grant payments were being disbursed in a routine manner.

Trustees approved a motion to accept the February financial Report.

5. Monthly Grants Report - Randy Breese reviewed recent changes to the accounting system and the new reports. Carter Whitson reviewed the reports for the MHB-funded grants. Lisa Chrisco reviewed the reports for the federal Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Multisystemic Therapy (MST) grants. Melvia Forniss reviewed the reports for the Safe Schools Healthy Students & HOME projects. No unusual transactions were noted.

Randy reported that he and Carter were currently conducting site visits. Randy forewarned trustees that the Empowerment Center would be required to produce a Plan of Correction for compliance issues. Randy noted that although he wanted Trustees to be aware of the situation, that the report had not yet been finalized. Discussion followed. Randy advised the trustees that the Plan of Correction was expected to be negotiated before the next meeting.

Don asked Randy to make a follow-up report on a motion made at the last meeting. Randy reminded trustees that they had approved the *Statement of Financial Control and Accountability* at the last meeting with an amendment made by Derek Mays. Randy reported that following the initial discussion at the meeting, we realized that there is an unusual circumstance under which the statement - as amended could cause a conflict with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This situation would arise when MHB has contested tax revenues which it believes are likely to be collected, but which may be delayed by litigation for longer than 12 months. Don asked Trustees to adopt the *Statement of Financial Control and Accountability* as it was originally circulated. A motion was approved to rescind the amended statement and replace it with the statement as it was originally circulated.

6. Nomination of Officers - Ruby Jones presented the slate of officers nominated for a term beginning in April. Nominated were: William Kincaid, President; Marguerite Grandelious, Vice President; Mary Calzaretta, Secretary-Treasurer. Ms. Jones asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Having heard none she made a motion that the proposed slate be elected. The motion was approved.