



4144 Lindell Blvd. • Suite 300 • St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314)535-6964 • Fax (314)535-6584

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**\*\*\* MEETING MINUTES \*\*\***

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*Minutes of the August 15, 2008, Board Meeting*

*Attendance:*

*Leon E. Ashford, Ph.D.*  
*Mary Calzaretta*  
*Stephen F. Doss*  
*Robert Franken*  
*Marguerite E. Grandelious*  
*Ruby Jones*  
*Philip Minden*  
*Nina R. North Murphy*  
*Brooke Sehy*  
*Jason Spaetti*

*Don Cuvo, Executive Director*

*The meeting was chaired by President Marguerite Grandelious.*

**Public Hearing** – Chairperson Marguerite Grandelious opened a public hearing and asked for comments on the proposed tax rates for both the Community Children’s Services Fund and the Community Mental Health Fund. There were no comments. The hearing was closed.

**Community Comments** – Jan Huneke, Voices for Children, updated trustees on MHB funded services at VOICES; she distributed a newspaper article about a special event at the home of Caroline Korybut.

Charmaine Smith, Discovering Options, said that the MHB funded Elementary PREP After School Program was the recipient of the National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices and Policies.

Kevin Condon, Places for People, distributed their latest newsletter and an editorial on “Housing and Health” written by their executive director, Francie Broderick.

**Minutes** – The Minutes of the June meeting were approved as mailed.

**Visual Presentation: Capital Improvement Grants** – Don Cuvo said that trustees awarded \$750,000 for capital improvement/major purchases grants for FY '08. Of that amount, \$716,200 was spent over 12 months on 23 projects. Don introduced Sue Huelsing who administered the grants program for MHB. She showed a Power Point presentation showing before and after photos of improvements in the following organizations: **Accion Social Comunitaria** (HVAC system), **Almost Home** (bedding, playground equipment, security system, refrigeration & furniture), **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (computers/monitors), **Boys & Girls Town** (renovate kitchen, work & office spaces, KidZone), **Community Alternatives** (computers/monitors), **Creating Change, Inc.** (building interior renovation, computers), **George Washington Carver House** (windows, AC units, furniture, van repair, computers), **Harmony in Life** (exterior stairs, roof and gutters, windows/doors, plumbing), **Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club** (new roof & HVAC), **Hyde Park Outreach** (interior build out, windows, HVAC, plumbing, electrical), **Kids in the Middle** (software, training), **Life Skills** (computers, printers, monitors, adaptive software), **New Beginnings/CSTAR** (sports, exercise and recreational equipment), **North Grand Neighborhood Center** (new commercial kitchen), **Northside Community Center** (computer lab), **Peace for Kids** (new playground equipment), **Preferred Family Healthcare** (computer equipment), **Presbyterian Children's Services** (new office furniture & equipment, playroom), **Provident** (paint, carpet, tables/chairs/bookcases), **St. Louis Artworks** (computers, office furniture), **St. Vincent Home for Children** (new AC Chiller), **West End Mt. Carmel Community Outreach Center** (interior renovations & new roof), **Women in Charge** (painting, heating, cribs, kitchen improvement, computers). Trustees expressed their pleasure with how much had been accomplished with the capital grants. There was discussion and a motion made to obligate reserve funds for capital grants for each of the next three years. After further discussion that motion was tabled.

**Resolutions to Approve Tax Rate** – A resolution to approve the tax rate for the Community Children's Services Fund was approved.

**Resolution to Approve Tax Rate** – A resolution to approve the tax rate for the Community Mental Health Fund was approved.

**Quarterly Financial Statement** – Carl Toler, MHB Business Services Manager, presented the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Statement, which in effect is the unaudited year end statement. Carl pointed out that all government revenue was higher than budgeted, turning a slight projected budget deficit into an actual surplus at year's end. Overall expenses were maintained within budget.

**Resolution to Approve Whistle Blower Policy** – Board Counsel Bill Kuehling explained that many tax exempt organizations are complying with higher standards of financial accountability, such as those imposed on publicly traded companies after the Enron fallout. He reviewed a Whistle Blower Policy which provides protection for employees and trustees who report wrong doing. Trustees approved the policy.

**Discussion of Process and Time Line for New Funding** – Don said that approximately

\$3 million will become available for new grants in July 2009. The planning process began with a review of planning which led to the original 2006 investments. Don and Deputy Director Meg Monti also presented staff suggestions for improving the application process. He said that feedback indicated that the application process was considered (too) difficult. This sentiment was expressed most by those not funded. Don started with a review of the planning which led to the original children's fund investments in 2006. He said that the trustees spent the entire 2005 reviewing needs and received training from various experts in the field of youth development. The primary planning document was the *Children's Services Plan*, which was developed by Vision for Children at Risk (VCR) and St. Louis 4 Kids, with data analysis by the UMSL Public Policy Research Institute. Input for the plan was derived from agencies, other local experts and citizens who participated in 19 town hall-type meetings. Also reviewed were plans conducted by other cities, review of St. Louis government spending for children and St. Louis indicators of child well-being.

The data indicated the following most pressing needs: supporting families raising children, promoting positive child and youth development, preventing and treating substance abuse, violence and crime and connecting families to services. From these four needs five Goals were developed for investing in children's services: Parents Provide for their Families, Children are Successful Learners, Youth Develop Character & Life Skills, At-risk & troubled Youth are Stabilized and Service Systems Meet Family & Children's Needs. Fifteen objectives were developed from these five Goals. Six were ranked by trustees as Priority Outcomes for funding. Three of these six priority outcomes will complete their original term in July 2009. Meg then said that there remains general support for the five original goals. United Way, VCR, Citizens for Missouri's Children and the Mayor's Commission on Children are all closely aligned with the MHB Children's Fund goals. She suggested revisions to the Outcome Framework, mostly at the application phase, which would make it more user friendly. These improvements include a two-step application process (Pre-application or Letter of Intent, then full application); stating investment priorities at the Goal level, rather than at the more specific objective or outcome level.

These improvements will benefit the applicants: only applications with a chance of being funded (about 2/3) will complete a full application. Investing at the Goal level will give applicants a broader base from which to offer service options. She reviewed a proposed time line which called for the announcement of pre-applications in November and full applications in January. No decisions were necessary at the August meeting, but trustees will need to make decisions on how to proceed at both the September and October meetings.