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

Minutes of the October 19, 2006, Board Meeting

Attendance:

Leon E. Ashford, Ph.D.
Mary Calzaretta
Chrissie A. Barfield Campbell.
Clement Cann, Jr.
Ruby Jones
Caroline Korybut
Philip Minden
Brooke Sehy
Alva L. Smith

The meeting was chaired by President Mary Calzaretta.

Community Comments – Halbert Sullivan thanked trustees for funding a parenting program at Fathers’ Support Center. He said that the Center was recently featured on a radio broadcast. Rachelle Morgan, Voices for Children, updated trustees on the funded program. Marva Redd, Hopewell Center, introduced James Owens, a new employee to the co-occurring program.

Announcements – Executive Director Don Cuvo announced that MHB was notified of a new federal grant award to provide services for torture survivors. He said that it was not an extension of the award for a similar purpose, which expired at the end of September. First year funding for the new grant is \$475,000. Project Director Jan Ashbrook updated trustees on the After School Programs Partnership with St. Louis Public Schools. She said that SLPS has appointed a liaison to work with MHB on planning and implementation. A recent review of responses to the Request for Qualifications resulted in seven providers being chosen to operate one or more of the 10 proposed new programs. Don said that the newest City 10 Cable show is on Alzheimer Disease Impact on Families and directed trustees to www.stlmhb.com for the latest e-news magazine on “Recent Advances in Medication”.

Minutes – The Minutes of the September meeting were approved as mailed.

Monthly Grants Report – Meg Renner presented the quarterly grants report. All grants are within projected budgets. Meg handed out the Mental Health Fund and Community Children’s Services Fund Portfolio reports that outline project progress toward results as well as investments to-date. Additionally, with the assistance of the new Administrative Assistant for Business and Technology, Meg prepared a summary of results by outcome for each of the funds. Though several programs are performing below expectation, most of them have already implemented course corrections that show early signs of improvement. Those that have not are being required to submit a plan of correction and will have a site visit.

Review of Committee Recommendations for Capital Improvements/Equipment Purchase Community Investments – Don said that a committee, composed of Steve Doss, Chrissie Campbell and Phil Minden, had been appointed at the last meeting to make recommendations on guidelines for a proposed Capital Improvements/Equipment RFP. There were differing opinions at both the committee and board meeting on whether either current grant recipients or non recipients should receive priority on funding decisions. One point of view was that MHB should support its current grant recipients with capital improvements. The other position was that MHB should seek to distribute tax revenues broadly and avoid concentrating funds on certain agencies. After discussion of the merits of each position, the following statement was accepted: “Among qualified applications, first priority should be given to organizations not currently receiving investments from MHB, with second level priority to current co-investors”. Another discussion centered on whether to prioritize certain purchases or improvements over others, based on perceived benefit to clients/consumers, rather than to the organization. It was decided not to prioritize, but add value in the form of points to: (1) applications for which improvements/equipment has a direct positive impact on clients/consumers, (2) applications for which there is a match or in-kind, (3) applications for which the purchases/improvement will benefit youth from high need areas of the city.

Partnership with St. Louis for Kids to Help Families Find and Access Existing Youth Services – Don Cuvo proposed that MHB engage in a funding partnership with St. Louis for Kids to enhance a current effort to make information about services readily available to families and youth. The partnership funding will augment both a web-based and paper directory of services. The trustees appropriated \$56,500 toward an overall budget of \$261,700.

Planning for Community Mental Health Fund – Meg Renner reviewed the two planning documents that had been included in the board packets and answered questions. The board discussed the recommended Vision and Desired Results, and gave consensus that with some editing for clarity, these items were approved for the staff to move forward and develop recommended outcomes. Meg stated that staff would begin that work and present the recommendations at the next meeting.