

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

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*Minutes of the April 17, 2003 Board Meeting*

*Attendance:*

*Leon E. Ashford, Ph.D.*  
*Chrissie A. Barfield*  
*Sharon E. Fairchild*  
*Marguerite E. Grandelious*  
*Mary Haberberger*  
*Ruby Jones*  
*William L. Kincaid, M.D.*  
*Derek C. Mays*

*Don Cuvo, Executive Director*

The meeting was chaired by President Dr. William Kincaid.

This meeting was designated as opportunity for representatives of funded agencies to apprise the trustees of progress made on implementing their funded programs. Many provided handouts to the trustees.

1. **Community Comments** - Fred Marquard and Peg Franklin, Aid for Victims of Crime, thanked the trustees for their support over the past two years. Their funded program provides the services of a licensed professional counselor to provide mental health services to victims of crime. The Survivors Support Group has been most effective. Lisa Sanders, a participant in the Support Group, told how meaningful the group support has been to her family after the murder of her son. She said her whole family looks forward to the group each month.

**Mike Lamping**, Community Alternatives, provided an update on the Multi-systematic Therapy program for youth in the juvenile justice system, which is funded by MHB's federal Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) grant. The program is being evaluated by Robert Calsyn, Ph.D. at UMSL. Mike reviewed the progress made on attaining the treatment outcomes. Children in the program had increased school attendance and fewer repeat encounters with the Justice system.

**Charmaine Smith**, IAMCARES, said that their program replicates a research-based substance abuse prevention program, which is hosted by Central Reform Synagogue. She said that the program has been at full capacity with a 90% attendance rate. Central elements of the program are the pairing of the young participants with adult mentors and door-to-door transportation for the youth. In September, their program will be hosted by the Unitarian Church.

**Tom Jost**, St. Louis Office for MRDD Resources, updated trustees on the Educational Coach program, which is a jointly funded by MRDD Resources and MHB. This service assists children to more fully access special education services by informing parents of their rights under various federal laws, training them in responsibilities of the school system and supporting parents as they use this information to improve their child educational program. He said that the program primarily serves youth with MRDD and Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). He provided a full range of statistics on demographics and client outcomes.

**Rev. Robert Buckner**, Living Word Apostolic Church-Friends With A Better Plan, said that they provide school-based substance prevention programs, nine of which are funded by MHB. He complemented MHB grants managers and said that their consultation and input have led to an improved program. He said that they always have more applicants for their programs than they have openings, due primarily to the positive regard of those who have completed the program.

**Lezlee Eddy**, Family Support Network, described the Early Intervention for Children Ages 0-5 Program, which is a home-based family support model. They've had approximately 130 families in the program so far. It is their belief that for each dollar spent on early intervention, ten are saved in future service needs.

**Joan Nicholson**, Family Support Network, updated trustees on the activities of the school-based mental health service, provided under the Safe Schools Healthy Students federal grant through the St. Louis Public Schools. She gave examples of the numerous contributions made to schools by the "Student Family Advocates" such as crisis counseling, group counseling, teacher consultation, truancy court, and assessment and referral.

**Dr. Mary Goggins**, Hopewell Center, provides psychological services at the Juvenile Court. She said her job involves doing whatever is needed that will be helpful to youth and supportive of the deputy juvenile officers. She said most of her effort goes to finding the best and most appropriate services for Youth With Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). She is also a liaison between the court and the mental health system. Jan Koch, Assistant Chief Juvenile Officer, accompanied Mary to thank the trustees for their support and to attest to the valuable services provided.

**Frank Ackles**, St. Patrick Center, is in charge of the substance abuse treatment program, which began in 1998 with MHB funding. He said that they have always far exceeded the number of program participants. In addition to assisting the participants to attain a clean and sober lifestyle, St. Patrick Center also has secured jobs and housing for many.

**Loren Ribley and Lorraine Blankenship**, Family Resource Center, provided an update on the Therapeutic Preschool program which provides day treatment for children 3-6 who are too disruptive or too withdrawn to participate in regular daycare. He said they have seen dramatic results in some students. The program also improves the parent-child relationship.

**Francie Broderick**, Places for People, said that they are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a move to their new location which is the former Catholic Social Services building. She said that PFP was founded to provide community support for psychiatric patients who were discharged in the waves of deinstitutionalization. She said that they are providing services to a larger group of persons with co-occurring disorders, especially psychiatric disorder and substance abuse. This has challenged them to learn new skills. She said that the MHB grant helps them pay for essential services which DMH does not pay for, but are needed to achieve a higher level of client improvement.

**Johanna Wharton**, Provident Counseling, updated trustees on the Work Futures Program, a substance abuse prevention program which provides after school support to youth such as mentors, help with homework and access to computers and equipment. Nicholas, a program participant, said that he is a sophomore with a 3.8 GPA, which he credits to the Work Futures Program. He said that he has been able to make good decisions about choice of friends and abstinence from drugs.

2. **Minutes** - The Minutes of the January and March meetings were approved as mailed.
3. **Financial Report** - Don Cuvo reviewed the March Financial Report. He said that we have received virtually all of our tax revenues, but, we could fall short on interest income due to the low interest rate environment which puts a strain on our goal to pay for administration out of earned income and not tax income. He said that we may receive slightly more tax income next year due to the recent property reassessments, but, the Hancock Law may not allow MHB to spend more as a result.

4. **Monthly Grants Report** - Randy Breese handed out the monthly grants report. Randy noted that all transactions were usual and customary. Carter Whitson reported that all current grantees had submitted renewal requests for Year 3. All, but two, were below the 3% increase, which requires committee review. None will be reviewed by the committee for compliance issues.

Lisa Chrisco reported that we have now received approval for both of our federal projects for rollover funds. Lisa noted that we are already six months into the year and only now receiving approval to use carry over funds. Randy noted that this has been a concern with most of our federal contracting issues -- that the starting line for performance is at the beginning of the fiscal year while contracts, approvals and funding may not come until months later. Randy noted that if we start a contract before it is official, as other governments around the country often do, we run the risk of having the budget slashed or cut before the contract is issued by the federal agency. Randy noted that this is a financial risk which we have, so far, been able to avoid, but, it is a continuing concern with federal projects in particular.

5. **Funeral Leave Policy** - Trustees reviewed Funeral Leave as a new addition to the Employee Handbook. There was some discussion and helpful input. Funeral Leave was approved as an employee benefit and will be added to the Employee Handbook.
6. **Update on Pension Plan** - Bill Kuehling said that the ordinance, which was introduced into the Board of Alderman to grant MHB employees past service credit, was not heard last session. He said that it will be reintroduced this session by 16<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Donna Barringer. He asked trustees and staff to contact their alderman to co-sponsor or, at least, support the bill when it comes to a vote. Bill said that the bill has the support of all essential city government officials and is not controversial.