Board of Trustees

Mental Health Advocacy Service

July 14, 2018

Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic

Loyola University Law School

540 Broadway Street, Room 114

New Orleans, Louisiana

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Staff and Board Present: Joseph Seyler (Director, non-voting), David Katner, Martin Drell, Patrick O’Neill, Paul Race, Steve Scheckman

Guest Presenter: Karen Hallstrom, Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families, Louisiana Supreme Court

1. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**: David Katner moved to approve the minutes from May 5, 2018. Steve Scheckman seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
2. **Status of Child Advocacy Program state-wide:** Karen Hallstrom made a presentation and updated the Board regarding: the history of the Child Advocacy Program (CAP); the current status of CAP, including current budget and funding problems; caseloads of LSC attorneys who are funded through the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) and caseload standards not being adhered to; LBF will only continue with its responsibility over CAP with existing funding for ten (10) more months; the possible future structure for CAP which will be the subject of upcoming Task Force meetings and may include and Office of Children’s Counsel in the executive branch of government; and finally the desperate need for the MHAS to provide for the representation of children in **new** CAP cases in Slidell City Court, the 18th Judicial District Court (West Baton Rouge, Iberville and Point Coupee Parishes)c the 20th Judicial District Court (East and West Feliciana Parishes), and the 33rd Judicial District Court (Allen Parish).
3. **Requested expansion of MHAS/CAP:** After extensive discussion, it was moved by Steve Scheckman that MHAS provide for the representation of children in **new** CAP cases in Slidell City Court, the 18th Judicial District Court (West Baton Rouge, Iberville and Point Coupee Parishes), the 20th Judicial District Court (East and West Feliciana Parishes), and the 33rd Judicial District Court (Allen Parish). The motion was seconded by Paul Race. The motion was approved 4-0-1, with David Katner abstaining.
4. **Next Meeting:** October 20, 2018

**The meeting was then adjourned.**