

Board of Trustees
Mental Health Advocacy Service
April 17, 2021

Video-conference via Zoom
10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Staff and Board Present: Rebecca May-Ricks (Director, non-voting), Rob Garda, Martin Drell, Madalyn Wasilczuk. David Katner, Paul Race and Steve Scheckman

Also present: Kathy Lynn Cook (Deputy General Counsel) and Joseph Seyler (former Director)

At the commencement of the meeting the MHAS Board adopted the following Resolution:

The MHAS Board of Directors is grateful to Joseph Seyler for his 26 years of service to Louisiana and its most vulnerable residents: adults and children with mental health issues and abused and neglected children. The Board thanks Joseph for his lifelong dedication to serving others and his state. The Board is also grateful for his leadership of MHAS over the past five years, which saw a dramatic expansion of the number of children served and improved outcomes for our clients. We owe Joseph a debt of gratitude for leaving MHAS, and his state, a better place than he found it.

- 1. Amendment to agenda:** Steven Scheckman moved to amend the agenda to approve the minutes of March 27, 2021. Rob Garda seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 2. Approval of minutes from the last meetings:** Rob Garda moved to approve the minutes from January 16, 2021 and March 27, 2021. Steve Scheckman seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 3. Approval of Title IV-E proposed expenditures:** Kathy Lynn Cook explained the current status of MHAS receiving IV-E funds. A consultant from Maine advised will be assisting in the utilization of IV-E funds for those attorneys not performing 100% of CAP work, as well as the percentage of overhead that may be funded by IV-E funds.

The projected IV-E budget was presented by Rebecca May-Ricks and Kathy Lynn Cook. An Excel spreadsheet concerning the projected IV-E budget is attached to these minutes and incorporated by reference. There was a further discussion by Ms. May-Ricks of the difficulty establishing the social worker position delineated in the projected IV-E budget through Civil Service.

After a discussion, Steve Scheckman moved to approve the projected IV-E budget as outlined in the Excel spreadsheet. Rob Garda seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Budget update:** Rebecca May-Ricks provided an update on the status before the Louisiana Legislature of the MHAS budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. No vote was taken.
5. **New Business:** Steve Scheckman raised the issue that the MHAS Board of Trustees needs a replacement for longtime Board Member Dudley Flanders who recently resigned as the representative on the Board appointed by the Mental Health Association in Louisiana. It was also discussed that MHAS Board of Trustees should attempt again to request that the Louisiana Medical Society appoint an individual to the Board. Rebecca May-Ricks will contact these organizations (or successors in interest) concerning appointments to the MHAS Board of Trustees.
6. **Next Meeting: Rob garda and Rebecca May-Ricks will circulate suggested 2021-2022 MHAS Board meeting dates.**

The meeting was then adjourned.