

Board Meeting Minutes

Productive Living Board

March 10, 2025

Attendance

Present:

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

Staff Participants: Becky Herschbach - Executive Director; Don Kaufmann - Director of Finance and Administration; Amy Meyer - Director of Agency and Community Relations

Absent:

Members: Lauri Koster

- I. Call to Order
A quorum was present and due notice had been published.
Mr. Herman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.
- II. Open Forum for Comments from the Public
No comments were made.
- III. Agency Overviews

Epilepsy Foundation

Christy Polk, Executive Director and Nicole Sauer, Program Manager, presented information on PLB funded services and answered questions from the Board. The presentation included information about PLB funding for education, independent living, and transportation.

St. Louis Arc

Mark Keeley, Executive Director, discussed current legislative advocacy efforts and provided information about how some of the proposed legislation could impact the IDD community. Mr. Keeley answered questions from the Board.

- IV. Executive Director's Report – Becky Herschbach

Ms. Herschbach began her report by commending the dedication of PLB's funded partner agencies during this time of policy and funding uncertainty at the national and state level.

Congratulations to Duane Gruis

Duane Gruis was selected as a Missouri Mental Health Champion. He is currently a member of UCP Heartland's Family Navigator and Client Support team.

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month

March is the official month to celebrate and advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities to be included and valued members of the community.

Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Capital

February 26 was Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Capital. Ms. Herschbach reported that she attended with MACDDS and that many of PLB's funded partners, self-advocates, and their families were there for the rally and to share information with legislators regarding funding needs, how essential services are, and the effect of potential legislation on people's lives.

Legislative Updates

Ms. Herschbach updated the Board on bills that have been moving through the legislative process including the Circuit Breaker tax credit, and the expansion of Medicaid coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants. A significant number of property tax reduction bills were filed again this year and have passed through committees more quickly than in previous years. PLB has been providing fiscal impact statements on legislation that is reaching the committee level.

Conference Announcements

The Gateway Coalition is hosting its annual Direct Support Person Conference on April 24 at the Ameristar Casino. PLB provides funding for the event.

The Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities annual conference is scheduled for May 12 and 13 at the St. Charles Convention Center. PLB provides funding to assist individuals and families from St. Louis County in attending the conference. Information can be found on the AADD website.

Alliance Updates

Agency funding requests for FY'26 were due on February 14th. The application process went well this year. Staff are currently reviewing the applications, working with the agencies on making modifications, and developing materials for the April funding committee meetings.

The committee meetings are on April 29 at the Clark Family Branch Library. All funded agencies are expected to have at least one representative attend so they can answer any questions the Committee members may have regarding their requests for funds. The Board meeting is on May 12 at the Richmond Heights Center.

Board Member Survey

Board members will receive a survey designed to gather feedback on Board member satisfaction, overall Board performance, and opportunities for Board development. The survey is due at the end of the month.

V. Board Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Malin moved to approve the Board Consent Agenda items as listed. Ms. Garza seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Monday, December 9, 2024 Productive Living Board Meeting Minutes

VI. Strategic Priorities Update – Becky Herschbach

Ms. Herschbach reviewed the progress on the seven PLB Strategic Initiatives and answered questions from the Board.

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

Mr. Kaufmann reported that the Statement of Revenue and Expenses reflects revenue of \$15.7 million. This is \$53 thousand higher than prior year and \$296 thousand below budget. Year-end revenue is expected to be at budgeted levels. Administration expenses were \$1,467 thousand, which is \$31 thousand below budget. \$14.2 million has been expended on Project Services. This represents a \$1.5 million increase over prior year, primarily due to planned agency funding increases.

Mr. Ittner moved to accept the financial report as presented. Mr. Malin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

A. Community Services Committee – Jasmine Chen, Chairperson

Board Action Items

1. UCP Heartland Request for Additional FY'25 Adaptive Equipment/Assistive Technology Funding

Ms. Chen moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for UCP Heartland, PLB Service #8047/10 in an amount not to exceed \$41,000 for FY'25 from the Unassigned Fund for a revised FY'25 total appropriation of \$74,946. Mr. Ittner seconded the motion.

Ms. Meyer discussed the additional funding request.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. LifeBridge Partnership One-time Grant Increase

Ms. Chen moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for LifeBridge Partnership, PLB Service # 9366/10 in an amount not to exceed \$10,170 for FY'25 from the Unassigned Fund for a revised FY'25 total appropriation of \$43,450. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

Ms. Meyer discussed the additional funding request.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Employment Services Committee – Scott Malin, Chairperson

Board Action Items

1. Supported Employment Requests for Additional FY'25 Funding

a. Rise Services, Inc. Request for Additional FY'25 Funding

Mr. Malin moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for Rise Services, Inc., PLB Service #3072/10 in an amount not to exceed \$86,935 for FY'25 from the Supported Employment Assigned Fund for a revised FY'25 total appropriation of \$365,665. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

Ms. Meyer discussed the additional funding request.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Mercy Hospital Request for Additional FY'25 Funding

Mr. Malin moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for Mercy Hospital, PLB Service #3113/10 in an amount not to exceed \$13,065 from the Supported Employment Assigned Fund and in an amount not to exceed \$18,787 from the Unassigned Fund for a revised FY'25 total appropriation of \$293,383. Ms. Garza seconded the motion.

Ms. Meyer discussed the additional funding request.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. OATS, Inc. Vehicle Acquisition

Mr. Malin moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for OATS, Inc., PLB Service #5047/55 in an amount not to exceed \$198,642 for FY'25 from the Unassigned Fund for a revised FY'25 total appropriation of \$227,691. Ms. Chen seconded the motion.

Mr. Kaufmann discussed the additional funding request.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Board Action Item

Missouri Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Assistance Program (MEHTAP)
Application for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Ms. Garza moved that the Board approve the resolution as follows for the application to the Missouri Department of Transportation for MEHTAP funds.

“That the Executive Director is authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Productive Living Board for St. Louis County Citizens with Developmental Disabilities with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for financial assistance through MEHTAP for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.”

Mr. Brock seconded the motion.

Mr. Kaufmann discussed the MEHTAP process.

The motion passed unanimously.

XI. New Business

No new business was discussed.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

54D3DEF4210648B...
Melissa Garza
Board Secretary

As recorded by Kathy Williams, Executive Administrative Assistant.

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