

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group

February 2024 Report to the Board

Working Group Members:

- Rajene Hardeman, Co-Chair (D)
- Mark Wilson, Co-Chair (C)
- Stuart Auchincloss (U)
- Heather Blakely (U)
- Barry Ramage (D), Board President, ex officio
- Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director

1. The group continued its discussion about the potential to evolve the EDI Working Group to a new “Core Values Advisory Group.” It is understood that the Bylaws, Policy & Procedures Committee will discuss what the difference between a working group and advisory group would be. In preparation for this proposal the group reviewed the current purpose statement of their working group, the organization’s [Core Values](#) as developed through the Plan of Service creation process and reviewed past work of their working group.
 - a. The group is aiming to transition from a working group to the Core Values Advisory Group during this calendar year.
 - b. The group defined why this advisory group is necessary noting the need to govern authentically, ensure we are responsive to our community, to serve as a model, and to inform ourselves about important things going on in the culture and then bring it back to the board.
 - c. The group drafted a working purpose statement for a Core Values Working Group: *The purpose statement of the Core Values Advisory Group is to support MHLS in authentically addressing our core values as they apply to the governance of the system.*
 - d. At the upcoming Committee Chairs meeting, President Ramage will inquire if folks would like any education on topics that intersect with the 2024 Priorities & Plan of Service Core Values. This may inform the working group’s presentations to the board at the May and September board meeting.
2. ACTION: The group is recommending that the fund created to help fund the Book Haven Collection be named in honor of Debra Klein. Mark Wilson will draft a description of the fund in this context for the board’s consideration.