

Board of Trustees  
Mental Health Advocacy Service  
February 20, 2016

Children's Hospital, Board Room B  
200 Henry Clay Avenue  
New Orleans, LA  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Present: Kevin Robshaw (Executive Director, non-voting); George Daul, Martin Drell, Robert Garda, Hector Linares, Paul Race, Steve Scheckman

- 1) **Review of minutes from last meeting:** George Daul called the meeting to order. Martin Drell moved adoption of the minutes of January 9, 2016 The motion was seconded by Paul Race and approved unanimously.
- 2) **Interview of final candidates for director of MHAS:** The Board conducted interviews of three candidates: Joseph Seyler, Kathy Cook, and Rebecca May-Hicks. Robert Garda moved to offer the position of Director of MHAS to Joseph Seyler. The motion was seconded by George Daul and passed unanimously. Robert Garda moved that the job of Director be offered at a salary of \$95,000 a year with a negotiating cap of \$99,000 a year. Paul Race seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.
- 3) **Budget Report for 2016-2017:** Kevin Robshaw presented the Board with materials outlining three possible courses of action for implementing a proposed budget cut of 58% for FY 2016-17. All three options would involve closing multiple offices and layoffs of more than two dozen employees. Paul Race moved to acknowledge that budget cuts at the proposed levels would lead to office closures and staff reductions as set forth in the budget documents presented, but that the Board cannot endorse any of these courses of action because none of them allow MHAS to fulfill its statutory and constitutional mandates. This motion was seconded by Steve Scheckman and unanimously approved by the Board.
- 4) **Setting Schedule for Next Meetings:** No future meetings were schedule in order to give the incoming Director an opportunity to schedule the next meeting.
- 5) **Old Business:** Paul Race moved to amend the agenda to include an action item of electing a new board chair. Robert Garda seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the motion. Paul Race moved to elect Robert Garda as the Chair of the MHAS Board of Trustees. Steve Scheckman seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- 6) **New Business:** None