

Board of Trustees
Mental Health Advocacy Service
May 28, 2016

Children's Hospital, Board Room A
200 Henry Clay Avenue
New Orleans, LA
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Staff and Board Present: Joseph Seyler (Executive Director, non-voting); Martin Drell, Robert Garda,
Hector Linares, Patrick O'Neill; Steve Scheckman

Others Present: Kevin Robshaw

- 1) **Approval of minutes from last meeting:** The minutes from previous Board meeting on February 20, 2016. Hector Linares will resend the drafts of the minutes for approval at the next board meeting.
- 2) **Welcome to New Board Member:** Robert Garda welcomed Patrick O'Neill, Associate Chair and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the Tulane University School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, to the Board of Trustees.
- 3) **Legislative Update: Budget:** Joseph Seyler reported that the state's allocation to MHAS in the current budget bill is a slight increase from the actual amount received during the current fiscal year. Mr. Seyler reported that this slight increase will allow the agency to allocate funds for some new laptops and computers as well as for an expert witness fund.
- 4) **Legislative Update: Other Bills:** Joseph Seyler reported that SB 236 passed both chambers of the legislature and has been sent to the Governor for signature. SB 236 is a bill that extends an exception allowing the issuance of a Coroner's Emergency Certificate within 6 days rather than the normal 3 days after the issuance of a PEC to the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Ouachita, and Jefferson. Joseph Seyler also reported on HB 719, a bill that would allow the parent or legal guardian of a child issued a PEC to accompany the child during transportation to a treatment facility. MHAS employee Cathy Cook provided informational testimony on HB 719, which passed both chambers of the legislature and has been sent to the Governor for signature.
- 5) **Proposed Office Move:** Joseph Seyler reporter on the impending move for the Shreveport office, which no longer supports the 5 attorneys, support staff and records it houses. Board members engaged in a discussion of record retention policies for the agency.
- 6) **Policy:** Joseph Seyler reported on a specific policy change related to the internal operations of MHAS in which staff may now notify their direct supervisor rather than the Executive Director regarding attendance at the Biannual staff meeting.

7) **Setting Schedule for Next Meetings:** Joseph Seyler led a discussion regarding the setting of regular Board meeting. Joseph Seyler will send out a schedule prior to the next Board meeting that may be modified on an as needed basis.