

City of St. Louis
Mental Health Board
of Trustees

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

Community Comments- Stephen Knapp introduced Voices for Children to the trustees. He said that the organization was formerly called St. Louis City CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) provides legal and social advocacy for abused and neglected children. He distributed a folder with information

John Murphy, Employment Connection, spoke about the needs of children of incarcerated parents. He distributed a Fact Sheet.

Halberd Sullivan, Father's Support Center, introduced trustees to the work of F.C. He introduced a person who provided first hand testimonial about how the Center improved his relationship with his family.

Debra Shorn, Marketing Works, spoke about the impact of Hurricane Katrina on her family. She said that her brother and his family has been displaced by the flood in New Orleans and were now living with her. She thanked the staff and trustees who provided support and assistance.

Minutes- The minutes of the August meeting were approved. The minutes of the August Special Meeting were approved.

Establish Bylaws Committee and Appoint Chair- Don Cuvo explained that MHB's bylaws needed to be reviewed and necessary changes made. He said that we are operating with bylaws which were approved when MHB was formed. The trustees approved the establishment of a Bylaws Committee. President Mary Calzaretta appointed Dr. Leon Ashford as Chair.

Response of Mental Health Response to Hurricane Katrina -Don Cuvo said that he had received phone calls from several trustees, asking what MHB will be doing to assist or those displaced in the hurricane and, who are now living in St. Louis. He reviewed the Missouri Disaster Plan which places responsibility for the mental health response on Behavioral Health Response, Hopewell Center and BJC Behavioral Health. He said that the situation had changed since last week, when the anticipated number of relocated persons was estimated at 5000. Today the number is 500. He introduced Al Fressola, Behavioral Health Response who provided greater detail on the state disaster plan. Do asked if MHB should prepare to help financial. He said that it did not appear that additional resources will be needed.

Strategic Planning- Jim Moore, MHB Consultant with The Rensselaerville Institute, reviewed the results of the Trustee telephone which is an element in the strategic planning process. Key purposes of the survey was to gauge trustee satisfaction with the planning process so far, to determine areas of agreement and disagreement, to assess attitudes on a variety of award distribution processes and to garner insights and suggestions to aid in the planning for the upcoming Saturday planning day. Most trustees felt the planning process so far has prepared them to make decisions about the distribution of the children's services funds. When asked whether funds should be narrowly or broadly targeted, most felt that both could be achieved by targeting some investment priorities narrowly and others more broadly. There were a few who felt funds should be distributed as broadly as possible among as many investment priorities as possible. Most felt that MHB should invest in such a way that the system serving children will be improved, in addition to funding more services. They want MHB to continue to use the local taxes to leverage additional funds. Given the fact that the number of applications for funds is expected to triple, the trustees were, nevertheless, reluctant to consider changes in the application/grant selection process which will reduce their personal involvement.