

Board of Trustees
Mental Health Advocacy Service
June 25, 2022

Ace Hotel, New Orleans

10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Staff and Board Present: Jack Harrison, David Katner, Paul Race, Martin Drell, Steve Scheckman, Rebecca May-Ricks (Director, non-voting), Kellie Johnson (Deputy General Counsel, non-voting) and Kathy Lynn Cook (Deputy General Counsel, non-voting)

- 1. Approval of minutes from meeting of April 2, 2022:** Steve Scheckman moved to approve the minutes from April 2, 2022. Jack Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 2. Lake Charles lease update:** Rebecca May-Ricks advised the Board that MHAS continues to search for an office to rent and simultaneously explore the possibility of MHAS through the State purchasing a building for use as the MHAS office in Lake Charles. Currently two possible lease options are being explored. The Board discussed the Lake Charles lease status. No vote was taken by the Board.
- 3. Pineville/Alexandria Office Lease:** Rebecca May-Ricks presented the lease for new Pineville/Alexandria office space. After a review of the lease and a discussion by the Board, Jack Harrison moved that the lease be approved. Paul Race seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 4. IV-E Contract with DCFS:** Rebecca May-Ricks presented the IV-E contract by and between MHAS and DCFS. After a review of the contract and a discussion by the Board, David Katner moved that the contract be approved. Paul Race seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 5. Board member from Louisiana Mental Health Association:** Rebecca May-Ricks reported that the Louisiana Mental Health Association may be the successor organization to the Mental Health Association of Louisiana and if so, she will advise the MHAS Board and determine if the Louisiana Mental Health Association will nominate a representative to serve on the MHAS Board. No vote was taken by the Board.
- 6. Legislative report:** Kathy Lynn Cook provided an overview of legislation adopted by the Louisiana Legislature in 2022 that may impact MHAS and MHAS's clients. In particular, House Bill No. 335 by Louisiana State Representative Royse Duplessis was discussed which broadens and expands the definition of "gravely disabled." Ms. Cook stated she would provide a complete list of the 2022 legislation to the Board members for further review. No vote was taken by the Board.

- 7. End of the fiscal year wrap up and report:** Rebecca May-Ricks reported that MHAS will again have a balance of unexpended money at the end of Fiscal Year 2021-22. No vote was taken by the Board.
- 8. Old Business:** None
- 9. New Business:** David Katner expressed his concerns regarding security issues for MHAS staff and its offices and suggested that MHAS consider hiring a security consultant to evaluate each MHAS office. No vote was taken by the Board.
- 10. Next Meetings: September 17, 2022; November 19, 2022; March 11, 2023; and, June 10, 2023.**

The meeting was then adjourned.