

Board of Trustees  
Mental Health Advocacy Service  
December 4, 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, Jack Harrison, David Katner, Paul Race and Steve Scheckman

Also present: Kathy Lynn Cook (Deputy General Counsel)

- 1. Approval of minutes from meeting of September 11, 2021 and the emergency board meeting of November 13, 2021:** The MHAS Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- 2. Proposed FY22-23 Budget, and updates on FY22 Budget:** Rebecca May-Ricks presented the MHAS Proposed FY2022-2023 Budget (a copy of which was previously provided by email to Board Members). Following a discussion, Paul Race moved to approve the MHAS Proposed FY2022-2023 Budget. Steve Scheckman seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 3. MHAS Annual Report, for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021:** Rebecca May-Ricks presented and discussed MHAS Annual Report FY 2020-2021. After a discussion, Steve Scheckman moved to approve the MHAS Annual Report FY 2020-2021. Rob Garda seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 4. Lake Charles lease update:** Rebecca May-Ricks advised the Board regarding the status of the Lake Charles lease and that it was not yet ready for presentation to the Board for review and approval. The Board was advised it is not expected that the status of the lease will be resolved before the first of the year. Rebecca May-Ricks also advised the Board that as a precaution she will begin seeking alternative office space. The Board discussed the Lake Charles lease status. No vote was taken by the Board.
- 5. Report on the Child Protection Representation Commission:** Rebecca May-Ricks and Kathy Lynn Cook reported to the Board on the Child Protection Representation Commission including the recent meetings attended. The Commission was created by statute within the Supreme Court to oversee child and parent representation in child welfare cases. Chief Justice John Weimer was in attendance at the meeting. The Commission requested information on how MHAS and other stakeholders are currently spending IV-E funds, and plans for future expenditures. Rebecca May-Ricks gave the report to the Commission. The next meeting of the Commission will be held at the Supreme Court on January 7, 2022.
- 6. New Business:** Rebecca May-Ricks discussed with the Board the Family First Initiative. If this plan is implemented Legal Service may handle pre-removal cases and because they would be conflicted MHAS would handle post-removal cases. The Court Improvement Program has commenced a study on the costs and effectiveness of pre-removal representation by the Legal

Services Corporations, and post-removal representation by MHAS. The results will be shared with all stakeholders when they are ready.

**7. Next Meeting: March 19, 2022.**

**The meeting was then adjourned.**