Minutes of

Board of Trustees Meeting

Mental Health Advocacy Service

October 17, 2020

Video-conference via Zoom

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

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

1. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**: David Katner moved to approve the minutes from August 22, 2020. Rob Garda seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
2. **Proposed Budget for FY2021-2022:** Joseph Seyler presented and discussed the Proposed Budget for FY2021-2022. Following a discussion, Steve Scheckman moved to approve the proposed MHAS budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.David Katner seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Report on MHAS response to the public health emergency:** Joseph Seyler presented and discussed tele-working, weekly office zoom meetings, and some court hearings are held by zoom and others are held in person. No vote was taken by the Board.
4. **MHAS Board meetings during the public health emergency:** Joseph Seyler presented and discussed that the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office has advised that written minutes of MHAS Board zoom meetings must be taken and posted as required by law and simply recording the zoom meetings is not sufficient. No vote was taken by the Board.
5. **Personnel change:** Joseph Seyler announced that after twenty-five (25) years of service in various capacities at MHAS, including as the Director for the last five (5) years, it was his intention to retire and submit his resignation effective April 5, 2021. The Board commended Mr. Seyler for his service and dedication to MHAS and it was the expressed consensus of the MHAS Board that his leadership of MHAS will be missed by both the Board and staff.

The MHAS Board discussed the task of hiring a new MHAS Director. Joseph Seyler will circulate a job description and the prior position posting with Civil Service and the position will be posted with Civil Service and nationally. No vote was taken by the Board.

1. **Next Meeting: January 16, 2021**

**The meeting was then adjourned.**