

**PRODUCTIVE LIVING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Maryland Heights Centre
2344 McKelvey Road (Room 3)
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Monday, April 9, 2007

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Timothy R. Barrett, Chairman
David L. Ruecker, Secretary
Marsha J. Bonds, Treasurer
Debbie Bentele
Sarijane M. Freiman
Cary Hammond

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eugene H. Fahrenkrog, Immediate Past Chairman
Dennis J. Buhr, Vice Chairman
Ralph Berberian

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joyce Prage, CPA, Executive Director
Jeffrey Bassin
Brian Bond
Glen Goldstein
Marilyn Nenninger

GUESTS PRESENT: (See attached)

A quorum was present and due notice had been published. Mr. Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Prage updated the Board on the following activities:

Agency Announcements

Council for Extended Care has announced their new executive director, Vicky Presnell.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Judevine Center for Autism is presenting their *30 Days of Autism* campaign to increase public awareness about autism and raise funds to support families dealing with autism. There will be many articles and information on Autism provided both locally and nationally this month.

2007 Legislative Session – Recent Activity

An update was provided on the following bills where action has taken place since the last board meeting:

SB 621 - *Changes the name of the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Division of Developmental Disabilities.*

SB 577 - *Missouri Health Improvement Act of 2007*

HB 39 – *Establishes eligibility requirements of an employed disabled person requesting medical assistance under the TWWIA.*

HB 352 - *Increases bonus points for nonprofit organizations bidding on state contracts and specifies an increase in the per diem awarded to sheltered workshops.*

SB 3 – *Enacts provisions on mental health reform regarding findings of abuse and neglect investigations.*

HB 891 – *Provides a tax credit for hiring disabled workers.*

Missouri Mental Health Task Force

The MRDD Stakeholders Committee of the Lieutenant Governor's Mental Health Task Force has completed their work. A final recommendation is due to the Mental Health Commission and the Lieutenant Governor by May 1, 2007. Their recommendations will be available to the public sometime after they are submitted to the Lieutenant Governor.

Department of Mental Health, Division of MRDD Budget.

As of last week during the budget review process, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) line items for cost of living increases were left open. By leaving the items open, the committee is likely to come back this week and review the proposed cost of living adjustments. Because other divisions of the DMH have a proposed increase of 3% for direct care staff, the possibility remains for a cost of living increase in the MRDD line items above the 1% increase previously recommended.

Open Forum for Comments from the Public

Mr. Bert Sterbenz of the Parent Advocacy Group commented that the proposed elimination of several of the amendments to SB3 would allow private or for-profit group homes to operate at lower standards than the habilitation centers run by the state.

Ms. Elaine Greenbaum of the Down Syndrome Association stated that the group had recently completed a needs assessment of its adult members, particularly those over 40 years old. The primary need is for better access to transportation, for special medical needs, employment and improved quality of life.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Ruecker moved that the Board approve the March 12, 2007 Productive Living Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Hammond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Bonds moved that the Board approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Mr. Ruecker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Barrett introduced Debbie Bentele, recently appointed as a new member of the Productive Living Board.

Mr. Barrett announced the appointment of the Nomination Committee to select a slate of officers for the Productive Living Board for FY'08. Eugene Fahrenkrog, Immediate Past Chairman, will chair the committee; Cary Hammond and Sarijane Freiman will serve on the Committee with Mr. Fahrenkrog.

Standing Committee Reports

Vocational Services Committee – *Cary Hammond, Chairman*

Board Action Item:

1. Transportation to Sheltered Workshops/User Fee

Mr. Hammond moved that the Board approve eliminating the consumer User Fee for transportation to sheltered workshops, effective July 1, 2007. The need for implementation of a User Fee will be reviewed annually.

Mr. Ruecker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Ruecker, Secretary

As recorded by Marilyn Nenninger, Executive Administrative Assistant

Guests Present

Mark Keeley
Dee Froneyberger
Linda Barton
Rich Walker
Kathy Tracey
Bert Sterbenz
Lois Sterbenz
Richard Gill
Patricia Gill
Deborah Hostetter
Sue Petersen
Ken, Carol & Christy Mertz
Barb Crites
Steve Frank
Elaine Greenbaum
Kristin Bulin
Fred Wark
Anne Webb
Kathy Farache

Pamela Merkle

Kathy Baumann

St. Louis Arc
W.A.C. Industries
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Parent Advocacy Group
Parent Advocacy Group
Parent Advocacy Group
Parent Advocacy Group
Project, Inc.
Project, Inc.
Family
St. Louis Society
Valley Industries
Down Syndrome Association
Provident, Inc.
Lafayette Industries
Parent
Association for Aging with
Developmental Disabilities
Association for Aging with
Developmental Disabilities
Parent