



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 September 17, 2009, Board Meeting*

*Attendance:*

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

*Don Cuvo, Executive Director*

*The Meeting was chaired by President Marguerite E. Grandelious.*

**Community Comments** – No Community Comments.

**Announcement** – Marguerite Grandelious reported that MHB received a STL Star Award from the City public cable channel for its years of producing *How's Your Mental Health?* and *What's Up!* She and Don Cuvo attended the award ceremony.

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

**Mini Grants Presentation** – Don said that we have completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of mini-grant awards to community/faith-based organizations. The \$500.00 grants assist youth groups to conduct community service projects. Sue Huelsing, Administrative Assistant, who administers the program for MHB introduced youth and adults from Bishop L.M. Wooten Family Life Center, Williams Temple Church, Hip Hop Garden and Third Baptist Church, whose participants described their community service projects.

Don said that, in addition to community/faith based organizations, parochial schools participate

in a separate mini grants program co-funded with Incarnate Word and Lutheran Foundations.

**Support for Youth Honored at White House Presentation** – Don said that one group, who participated in the mini-grants, was invited to attend a White House ceremony to highlight urban gardening. The Hip Hop Health Initiative promotes health, fitness and nutrition by providing opportunities for youth to participate in urban gardening. With only one month's notice, the group raised most, but not all, funds needed to take all youth to Washington, D.C. by bus. Trustees approved to cover the cost of 9 students at \$983.00 each.

**Presentation on Federal Grant: Survivors of Torture** – Don said that MHB has been awarded a \$1,425,000 federal grant, which will permit the continuation of services to survivors of state sponsored torture. This activity is part of MHB's CANA initiative, which organizes services and seek support for mental health services for immigrants and refugees. MHB Project Director Allyce Bullock introduced representatives from Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma, Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants and Community Alternatives, which collaborate on delivering services. Each explained their respective services. A client from Iraq was introduced who spoke through an interpreter about his experiences, both, before and after coming to the United States. Don mentioned that St. Louis Community College continues to offer a mental health interpreter's certificate program which was initially developed with an MHB grant to the community college. The interpreter mentioned that he had participated in the program and made a few statements about what he learned.

**Appointment of Personnel Committee** – Marguerite said that she was appointing a Personnel Committee to oversee the Executive Director's performance evaluation. She named the members of the Executive Committee along with Phil Minden to the committee.

**Community Mental Health Fund: Review and Approval of Time Line and Update to Community Input Process** – Vice Chair Brooke Sehy said that it was time to begin the decision making process, leading to the awarding of new Mental Health Fund grants, effective July, 2010. She reviewed the material included with the board mailing. The October 2006, report *Targeted Investment Strategies: An Assessment of Promising Outcomes for Adult Behavioral Health Services* was reviewed. It detailed the community input process which led to Trustees subsequently identifying the following six funding outcomes for adults with mental and/or addictive disorders: Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders; Early treatment and follow up for young adults; Safe and stable housing; Employment; Reduction in crisis or emergency situations and Promoting holistic treatment of mental and physical health. It was suggested that the unmet needs underlying these outcomes are still pertinent, but, a new environmental scan should be conducted. Trustees approved the plan and time line.