



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

FROM: Julia López, Program Committee Member **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE: April 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Update Performance Period for Multi-Year Medical Respite Funding Award

BACKGROUND

In November 2020, Trustees approved a three-year funding commitment (FY21 – 23) of \$200K per year from the Community Mental Health Fund Reserves to support sobering center program operations during the project's three-year pilot phase. The Behavioral Health Network (BHN) led the community-wide effort to create a sobering center (Center) using an enhanced model to build a sustainable framework for easy, immediate access to substance use crisis services. The pilot project would provide first responders and participating hospital referral partners in St. Louis City and County with immediate access to a 24/7 sobering center, staffed by a team of professionals through Preferred Family Healthcare (Preferred).

BHN as the fiscal sponsor for the Center, working in partnership with Preferred, successfully opened the Dunnica Sobering Support Center (DSSC) in December 2021. Due to efforts by PFH within the first six months, the Center successfully secured sustainability funding through the State of Missouri. As a result, three-year funding commitments for Center operations made by MHB, Missouri Foundation for Health (2-years), SSM Health, BJC, and Mercy totaling \$2,355,995 would no longer be required.

TRUSTEES APPROVE REQUEST TO REPURPOSE FUNDING

In January 2022, MHB had paid \$300,000 of its \$600,000 three-year funding commitment when Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman learned from BHN CEO Wendy Orson that sustainability funding for DSSC operations had been secured. Based on this information, the second \$100K payment scheduled for FY22 was not disbursed. BHN indicated that it would work with community partners to identify a gap in the continuum of behavioral health services and then propose to the five local funding partners that their sobering center funding commitments be repurposed to fill an identified system gap.

Following several months of meetings, the consensus was that the St. Louis area lacked medical respite, also known as medical recuperative care, as an option for safe, short-term care for people experiencing homelessness with co-occurring chronic illness and indicators of substance use

disorder (SUD) in need of treatment post-discharge, to avoid hospital re-admission and be connected to SUD harm reduction or recovery services.

BHN made a formal request to MHB to repurpose the \$600,000 approved for Dunnica Sobering Support Center operations in FY21 – FY23 to support the development and implementation of a Medical Respite Model.

At the October 20, 2022, Board Meeting, Trustees approved the request from the BHN to repurpose the \$600,000 in Community Mental Health Funding committed for the operations of the Dunnica Sobering Support Center during its three-year pilot phase (FY 21 – 23) to support the development and implementation of a medical respite model. As \$300,000 of the original funding award had already been paid to BHN, MHB planned to disburse the remaining \$300,000 in two \$150,000 payments in FY23 and FY24, respectively.

HEALING TO RECOVERY MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAM

In January 2024, MHB executed a new contract with BHN for the repurposed \$600,000 for the medical respite program so that the \$300,000 already paid to BHN for the Dunnica Sobering Support Center could be used to pay for the operations of the Healing to Recovery Medical Respite Program managed by BHN and operated by Haven Recovery Homes (Haven). The medical respite program opened February 12, 2024, at a temporary location with 8 beds and relocated to its current location in September 2024 with a total of 11 beds.

Having received the required financial and programmatic reporting, in January 2025, a contract amendment was executed with BHN and the first of the remaining three \$100,000 payments was disbursed.

PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

The purpose of the resolution is to update the period of performance for the repurposed \$600,000 (from Community Mental Health Fund Reserves) for the Healing to Recovery Medical Respite Program to January 2024 (FY24) through June 2027 (FY27). As of January 2025, \$400,000 of the \$600,000 multi-year funding commitment has been disbursed. The remaining \$200,000 committed from the Community Mental Health Fund Reserves will be disbursed in FY26 and FY27 accordingly, assuming that program operations continue to meet contracted goals as well as financial and programmatic reporting requirements.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

UPDATE PERFORMANCE PERIOD FOR MEDICAL RESPITE MULTI-YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENT

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis Mental Health Board (MHB) has levied a property tax pursuant to the laws of the State of Missouri (Section 205.975 – 205.990 RSMo.) to fund the Community Mental Health Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous to implement its responsibilities to ensure high quality community services to persons with behavioral health conditions in the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, prior to February 2024, the St. Louis area lacked medical respite as an option for safe, short-term recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness with co-occurring chronic illness and indicators of substance use disorder (SUD) in need of treatment post-discharge, to avoid hospital re-admission and be connected to SUD harm reduction or recovery services; and

WHEREAS, at its October 20, 2022, meeting, Trustees approved a request from the Behavioral Health Network to repurpose the \$600,000 in Community Mental Health Funding awarded for the Dunnica Sobering Support Center during its three-year pilot phase (FY 2021 – FY 2023) to support the development and implementation of a medical respite model. As \$300,000 of the original funding award had already been paid to the Behavioral Health Network, MHB planned to disburse the remaining \$300,000 in two \$150,000 payments in FY 2023 and FY 2024, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in January 2024, a new contract was executed with the Behavioral Health Network for the repurposed \$600,000 for the medical respite program so that the \$300,000 already paid to BHN for the Dunnica Sobering Support Center could be used to pay for the operations of the Healing to Recovery Medical Respite Program to be managed by the Behavioral Health Network and operated by Haven Recovery Homes; and

WHEREAS, due to the time required for planning and start-up the medical respite program did not open to receive patients until February 2024, and therefore none of the \$300,000 in funding had been expended for program operations at that time; and

WHEREAS, following 11 consecutive months of program operation, in January 2025, \$100,000 for medical respite program operations was disbursed bringing the total paid to date to \$400,000 of the \$600,000 multi-year funding award;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board authorizes the Executive Director to update the period of performance for the repurposed \$600,000 from Community Mental Health Fund Reserves for the Healing to Recovery Medical Respite Program to January 2024 (FY24) through June 2027 (FY27). The remaining \$200,000 committed from the Community Mental Health Fund Reserves will be disbursed in \$100,000 installments in FY26 and FY27 respectively, following receipt of reporting documenting that the project is meeting its MHB contracted outcome.

APPROVED THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL 2025

Board Chair/Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
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ATTEST:

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
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