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

Minutes of the September 18, 2008, Board Meeting

Attendance:

Leon E. Ashford, Ph.D.
Mary Calzaretta
William Edwin Dodson, M.D.
Robert Franken
Marguerite E. Grandelious
Ruby Jones
Philip Minden
Nina R. North Murphy
Brooke Sehy
Jason Spaetti
Melvin A. Tann

Don Cuvo, Executive Director

The meeting was chaired by President Marguerite E. Grandelious.

Community Comments – Meg Feely, Voices for Children, updated trustees on the status of their funded program and invited anyone interested to observe a court hearing for children in foster care and meet Judge Jimmie Edwards, presiding judge.

Debbie MacKie, BJC Behavioral Health, introduced a staff member and two participants of the MHB funded Life Styles Project. This project promotes more healthy lifestyles for people with mental illness, such as exercise and nutrition.

A participant in Hopewell Center's Co-Occurring Substance Abuse/Mental Health program spoke in positive terms about the program and the positive effects it has on her life.

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

Funding Request by Regional Health Commission – Rob Freund and Bethany Johnson,

Regional Health Commission, reviewed for the trustees the activities of the Behavioral Health Initiative, which RHC has led for the last two years. They said that the goal of the Initiative is to increase access and improve services for adults with mental illness. All mental health providers in the DMH Eastern Region participate. He proposed that MHB consider a \$30,000 challenge grant, which would only be granted if RHC raised a \$30,000 match from the mental health providers. Trustees approved the matching funds and up to a total of \$50,000 for a dollar for dollar match for each dollar raised over and above the \$30,000.

Appropriation of Funds for Federal Grants – Don Cuvo said that every year at this time, trustees approve new and continuation funds for agencies which receives federal funds through MHB. He said that MHB was awarded a new federal grant from the Department of Justice for the St. Louis Youth Diversion Project. This project is funded at \$100,000 per year for two years. The CANA-Survivors of Torture grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement was renewed for the third and final year in the amount of \$475,000.

Presentation and Approval of Strategic Plan – Jason Spaetti said that the Strategic Planning Committee composed of Phil Minden, Ruby Jones, Brooke Sehy, Alva Smith and himself worked throughout the summer with staff and consultant to finalize the plan. All input and observations of trustees were considered. He said that leadership and accountability are reoccurring themes. The plan itself consists of 23 objectives, each with its own set of action steps. Trustees approved the plan.

Discussion and Approval of Proposal to Revise Grant Application Process – Don Cuvo said that, at the September meeting, a proposal was made by staff to make the application process for grants more user friendly. At the September meeting trustees approved the proposed changes which include a two-step application process, four of the five goals which were derived from the 2004 Children’s Services Plan, the pre-application form and time line.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, a motion to move into Executive Session was made and approved by a roll call vote.