

City of St. Louis
Mental Health Board
of Trustees

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* * * MEETING MINUTES * * *

Minutes of the May 15, 2003, Board Meeting

Attendance:

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

Don Cuvo, Executive Director

The meeting was chaired by President Dr. William Kincaid.

1. **Community Comments** - Rhoda Stuart, NAMI, updated trustees on the activities at their St. Louis office located at Prince Hall Center. She said the library of resources is available to the public. She invited everyone to an open house.

Roy Jordan spoke about the DART-Employment Connection Partnership which finds jobs for those completing job treatment.

Harriett Kopolow, NCADA, said that they provide substance abuse prevention activities to over 6,000 students in St. Louis parochial and other schools. She said that their services are evaluated by the participants and that there is a high rate of satisfaction. She complimented the services provided by Randy Breese and Carter Whitson.

Alicia Conway, Places for People, updated trustees on the renovation of their new building. She distributed their annual report.

DeBorah Ahmed, Better Family Life, said that MHB funded the Passport to the Future program in the past, but was not currently funding. She said that their staff provide both in school and after school activities.

2. **Announcements** - Trustee Derek Mays announced his resignation due to moving out of the city. Dr. Kincaid expressed his appreciation for his service on the board.

Trustee Neil Duncan complimented the MHB staff for their high level of commitment and availability. He wanted to be sure that staff were properly compensated. Dr. Kincaid agreed and said that the financial commitment associated with joining the City Employees Retirement System is not yet known. Compensation should be viewed as both salary and benefits.

3. **Minutes** - Don Cuvo said that there were a number of names misspelled in the April minutes which were mailed. He distributed corrected copies. Trustees approved the minutes as distributed.

4. **Financial Report** - Don reviewed the April Financial Report. He pointed out the level of tax income received and the amount paid out in grants. He said that in the 10th month of the fiscal year grant pay outs are on target. As an aside, he stated that the insurance for bonding has dramatically increased from \$500. per person (per year) to \$5,000. He said that the insurance company said they were mistakably undercharging MHB for 9 years and the mistake has just come to light. He said that various options were reviewed.

5. **Monthly Grants Report** - Randy Breese presented the monthly grants report to the board. Randy reported that all items were usual and customary, with two exceptions. Randy reminded the board that we had received approvals for the carry over funds for the two grants overseen by Lisa Chrisco. Randy reported that these increases to the budgets had not yet been entered into the accounting system. Randy reported that this would be corrected prior to next month's report. Dr. Kincaid inquired regarding the time frame associated with these roll over funds. Randy responded that they are federal funds, and are therefore rolling over from the October 2001 through September 2002 fiscal year into the October 2002 through September 2003 fiscal year. Dr. Kincaid pointed out that the approvals were 6 months into the year in which those funds were to be spent. Don and Randy both responded that this was precisely the sort of delays and risk that they were referring to at last month's meeting when they discussed starting up new grants with federal funding sources and the potential risks that are typically assumed by recipients.

6. **Resolution to Assign Service Grant Contract** - It was explained that the service contract between MHB and IAM CARES will be assigned to Discovering Options. IAM CARES, a national organization, is divesting of its remote affiliates. Discovering Options is a new non profit which will continue grant activities. All staff and clients remain the same.

7. **Discussion of DMH Rule Affecting County Mental Health Board** - Randy Breese reported that it had come to the attention of staff that the Department of Mental Health was reconsidering its exercise of authority over the uses of county mental health board funds. Randy reminded trustees that there is a new administration in place at DMH, and that this makes the outcome somewhat less predictable. Randy reported that this issue had arisen due to legal action which had originated in Gasconade County. Don Cuvo noted that it is a classic example of the power struggle between state and local government. Randy reported that Don, Bill Kincaid and Bill Kuehling had already begun meeting to address this issue. Randy noted that based on the current assessment, this should produce only nominal change in our process / procedures. Randy further reported that staff wanted the board to be aware that the issue was pending, because it could have an impact on our next funding cycle. Bill Kincaid reported that we are aware of at least one precedent in Kansas City where the Department has approved a process different than what is being done in Gasconade County. Don noted county boards have had to take legal action in some cases to get the Department to cooperate. Don reminded the board, however, that we have had a long-standing positive working relationship with the Department and that he has some confidence that we will not have to pursue such an alternative. Randy and Don reported that they, Dr. Kincaid and Bill Kuehling, will continue to move forward and report back to the board.

8. **Public Awareness Update** - Debra Shurn said that the Annual Report was at the printers and that it will be distributed in the Southside Journals and St. Louis American as in prior years. She reviewed the E-zine and the print ads, which are part of our annual communications plan.