Board of Trustees

Mental Health Advocacy Service

February 11, 2017

Children’s Hospital, Board Room B

200 Henry Clay Avenue

New Orleans, LA

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Staff and Board Present: Joseph Seyler (Executive Director non-voting); Paul Race, Martin Drell, David Katner, Steve Scheckman, Dudley Flanders, Patrick O’Neill.

1. **Approval of minutes from last meeting:** Steve Scheckman moved to approve the minutes from November 12, 2016. David Katner seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
2. **Budget Update:** Joseph Seyler reported that the budget was adopted by the Executive Branch minus monies requested for training and minus the requested increase in out-of-state travel and IT services. No further mid-year reductions will be assessed by the executive, but the legislature could take unilateral action during the upcoming extraordinary session. Steve Scheckman requested on behalf of the board that the Director apprise them of any adverse developments as they occur.
3. **Data Collection Update:** Joseph Seyler reported on the agency’s conversion to PRIME, the new cloud-based data collection system, on track for completion by the end of the fiscal year.
4. **Personnel Issues:** Joseph Seyler reported on a complaint from a foster mother that he had not allowed “continuity of representation” for her foster child. A discussion ensued on the advisability of allowing CAP attorneys to continue representation begun in one office after transferring to another. David Katner led a discussion on best practices in resolving differences of opinion among staff attorneys. Joseph Seyler reported on various personnel resignations and transfers, and on the training of attorney supervisors.
5. **New Business:** Joseph Seyler led a discussion on the recent DOJ report criticizing the state’s placement of the mentally ill in nursing homes rather than providing services in the community. David Katner suggested ways of engaging the digital media departments of colleges to produce short videos to educate state legislators on our work. Joseph Seyler will coordinate changing the date for the next board meeting.
6. **Old Business:** None.