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* * * **MEETING MINUTES** * * *

Minutes of the February 16, 2006, Board Meeting

Attendance:

*Leon E. Ashford, Ph.D.
Mary Calzaretta
Stephen F. Doss
Ruby Jones
Philip Minden
Brooke Sehy
Alva L. Smith
Melvin A. Tann*

The meeting was chaired by President Mary Calzaretta.

Community Comments - Helen Minth, Chris Piazza and Calvin Owens, St. Louis Empowerment Center, along with Bob Funk, Paraquad, requested that the trustees approve the Plan of Corrective Action, which they believe contains workable solutions to problems they have experienced renting a suitable location for the Center.

Announcements - Don Cuvo asked for volunteers for both the Nominating Committee and Bylaws Committee. Ruby Jones and Phil Minden agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, while Mary Calzaretta and Alva Smith will join Leon Ashford on the Bylaws Committee.

Minutes - Trustees approved the Minutes of the January Meeting as mailed.

Monthly Grants Report - Deputy Director Meg Renner presented the monthly grant reports. It was noted that the federal grants had all negatives in the current YTD column. The board requested Randy to determine the cause for this and agreed to table the motion until the problem and solution are identified. Meg then shared a draft of the Results Report that will be incorporated into the Grants Reports in the near future.

St. Louis Empowerment Center - Trustees considered the Corrective Action Plan for the reopening of the Empowerment Center. The plan calls for renting temporary space from the St. Louis Office for MRDD Resources and moving to a permanent location after about six months. Both locations are in business or industrial locations. The Center offered a plan for recruiting participants and for phasing in the Center's essential services.

Trustees accepted the Plan for Corrective Action with the following conditions:

(1) that all milestones on the revised plan be met, (2) that occupancy permits be obtained prior to occupying the building, (3) that they provide supporting evidence (legal opinion) that they will be able to operate with the permits obtained, (4) that a schedule to re-establish support groups be maintained, (5) and that grant payments remain on an expense reimbursement basis until the program is fully operational.

Update on Mayor's Youth Activities - Special Guest Robbyn Whaby, Executive Assistant to Mayor Slay, updated trustees on Mayor Slay's youth initiatives. She said that the Mayor is sensitive to the needs and conditions for children and, from the beginning of his tenure, promoted services and activities. She referenced the City's leadership in the SLPS transition, fostering improvements in Early Care and Education, Lead Poison control and remediation, and, most recently, the establishment of the Mayor's Commission of Children, Youth and Families. She expressed gratitude for the MHB trustees' dedication and leadership.

Approval of Partnerships - Don Cuvo said that trustees had always valued using a portion of the tax revenue to attract matching grants. Don explained that funding Partnerships with other leadership is one way to do this. For the most part, Partners will be other funding organizations. Trustees approved a \$50,000 partnership with the United Way for child care scholarships and another for \$30,000 with Lutheran Foundation for small grants, for faith based youth groups.

Introduction to Grant Review Process - Deputy Director Meg Renner began a series of reviews to further acquaint trustees with their responsibilities in the grant review process.