

Board Meeting Minutes

Productive Living Board

July 14, 2025

Attendance

Present:

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

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 Overview – TREE House of Greater St. Louis

Nathan Harms, Executive Director and Jamie Gehrin, Clinical Director at TREE House of Greater St. Louis provided information about the services they provide. Megan Kehoe, Program Assistant spoke about her positive experiences as a participant in the programs which led to her eventual employment at TREE House as a Program Assistant.

IV. Executive Director's Report – Becky Herschbach

Ms. Herschbach reported the following:

Disability Pride Month

July is Disability Pride Month, a time to recognize the history and achievements of people with disabilities, for people to find pride in and embrace their differences, to focus on each other's talents, and to promote inclusion.

Satisfaction Survey

With the assistance of its funded partners, PLB issued a satisfaction survey to all individuals receiving PLB funded services. These surveys are part of the strategic priority to collect and analyze information that can inform funding decisions. 650 responses have been received so far and the due date is August 1.

End of Year Reporting

Year-end reporting is due from funded agencies on August 8. Reporting includes outcomes, indicators, and output results. This data helps to measure the impact of PLB funding and identify areas for capacity building.

Legislative Updates

Governor Kehoe signed the FY'26 state budget on June 30, cutting \$500 million in anticipation of a predicted revenue shortfall of \$1 billion beginning in FY'27. One of the vetoes made was the 1.25% Developmental Disability rate increase for providers, which was also going to provide an increase to targeted case management providers.

A House Interim Committee on Property Tax has been formed to examine Missouri's property tax system and recommend solutions that "promote fairness, transparency, and sustainability." Six Interim Committee listening sessions across the state were announced, including one at the Center of Clayton on August 20 at 5:30, which PLB will be attending. MACDDS is developing a strategy for these meetings, to educate legislators regarding the importance of property taxes on services as a whole, and particularly on services for people with disabilities.

The Senate announced several Committees of its own focusing on government accountability, state-funded diversity initiatives, and property tax reform. The Select Committee on Property Tax and the state Tax Commission will study the current climate of real and personal property taxation and evaluate the performance of the State Tax Commission. Meeting dates have not been established.

The Department of Labor has withdrawn its proposal to eliminate the use of 14c certificates, preserving sheltered employment as one of many options on the spectrum of employment services. PLB has approximately 800 individuals employed in sheltered workshops in St. Louis County.

The budget reconciliation bill was signed on July 4. While it does not appear there will be immediate affects to most people with developmental disabilities, significant budgetary decisions are expected in the coming years due to increased funding responsibility shifting to the states. The shortfalls are expected to be sizable and require potential reduction or elimination of services and the potential for waitlists. There is a section of the bill called the Helping Communities with Better Support Act that Senator Schmitt introduced. It offers up to 60 days of temporary waiver coverage while plans are being developed. To enhance transparency, the bill mandates states to report detailed data on waitlists, service delays, and delivered care hours. The funding aspects of this are not clear at this time.

Other Updates

The Bi State Budget was passed and signed by Dr. Page. PLB will receive no less than \$1,068,567 through the SB3 Transportation Trust Fund sales tax to be used for sheltered employment transportation.

Agency tours have been scheduled and the Board was asked to confirm attendance. They were also asked to sign the Conflict of Interest and Ethics forms that are completed annually.

V. Board Consent Agenda Items

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

A. Approval of the Monday, June 9, 2025 Productive Living Board Meeting Minutes

B. Promise Community Homes – Request for Deferral of FY’26 Annual Loan Payments

<u>Loan Numbers</u>	<u>Installment Due Dates</u>
Loan #1377/10	July 21, 2025
Loan #1331/10	August 8, 2025
Loan #1350/10	August 14, 2025
Loan #1295/10	September 8, 2025

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

Mr. Kaufmann reported that financial statements were not provided for this meeting as June 30 was the end of the fiscal year and agencies have until July 31 to submit final invoices. The PLB audit will be conducted in August and the final year-end statements will be issued upon completion of the audit.

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

Ms. Herschbach updated the Board on the one-time funding that was approved in October 2024 for housing, outreach, transportation and current or emerging needs. It is anticipated that by the end of FY’27 \$8.6 million will be expended on these projects. Ms. Herschbach and Ms. Meyer answered questions from the Board.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

A. Administration Committee – Dave Herman, Board Chairperson

Mr. Herman gave a brief summary of the Administration Committee meeting.

1. Request for Proposals (RFP) for Compensation Study

Mr. Herman reported that the Administration Committee approved issuing the Compensation Study RFP. Mr. Kaufmann provided details about the study.

2. Loan Payment Annual Deferral Process

Mr. Kaufmann provided information about the history of PLB loans and discussed the current and future loan payment deferral process. Mr. Kaufmann answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Garza suggested that agency loan information be included in the Board portal.

B. Community Services Committee – Curt Ittner, Committee Member

Mr. Ittner gave a brief summary of the Community Services Committee meeting.

1. One-time Grant Extension Requests

Mr. Ittner moved that the Board approve the extension of the contract end dates as presented. Ms. Garza seconded the motion.

Ms. Meyer discussed the one-time grant extension requests.

The motion passed unanimously.

Extensions were approved for the Starkloff Disability Institute, Support Systems Service #9358/12 until July 31, 2025, and for Epilepsy Foundation, Community Transportation Service #5095/50, Pathways to Independence, Community Transportation Service #5096/50 and The Maren Fund, Support Systems Service #6114/10 until June 30, 2026.

C. Employment Services Committee – Melissa Garza, Chairperson

Ms. Garza gave a brief summary of the Employment Services Committee meeting.

1. Promise Community Homes Funding Extension Requests

Ms. Garza moved that the Board approve the extension of the contract end dates as presented. Mr. Malin seconded the motion.

Mr. Kaufmann discussed the extension requests and answered questions from the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Extensions were approved for Promise Community Homes to complete the remaining phases of an architectural study for the design and construction of an apartment building, Agency Supports Service #9363/10 and for repairs to 5 homes that serve 16 individuals, Agency Supports Service #4034/45.

2. St. Louis Arc One-time Funding Project – Transitional Apartment Building Requests

Mr. Kaufmann discussed the extension and additional appropriation requests.

An apartment building has been located but the closing will not occur until FY'26. Therefore, St. Louis Arc has requested an extension for the \$1.5 million the Board approved for FY'25. In addition, St. Louis Arc requested that \$300,000 originally proposed for renovations in FY'27 be used towards the purchase in FY'26.

a. Ms. Garza moved that the Board approve the extension of the contract end date as presented. Mr. Brock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Ms. Garza moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for St. Louis Arc, PLB Service #9362/10 in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for FY'26 from the Unassigned Fund for a revised FY'26 total appropriation of \$800,000. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Supported Employment Requests for Additional FY'26 Funding

a. BCI Skills Center Request for Additional FY'26 Funding

Ms. Garza moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for BCI Skills Center, PLB Service #3070/10 in an amount not to exceed \$7,794 for

FY'26 from the Unassigned Fund for a revised FY'26 total appropriation of \$29,105. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

Ms. Meyer discussed the BCI funding request.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. UCP Heartland Request for Additional FY'26 Funding

Ms. Garza moved that the Board approve an additional appropriation for UCP Heartland, PLB Service #3011/10 in an amount not to exceed \$48,960 for FY'26 from the Unassigned Fund for a revised FY'26 total appropriation of \$295,412. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

Ms. Meyer discussed the UCP funding request.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. New Business

No new business was discussed.

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

Ms. Garza moved that the Productive Living Board adjourn and reconvene in Closed Session per Section 610.021(13) RSMo.- Personnel. Mr. Brock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following members voting aye: Mr. Brock, Mr. Ittner, Ms. Garza, Ms. Koster, Mr. Malin, Ms. Wilson and Mr. Herman. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

54D3DEF4210648B...
Melissa Garza, 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.