



**Executive Director's Staff Report**  
**May 15, 2025**  
**(April 18, 2025 – May 15, 2025)**

**BOARD / STAFF**

- **Executive Committee** – The committee held its regular virtual monthly meeting on May 13, 2025, at 2:00 PM to review the May 15, 2025, Board Meeting agenda and to receive updates on important staff activities since the April 17, 2025, Board meeting.
- **Program Committee** – The committee met on May 3, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM to discuss the CCSF – Early Childhood Partnership applications and make award recommendations to be approved at the May 15 Board Meeting. Other topics included the Early Childhood Social Emotional Proposal Ranking discussion, role of the Program Committee for Grant Reviews, potential future changes to the Community Investment Policies and confirming a quarterly meeting schedule for FY26.
- **Staff Award** – Serena Muhammad received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Missouri St. Louis Public Policy Administration program.

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS / ALLOCATIONS**  
**(CCSF, CMHF, Funding Partnerships & Initiatives)**

- **Chiron Community Giving Partnership Leadership Roundtable** – Deputy Director Serena Muhammad facilitated the first quarterly Leadership Roundtable with nearly 20 members in attendance representing behavioral health organizations, higher education, mental health clinicians, K-12 education, and public health.

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

- **System of Care St. Louis**
  - Clinical Partnership Director Poli Rijos and Deputy Director Serena Muhammad attended **the STL – SOC Landscape Meeting** at the Deaconess Foundation on May 2
- **St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission**
  - VPC Project Director Justin Mosley conducted Walk & Talks at the LaSalle Public Housing Complex on the Near Southside in the city and in Castlepoint in North County. A Walk & Talk is an outreach event during which staff visit residents at their homes to ask them what types of services and supports they need and discuss any safety concerns.
  - VPC held its Quarterly Meeting virtually
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**ADMINISTRATION**

- **FY26 Budget** – Staff will present the proposed FY26 to the Finance—Investment Committee for review and approval at their upcoming virtual meeting scheduled for June 2, 2025, at 5:30 PM via Zoom.
- **Time Tracking Software** – Accountant Deanna Shea is researched and recommended new time and attendance tracking software to replace MHB’s Excel timesheets to improve and streamline this process. Implementation is scheduled for the start of the FY26 fiscal year.
- **Health/Dental/Vision Open Enrollment** – This year we re-bid our health insurance since it has been four years since MHB moved to the Missouri Employee Welfare Arrangement or MEWA sponsored by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce. Through this process MHB continues to save nearly \$40K per year compared to comparable health plans available from United Healthcare or Aetna. MHB’s health insurance is provided by Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and less expensive, has lower deductibles and out of pocket maximums and better coverage than a comparable ACA Exchange Gold Standard healthcare plan.
- **Human Resources Continuing Education** – Executive Assistant Alicia Lee attended the following webinars:
  - April 21 - What HR Needs to Know About Leave as an ADA or PWFA Accommodation
  - April 22 - Finding the Perfect Fit: How to Choose the Right Recognition Platform
  - April 24 - Global Hiring Made Simple: EOR vs. Entity
  - April 28 - Rethinking Your HR Tech Strategy: Where to Invest, Upgrade, or Cut Back
  - April 29 - "Spring Cleaning" Your Handbook: Key Legal Updates & Maintenance Tips
  - May 8 - Cultivating Executive Presence: How to Elevate Your Leadership Impact
  - May 9 - Using Technology to Improve Accommodations and Reduce Compliance Risk
  - May 12 - 2025 HR and Compensation Best Practices for Success
  - May 14 - Managing Your Mental and Physical Well-being in the Workplace
  - May 15 - Merging Personal Insight with Professional Tools

<b>OTHER</b>
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**This month’s report provides a sample of the meetings, webinars, conferences, trainings, etc. that MHB staff participate in on a regular basis.**

- **April 18** – Program Assistant Cameron Saari was certified as a **Youth Mental Health First Aider**
- **April 21** – Account Anjanette Washington attend two **CPAAcademy webinars**
- **April 22**
  - Prevention Partnership Director Jessica Meyers attend the **St. Louis County Council Meeting** in Clayton
  - Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman attended the **quarterly meeting of Health Funders**
- **April 23**

- Clinical Partnership Director Poli Rijos and Controller Susan Kabat attended **Staying Inside the 501(c)(3) Lines: Keeping Nonpartisan in Messy Partisan Times** webinar
- Cassandra attended **The Federal Budget and Social Policy: Challenges, Goals and Proposals** featuring a panel of national experts in tax policy and the federal budget sponsored by the Brown School at Washington University, as part of a year-long learning series honoring the School of Social Work's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Data and Performance Analyst Xinyue Zhang attended the **Health Data Bootcamp: Consolidation and Corporatization in the U.S. Healthcare System** at Washington University
- **April 24**
  - Cassandra attended the **Community Information Exchange Steering Committee** meeting virtually and the **Public Financing in Times of Uncertainty** webinar sponsored by the Children's Funding Project
  - Cassandra and Serena participated in the bi-weekly virtual meeting of the **Chiron Community Giving Partnership** organizations
  - Prevention Partnership Director Jessica Meyers participated in the **KP Center GVRE 2025 Funding Opportunity Office Hour**
  - Controller Susan Kabat, CPA participated in the **MOCPA Pulse Event and AICPA Town Hall Series**
  - Cassandra participated in the **Missouri Health Partnership weekly legislative update call** sponsored by the Missouri Budget Project
- **April 23 – 25** – Clinical Partnerships Director Dave Haasis attended the **Corporation for Supportive Housing's Annual Summit** in Chicago, IL. Dave is the staff lead for MHB's Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative.
- **April 25**
  - Cassandra attended the **Federal Landscape Update: Taking a Deeper Dive into Medicaid and SNAP Proposed Changes** virtual meeting sponsored by the City of St. Louis Senior Fund
  - Prevention Partnership Director Lisa Potts attended a **Metro Transit Tour** where Chestnut Health Systems Social Workers ride Metrolink trains in an effort to provide support to passengers experiencing behavioral health challenges
  - Serena attended the **monthly GROW St. Louis Opioid Initiative meeting** with the grassroots partner organizations, Behavioral Health Network and the Missouri Department of Mental Health
  - Susan attended the **Economic Update Series** virtually
- **April 28**
  - Dave participated in the **St. Louis City CoC Collaborative Applicant Monitoring Meeting**
  - Jessica participated in the **Community Impact Action Summit Funder Pre-Conference**
  - Jessica attended the **MCFR Executive Committee Monthly Meeting** virtually
  - Cassandra, Serena and Susan participated in a virtual **Sub-Recipient Monitoring Meeting conducted by the City of St. Louis Department of Health for MHB's FFY24 VPC ARPA sub-award**

- Early Childhood Program Director Denise Carter met with **Pierre Laclede and Yeatman SLPS middle schools to discuss after school programming for the 2025 – 2026 school year**
- **April 29 – May 1**
  - Jessica and Cameron participated in the **Collective Impact Action Summit** virtually
- **April 30** – Dave participated in the **Development & Pilot Test of the Collaborating Across Systems for Program Implementation (CASPI) Toolkit** webinar sponsored by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
- **May 15**
  - Cassandra participated in the **Missouri Health Partnership weekly legislative update call** sponsored by the Missouri Budget Project
- **May 1 – 2** – Lisa and Xinyue attend **Bridging Data Divides: Collaborating for Impact** at the Brown School at Washington University
- **May 5** – Susan attended **Internal Controls and Fraud Risks for Non-Profits** virtually
- **May 5 – 7** – Cameron and Xinyue attended **Nat Con 25** in Philadelphia, PA, sponsored by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. It is the largest conference in mental health and substance use nationally.
- **May 6**
  - Dave continued his participation in the **St. Louis City CoC Collaborative Applicant Monitoring** process
  - Denise and Poli attended **Be Their Hero: Trauma Informed Care (St. Louis)** sponsored by **VPC's Handle with Care Initiative** at the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development Center
  - MHB staff participated in or helped with setup for **Sidewalk Talk** (Presentation was given at the Board meeting)
- **May 7**
  - Denise attended **A New Vision for High Quality Preschool Curriculum: Leadership Exchange** sponsored by the National Academies
  - Cassandra participated in **Philanthropy Missouri's Engagement and Program/Service Committees Joint Quarterly Meeting**
- **May 8**
  - Poli and Dave participated in the **St. Louis Regional Suicide Coalition's** virtual monthly meeting
  - Cassandra participated in the monthly **City Tax Levy Funders Executive Director Meeting**
  - Denise attended **Our Faith and Sensitive Locations – What Faith Communities are Doing** virtually
  - Jessica attend **Purpose-Driven Philanthropy in Uncertain Times: Grantmaking** virtually sponsored by Philanthropy Missouri

- Ann attended **Trump, DOGE, and the IRS: Surviving the Chaos and Thriving in 2025** virtually sponsored by the CPA Academy
- Justin attended meetings at Lafayette Preparatory Academy “**Lafayette Prep Gun Violence Project**” and with **STL Youth Jobs**
- **May 9**
  - Dave attended the **Behavioral Health Network’s Adult Services Advisory Board** monthly meeting
  - Denise participated in the **Policy Pulse** monthly call
  - Serena attended the monthly **DMH GROW St. Louis Opioid Initiative** meeting with grassroots partners, Behavioral Health Network and the Missouri Department of Mental Health
  - Serena and Lisa met with Erin Kane, Development Officer for **St. Louis Public Schools** to discuss afterschool programming in two middle schools for the 2025 – 2026 school year
  - Justin attended the monthly meeting of the **Youth Advocates Program/St. Louis City office of Violence Prevention/St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department**
- **May 12**
  - Dave participated in the **St. Louis City CoC Collaborative Applicant Monitoring Meeting**
  - Serena, Jessica, and Director of Administration Sue Culli-Wilson attended the **bi-weekly MHB/St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund meeting**
  - Jessica attended the **Advocacy Goup Meeting** sponsored by the Community innovation and Action Center at UMSL
  - Poli participated virtually in Candid’s **Funding beyond Federal: How to diversify funding to ensure stability in uncertain times**
  - Poli participated in the **SOC/CMHI monthly meeting** virtually
  - Lisa and Justin attended the **LaSalle Park Summer Planning Meeting #2**
  - Susan participated in the **AICPA Town Hall Series** virtually
- **May 13**
  - Cassandra, Serena, and Poli attended the **Grantmakers for Effective Organizations’ Community Driven Philanthropy** meeting held at the Deaconess Foundation
- **May 13 – 15**
  - Poli attended the **National Training and Technical Assistance Center** virtual conference. NTTAC provides training for SOC programs nationwide.
- **May 14**
  - Dave attended the third **Gateway Housing First regional affordable housing plan development meeting** at the St. Louis Community Foundation
  - Jessica and Serena attend the **Save Lives Now! Regional Implementation Team** weekly meeting
  - Sue attended **Zoom’s Work Transformation Summit**
  - Susan virtually attended **Sikich Yellowbook Session 4: GASB Update Part 2**
  - Serena hosted a meeting for **Violence Reduction & Prevention Partner Communications** at the MHB office

- Justin attended the **STL Area Violence Prevention Commission and LifeWise STL collaborating for Lasalle Park** meeting
- **May 15**
  - Sue participated in the **Foundant GLM/SLM Catching up with Releases** webinar
  - Polia and Serena participated in the **SAMHSA CMHI Quarterly Call - St. Louis**
  - Serena and Lisa attended the **Handle With Care City/County Implementation Meeting**
  - Dave attended the **St. Louis City CoC Monthly Board meeting** and the **Regional Response Team CAN monthly meeting**
  - Cassandra participated in the **Missouri Health Partnership weekly legislative update call** sponsored by the Missouri Budget Project