

Board Meeting Minutes
Productive Living Board
September 14, 2026

Present:

Members: Curt Ittner, Lou Brock, Jasmine Chen, Melissa Garza, Dave Herman, Lauri Koster, Scott Malin, Felice McClendon, Amy Wilson

Staff Participants: Becky Herschbach – Executive Director, Don Kaufmann - Director of Finance and Administration, Gabrielle Buenger - Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Glen Goldstein - Chief Information and Technology Officer

Guests: Barry Larson LCSW - President, Bridges Community Support Services, Inc.; David Kramer - Chief Executive Officer, Center for Human Services; Mike Kaemmerer, McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer L.C.

I. Call to Order

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.
Ms. Koster called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

II. Open Forum for Comments from the Public

No public comments were made. Ms. Koster congratulated Ms. Herschbach on her ten-year anniversary at the Productive Living Board and thanked her for her continued service to the organization.

III. Executive Director's Report – Becky Herschbach

Ms. Herschbach recognized Debra Holland's 30 years of service to PLB. Ms. Holland is PLB's Manager of Accounting.

FestAbility is Sunday, September 20 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park. This annual event celebrates the disability community with a parade, activities, resource tables, and entertainment. St. Louis Arc, Starkloff Disability Institute, DEAF Inc, and Paraquad are collaborating on this event. The Center for Human Services will attend the event with their Mobile Sensory and Accessibility Resource Center.

The Alliance is reviewing end-of-year reporting from the agencies, finalizing edits to the Partner Review Manual for FY'28, and preparing for Partner Review Meetings that begin next month.

PLB's Agency and Community Relations team is finalizing the Satisfaction Survey data and preparing to launch the Community Needs Survey. The Community Needs Survey will be open the entire month of October. The survey is for individuals with IDD, their families, community partners, and anyone who provides services or lives in St. Louis County. The results of this survey will help inform PLB's strategic priorities.

Education will be a key focus heading into the next legislative session as the November election brings in new decision makers who face the challenge of right-sizing the state budget. The Developmental Disability community will continue to advocate for funding.

MACDDS is finalizing its legislative priorities. They are expected to be similar to last year: to safeguard property taxes and fully fund the state budget for DD services. Once more they will work on legislation that will allow DD Boards like PLB to ask voters for one half of one percent sales tax should property taxes decrease.

The Gateway Coalition is working on its legislative priorities and are planning upcoming Legislative Coffees. The first is at the DDRB in St. Charles on October 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Herschbach reported that the Missouri Special Districts Association provides in-depth legislative communications in a timely manner.

Seniors Count, a community led initiative to support St. Louis County residents aged 60 and older, will be on the ballot in November. The ballot measure asks for a five cents sales tax which would raise approximately \$14 million. Services would include transportation, nutrition support and home repair to help older adults maintain their independence. St. Louis City has a Senior tax, but no other local counties do currently.

Ms. Herschbach concluded her report by recognizing Gabrielle Buenger, PLB's Marketing and Communications Coordinator, for her five years of service to PLB.

IV. Website Refresh Update – Gabrielle Buenger, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Ms. Buenger led the Board through PLB's new refreshed website. She thanked and recognized Mr. Jake Goeke and Mr. Glen Goldstein for building the site in-house. Accessibility was a main goal of the website refresh. It now provides easier navigation and is mobile friendly. The homepage provides a clear jumping off point for individuals seeking help, funded partners, the Board, and taxpayers. She invited the Board to review the website and provide feedback on their user experience.

Board members shared their appreciation of the new design and functionality. One Board member suggested adding agencies that have received one-time grant funding from PLB.

V. Board Consent Agenda Items

Felice moved to approve the Board Consent Agenda items as listed. Dave Herman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of the June 8, 2026, Productive Living Board Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of the June 30, 2026, Productive Living Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

VI. Financial Report – Don Kaufmann, Director of Finance and Administration

Mr. Kaufmann reported that current financial statements are not finalized for this meeting as PLB's full financial audit will be presented later this month. Anders is conducting the

audit and will share the full results with the Administration Committee on September 29 and the full Board on October 12.

Mr. Kaufmann reported that FY'26 revenue was \$28.6 million and expenses totaled \$29.2 million, which gave PLB a planned deficit of \$572,000. PLB's cash balance is \$43.5 million. Utilization increased to 88%, which is close to pre-Covid numbers. 4,705 individuals received PLB funded services in FY'26, the highest in PLB's history.

Mr. Kaufmann answered a question from the Board regarding the targeted cash balance.

VII. One-time Grant Update – Becky Herschbach, Executive Director

Ms. Herschbach provided an update on the one-time grant funding opportunity that was initiated in June 2024. To date, \$4.9 million has been utilized but it is expected that PLB will expend approximately \$7.9 million of the original \$9 million that was awarded by the end of FY'27. Ms. Herschbach answered questions from the Board regarding the new agencies that were recipients of the one-time funding.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

A. Administration Committee – Curt Ittner, Chairperson

Mr. Ittner provided a summary of the Administration Committee meeting held on September 1. In addition to the merger discussion, he shared that the committee reviewed the PLB Staff 403(b) plan options.

1. Bridges Community Support Services and Center for Human Services Merger

Mr. Ittner moved that the Board approve continuing PLB's current contract with Bridges Community Support Services with Center for Human Services, should a change in control of the organization occur. Mr. Brock seconded the motion.

Mr. Larson and Mr. Kramer presented information about Bridges Community Support Services and Center for Human Services and answered questions from the Board. Ms. Koster called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. New Business

No new business was discussed.

X. Closed Session per Section 610.021(13) RSMo - Personnel

Mr. Malin moved that the Productive Living Board adjourn and reconvene in Closed Session per Section 610.021 (13) RSMo. - Personnel. Mr. Herman seconded the motion.

Ms. Garza objected to discussing the Executive Director's salary in closed session under §610.021(13), RSMo, because that subsection expressly excludes public employees' salaries from the closed meeting personnel-records exemption. Her exact objection is attached.

Mr. Malin moved to enter closed session. Mr. Herman seconded. After discussion with the attorney, and before the roll-call vote, Mr. Ittner confirmed that the motion was for legal advice, not an Executive Director performance review. In that light, the motion was to go into closed session, pursuant to 610.021(1) RSMo for legal advice.

A roll call vote was taken with the following members voting aye: Mr. Brock, Ms. Chen, Mr. Ittner, Ms. Koster, Mr. Malin, Ms. McClendon, Ms. Wilson and Mr. Herman. Ms. Garza voted no. The motion passed.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Malin", with a stylized, flowing script.

Scott Malin, Secretary

As recorded by Jill Zeller, Manager of Executive Projects and Board Relations.

The above minutes were reviewed and approved by Lauri Koster, Chairperson of the Productive Living Board.

Request to Have Objection to Closed Meeting Entered Into Minutes

This suggested form is intended for use when a member of a public governmental body objects to a motion to close a meeting pursuant to Section 610.022.6, RSMo, and wishes to have the objection entered into the minutes. Available at: <https://ago.mo.gov/get-help/programs-services-from-a-z/sunshine-law/sample-language-forms/request-objection-sample/>

Dear Secretary Malin:

Having objected to the motion to close the meeting of the Productive Living Board on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., and having made this objection prior to the vote to close the meeting, I wish to have my full objection entered into the minutes for that date.

Signature of member

Melissa Garza

Name of member

MELISSA Garza

Statement of Melissa Garza's objection to closing the meeting of the Productive Living Board on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., to be included in the meeting minutes:

I appreciate everyone's hard work in putting the materials together for today's important meeting, however, I have some concerns that I need to bring to everyone's attention.

The August 21, 2026, email from the Chair of the Productive Living Board, circulated by the Manager of Board Relations specifically stated that "The full Board will discuss the results during a closed session ... We will also discuss Becky's goals and compensation during that meeting."

This was followed by materials provided to Board members on September 10, 2026, for use in the closed session that include a proposed motion that the Board has used in the past to vote to increase to the Executive Director's salary.

So, just to be clear, I have no objection to going into closed session to discuss confidential information concerning the Executive Director's performance evaluation.

But, I do object to closing the meeting if part of the intent of going into closed session includes discussion or action concerning the Executive Director's salary. 610.021.(13)

I am not trying to be difficult, but I feel it is my responsibility as a board member to ensure that the board's actions follow appropriate laws.

I have found a form from the Missouri Attorney General, Catheryn L. Hanaway to use for requesting that an objection to a closed meeting be entered into the minutes and have brought a copy of my objection for Secretary Scott Malin and the Manager of Board Relations, Jill Zeller, and I request that this full written objection be included in the meeting minutes.

I have also brought copies of my objection for the information of my fellow Board members for their review as well.

Thank you for allowing me to bring up my concerns.