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

Minutes of the January 15, 2009, Board Meeting

Attendance:

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

Don Cuvo, Executive Director

The meeting was chaired by President Marguerite E. Grandelious.

Community Comments – Rev. Robert Buckner, Friends with a Better Plan, reviewed the MHB funded program, conducted in a number of St. Louis Public Schools. He introduced Casey Seals, principal of Big Picture School, Thomas Case and Barbara Sharp, principals of Soldan and Vashon High Schools, respectively. Each principal emphasized the positive impact of the program on students and the consistence and reliability of Friends with a Better Plan.

Meg Feeley, Voices for Children, introduced Luciana Bowens who spoke about the success they had protecting dependent and abused children, by providing legal advocacy and support services for parents and children.

Debra Murray, Creating Change, updated trustees on the respite care program for teenage boys.

Minutes – The Minutes of the November 2008, meeting were approved as mailed.

Appointment of Committees – MHB Chair Marguerite Grandelious, appointed the following persons to committees: Nominating Committee-Brooke Sehy, Chair with Leon Ashford and Nina North Murphy. Reserve Committee-Mary Calzaretta, Chair with Jason Spaetti, Phil Minden and Robert Franken.

Motions to approve each committee were approved by Trustees.

Resolution to Approve Bids to Approve Proposals – Trustees approved a two-step process at the September and October 2008, meetings for soliciting applications for Community Children’s Services Funds, which will become available July 2009. The purpose of this change was to respond to concerns expressed in surveys by prior applicants that the application process was too cumbersome, if not funded. Also, to relieve organizations, not funded, of the time and expense of preparing full applications when an initial review would reveal its ineligibility, non competitiveness or non responsiveness to MHB goals. Since, in the prior round of funding, only 1/4 of the applicants were able to be funded, trustees desired to streamline the process.

Trustees completed Disclosure of Conflict of Interest forms. Jason Spaetti indicated a conflict of interest with MERS Goodwill. He recused himself from discussion and decision on the two MERS Goodwill applications. Dr. Dodson pointed out that there were inconsistent recommendations in the materials prepared for them, citing that some applications with similar findings were recommended to “invite to apply”, while others were not. This observation was discussed. The original recommendation for the MERS Goodwill applications was approved. Jason Spaetti returned to the board room.

Staff was asked about funding history. It was stated that in the last round there was funding available for only 24 of 97 applications. It was restated that ineligibility, non competitiveness and non responsiveness to MHB goals were taken into consideration in the staff review.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the original list of applicants “invited to apply”. Dr. Dodson requested that four applications be added to the “invite to apply” category. Robert Franken added one. The motion to approve the original “invite to apply” list, with the additional applications, was approved.

New Business – Dr. Dodson offered to develop a numerical scoring system for reviewing full applications. Dr. Leon Ashford offered to assist. Chair Marguerite Grandelious accepted the suggestion as a recommendation only.