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MINUTES of August 14, 2023

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Liz Atwell, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Patty Lawrence, Nova Levante, Laura Perez, Tony Rees, Greg Varner, Susan Vilaro
- MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Andy Bateman, Jen Binder, Joy Lytle
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Chaney
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Raymond Bailey
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Barbara Isemann, Kelsey Smothers, Laura Stith, Calli Watson
- STAFF PRESENT:** Marcie Keith, Cindy Knoblauch, Denny Moell, Erica Pursley, Lee Ann Watson

1. Call to Order: The August 14, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person at 7:00 pm at the Board office at 2337 Clermont Center Drive Batavia, Ohio 45103. Chairperson Patricia Lawrence welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. All attendees introduced themselves to the two newest Board members: Liz Atwell and Susan Vilaro.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the August 14, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Action Item 14; Authorization for the Executive Director to approve advance payment for up to two months of Purchase of Services (POS) Contract invoices to provider agencies if the need arises. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Jacki Block).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting with the correction of the removal of Rebecca Cochran-Kasson as an attendee and rather a member who was excused from that meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Jara Bonner).
4. Oath of Office: Elizabeth "Liz" Atwell of Cincinnati Ohio and Susan Vilaro of Milford Ohio were sworn in as members of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board of Directors by Notary, Cindy Knoblauch.
5. Training- Clermont Recovery Center Prevention Services by Kelsey Smothers: Kelsey Smothers gave a presentation, accompanied by a handout, about Substance Misuse Prevention Services at Clermont Recovery Center. The overall mission of prevention services is to promote drug-free environments for youth by providing education to the community about the risks of alcohol and

drug use. The presentation covered prevention strategies, community partners, school-based prevention, school prevention partners, summer services, community events, prevention education, youth leadership, and the prevention rewards program for participating youth. Kelsey's presentation was informative and was followed by a thorough question and answer session.

6. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands but did give an update on the progress of the Crisis Receiving Center plans for Clermont County. Lee Ann said three blueprints for the Center have been received from the Appalachian grant assigned architectural firm with a budget estimate. Lee Ann and Denny Moell, along with community partners, toured a newly renovated Crisis Receiving Center in Dayton on July 17. The Dayton Receiving Center is similar to what is envisioned for Clermont County. The group that attended the visit will convene in August to discuss the visit.

Associate Director Denny Moell said his report stands and highlighted the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) peer review. On June 30, representatives from the Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence met at the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board office to conduct a peer review of the CIT program. The Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence conducts two CIT Program Peer reviews per year and Clermont County asked to participate in the peer review for this year. This is the second peer review of the Clermont County CIT program. The peer review team recognized the Clermont County CIT for exemplary practice in three core program elements; two for coordination and one for training. The peer review team provided guidance and recommendations for continued improvement of the program which Denny will review with the Clermont CIT Advisory Committee and develop an action plan.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith said her report stands and highlighted the Board's participation at the Clermont County Fair and the recent community needs assessment survey. Marcie said the Fair went well, and there was increased engagement with the community. Marcie thanked the volunteers who staffed the Board's booth at the fair. Two-hundred and fifty needs assessment surveys were collected at the Fair, as well as another eighty-two from the National Night Out events in August.

7. Committee Reports:

- A. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block provided a summary of the Finance Committee meeting held earlier that evening. Jacki said Board staff received a brief overview of the state biennial budget from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) on July 31. The 421 line-item was increased to the Governor's initial proposed amount, and some additional funding in that line item was added. It was reported that the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) has not yet made a final decision about how the increase in the 421 line-item appropriation will be allocated, and if it will be pushed out to the Boards. The general belief is that Board budgets will be made whole, but the disbursements are anticipated to be slow.

Jacki Block also reported that the 040 Budget report was submitted to OMHAS on June 27. This is an annual report submitted to OMHAS that describes in detail how the Board will be spending the annual allocations from the department.

Jacki stated that the Finance Committee also discussed the GOSH claims processing system cut-off date and the potential request for an advance in POS contract payments. Board staff must determine and add a claims processing closing date each fiscal year into the GOSH system. The GOSH system cannot process claims across two fiscal years at once. The previous fiscal year must be closed out for all agency claims before any claims for the next fiscal year can be processed. This year the claims processing closing date was originally scheduled for August 18, but GCB requested a 30-day extension. The request is due to extensive issues and delays caused by the State's implementation of the new provider network management and claims system. Since GOSH cannot process claims across two fiscal years at once, GCB's request for the extension will also affect Child Focus' claims processing as there will be a delay in SFY24 invoice payment. After consulting with both agencies, the GOSH claims processing closing date for SFY23 was extended to September 1 to allow agencies to bill remaining claims before closing out the fiscal year.

Due to the extended GOSH claims processing closing date, Child Focus may need to request an advance for up to two months of GOSH claims (not to exceed \$263,825) until GOSH is open for SFY24 claims processing. According to the Provider POS contract language, agencies may request a cash advance in the event the GOSH system is unable to process claims for more than one month. The SFY23 claims processing closing date extension may cause a two-month delay for claims processing. The Finance Committee recommended authorizing the Executive Director to approve up to two months of POS claims in the event there is a need for such action due to the delay in processing SFY24 claims.

8. Unfinished Business:

- A. Clermont County Educational Service Center (CCESC) Request: Lee Ann Watson provided an update on the CCESC request. In June, Juvenile Court and the CCESC requested permission to utilize space in the Board's building for an alternative school for high-risk youth. Jeff Weir, Director of CCESC, was unable to obtain approval for funding of the project from area school Superintendents. Therefore, the request to use the Board's building space was withdrawn.
- B. Update on the Harm Reduction Machine: Associate Director Denny Moell reported that the Harm Reduction Machine, located on the outside of the Board's building, has been live and dispensing since July 19. There has been extensive promotion of the machine and it is also a registered Project Dawn site. The machine can be accessed through a registration process available on the Board's website and through a QR code. The machine dispenses items such as Narcan, wound care kits, and hygiene kits. There is also a sharps disposal box connected to the outside of the machine. Denny showed the Board members the machine and described how it works.
- C. Hope Community Center Proposal: Hope Community Center (HCC) now has a formal Board of Directors in place, and the Board has approved a contract with the Recovery Center in Hamilton County for consulting services for HCC staff. The HCC Board also approved using

its reserves to cover the cost of the contract which is estimated at a total of \$20,400. Lee Ann Watson said it is likely that HCC will request an increase in its contract with the Board at some point in the future to hire a full-time Director.

- D. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Part One Funding: Lee Ann Watson reminded the Board members of the Part I and Part II ARPA crisis funding that is available for Hospital catchment areas/Collaborative areas to reinforce crisis infrastructure and provided an update on the ARPA planning. The Southwest Ohio Collaborative, Brown, Clark, Green, Madison, Clermont, Preble, and Warren and Clinton Counties, minus Butler, Montgomery and Hamilton (Hamilton submitted their own proposal) will be awarded a little over \$3.7 million for a short term mental health residential facility that will likely be located in Clinton County. To receive the funding, each catchment area must commit to a ten percent match. The involved Counties in the Southwest Ohio Collaborative will each provide a percentage of that match amount based on each County's population. Clermont's portion is estimated to be \$89,200. In June, the Board approved the match requirement for up to \$100,00. Lee Ann explained that there will be additional future cost to the Board for operational costs of the facility. In June, the Board did not agree to approve the operational costs, until more information was available. Lee Ann explained that there was still no specific information available but that Clermont's cost for operations is estimated to be about \$100,000 per year. The Board members did not approve the estimated operational costs, requesting more specific information.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. FY 2024 Agreement with Beckett Springs for Inpatient Psychiatric and Withdrawal Management Services: Over the past several years, the Board has utilized Beckett Springs for crisis stabilization and inpatient psychiatric and withdrawal management services. The Board utilizes the Hospital Access allocation from OMHAS to fund the cost of the services. Unfortunately, Beckett Springs' per diem is higher than the amount allocated per day from OMHAS, \$865 a day versus \$800 a day, and the Board covers the difference in the per diem. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2024 Agreement with Beckett Springs for inpatient psychiatric and withdrawal services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Laura Perez).
2. FY 2024 Agreement with Karen Scherra for Consultant Services: Lee Ann Watson requested continuation of the contract with Ms. Scherra for FY2024 since Ms. Scherra's expertise and knowledge of Board operations and the behavioral health system would be beneficial to the Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2024 agreement with Karen Scherra at a maximum budget of \$1650.00 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jacki Block).
3. FY 2024 MOU with Municipal Court for the Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) Funds: Annually, the Board signs an agreement with the Clermont County Municipal Court for the use of the Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) Fund dollars to support treatment services provided by Clermont Recovery Center, a division of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2024 MOU with Municipal Court for the Indigent Driver Alcohol

- Treatment (IDAT) Funds and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
4. FY 2024 MOUs with Family Recovery Court and OVI (Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence) Court for Specialized Docket Funds: OMHAS provides Specialized Docket Subsidy funds to Boards as part of their fiscal year allocation. In turn, Boards are to provide those funds in the amount determined by OMHAS to the Courts with certified specialty dockets. There are two Specialized Dockets in Clermont County eligible for these Subsidy funds: the OVI Court under Municipal Court and the Family Recovery Court under Juvenile Court. OVI Court will receive \$45,000 and Family Recovery Court will receive \$25,000. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2024 MOUs with Family Recovery Court and OVI Court for Specialized Docket Funds and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOUs on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Laura Perez, second-Tony Rees).
 5. Addendum to the FY 2024 Agreement with NAMI Southwest Ohio for an additional \$10,000 as approved at the June 12, 2023 Board Meeting: At the June 2023 Board meeting, the Board approved the agreement with NAMI for FY 2024 for \$30,000. In response to NAMI's request for additional funding for FY 2024, the Board also approved, at the June 2023 meeting, an additional \$10,000, bringing the total FY 2024 allocated funding to NAMI to \$40,000 A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY 2024 Agreement with NAMI Southwest Ohio for an Additional \$10,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board (Motion-Susan Vilardo, second-Jara Bonner).
 6. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) PATH Amendment to the FY 2024 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) POS Contract: OMHAS has provided additional funding in the amount of \$43,263.17 to Clermont County for the PATH program to provide an additional staff person that will work exclusively with homeless individuals with a suspected substance use disorder. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Amendment to the FY 2024 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services FY 2024 POS Contract for SUD PATH and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Susan Vilardo).
 7. Addendum to the FY 2024 Child Focus POS Contract for \$5,000 for the Survivors of Suicide Group: As approved at the June 12, 2023 Board meeting, the Board is allocating an additional \$5,000 to Child Focus to facilitate a Survivors of Suicide support group. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY 2024 Child Focus POS contract for the facilitation of a Survivors of Suicide support group and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Laura Perez).
 8. Central Pharmacy Addendums to the FY 2024 POS Contracts for Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services and Child Focus: The Board would like to add to the POS contracts for GCB and Child Focus the annual OMHAS Central Pharmacy funding that is provided each fiscal year to the prospective providers. The Central Pharmacy funding allocation assists individuals and/or families who do not have the financial means to purchase needed psychiatric medications. Each year, Board staff consult with the providers to determine the amount of funding. This fiscal year GCB will receive \$1,500, Clermont Recovery Center, a division of GCB, will receive \$1,500 and Child Focus will

receive \$7,500. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendums to the FY 2024 POS Contracts for Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services and Child Focus and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendums on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Tony Rees).

9. FY 2024 MOU with Sparks Psychological Services for evaluation and testimony services for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) clients: Currently, Probate Court requires individuals to be hospitalized prior to the filing of an application for AOT. However, Ohio law allows for applications for AOT to be filed in the community if the individual meets criteria, such as having a history of hospitalizations and disengagement from the community-based treatment system. Currently our system does not have the resources available to have an individual evaluated in the community to determine eligibility for AOT and testify at a hearing. According to Ohio law, only Psychiatrists or licensed Psychologists can complete the evaluation and testify to recommend AOT. To increase access to Clermont's AOT program, the Board supports the evaluation of potential AOT clients in the community and requests contracting with Sparks Psychological Services to provide evaluation and testimony. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with Sparks Psychological Services and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Nova Levante, second-Susan Vilardo).
10. Access to Wellness (formerly known as Multi System Adult) Funding Addendum to the FY 2024 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) POS Contract for \$75,000: Access to Wellness funding is available to multi system adults enrolled in GCB who meet the OMHAS established criteria, such as multiple hospitalizations in a one-year period. GCB can request funding from the Board for various recovery supports such as rent, temporary housing, and employment related costs. The Board recently received notice of the Access to Wellness allocation for FY 2024 in the amount of \$75,000. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Access to Wellness Addendum to the FY 2024 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) POS Contract as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Laura Perez).
11. Child Focus Health Officers List for FY 2024: Health Officers are responsible for approving admission of Clermont County residents to the state hospital and completing applications for involuntary admission of individuals to local hospitals for psychiatric inpatient services. All Health Officers for the Provider Agencies must be approved by the Board. The Child Focus Health Officer list for FY 2024 was previously approved by the Board but there has since been an addition of a new staff member. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the new FY 2024 Health Officer list for Child Focus and to allow the Executive Director and Board Chairperson to sign the list on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
12. New Policy and Procedure for Remote Work: Board staff are recommending the implementation of a formal policy to address the expectations of employees who request remote work. The new policy will eliminate any confusion that may arise from such circumstances and will allow the Executive Director a reference when approving an employee's request to work outside of the Board office. The County Prosecutor's Office has reviewed and approved the new policy. A motion was made, and unanimously

approved, to approve the new Remote Work Policy as presented. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Jara Bonner).

13. Revised FY 2023 PATH Agreement with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board: The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) funds for PATH go to the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, who then passes on the funds to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB), the agency providing the PATH program services in both Counties. The FY 2023 PATH agreement with the Hamilton County Board was approved at the March meeting. However, the Hamilton County Board did not have the correct match amount for Clermont County listed in the agreement. OMHAS had communicated that we would receive a small increase in our allocation, raising our match amount, and that increase would be for FY 2023. In fact, that increase was to take place for FY 2024, not FY 2023. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revised FY 2023 Agreement with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the revised Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Susan Vilardo).

14. Authorization for the Executive Director to allow advance payment for up to two months of Purchase of Services (POS) Contract invoices to provider agencies if the need arises: As mentioned above, the Finance Committee recommends authorizing the Executive Director to approve advance payment on Provider Agency POS contract invoices as stated in the POS contracts. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to authorize the Executive Director to approve advance payment for up to two months of Purchase of Services (POS) Contract invoices to Provider Agencies. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Greg Varner).

B. Discussion Items

1. Strategic Plan: Board staff reported that the Strategic Plan is complete. Executive Director Lee Ann Watson plans to use the majority of the September Board of Directors' meeting for discussion and review of the new Strategic Plan for FY 2023- FY 2026.
2. Committee Assignments for CY 2023 for Liz Atwell and Susan Vilardo: New Board members Liz Atwell and Susan Vilardo made their committee selections. Board Chairperson Patty Lawrence formally assigned Liz Atwell to the Finance Committee and Susan Vilardo to the Program Committee as requested.
3. Changes to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 340: Lee Ann Watson said several items related to the modernization of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 340 were passed in State Bill 105. Lee Ann specified the below major changes:
 - Modifying the composition of the Board of Directors: The County Commissioners now have the authority to determine the size of the governing Board of Directors with options of 9, 12, 14, 15 or 18 members. The existing 14 and 18 member Board of Directors can change to 15, 12 or 9 members. A decrease in Board of Director composition would happen by not filling vacancies as they occur. No action will be required of existing 14 or 18 member Boards who choose to stay at their current composition.
 - Modifying the appointment of a member of the Board of Directors: The County Commissioners will have more appointments than in the past. OMHAS will have 1/3 of the appointments and the Commissioners will have 2/3.

The changes do not go into effect until October 3, 2023. Lee Ann will be meeting with Commissioner Batchler to discuss the changes. The Board requested tabling the discussion to allow more thought on changing the Board composition and to allow time to get feedback from the Board of County Commissioners.

4. New Housing Ohio (NHO) Update: New Housing Ohio (NHO) continues to work to find land to purchase for a permanent supportive housing facility for adults with a severe and persistent mental illness. NHO has been looking at land in Felicity, which would not have a zoning issue. However, it would be preferable to find land closer to GCB. In late June, Lee Ann Watson submitted an updated Capital Plan request to OMHAS identifying permanent supportive housing as Clermont's first priority. This will allow NHO to receive capital funds for construction of the facility.
5. Board IT Changes: The Board's information technology (IT) is currently being supported by Geisler IT Services. Board staff feel that contracting with the County for IT services would be beneficial in regard to security, continuity, and response time. The draft contract provided by Clermont County Information Services Division (ISD) for IT support sets the total cost at \$22,100 per year, for five hours per week at \$85 per hour. That amount is approximately \$8,600 higher than what the Board is currently paying for IT support. Even with the increase, Board staff feel it is in the best interest of the Board, for the aforementioned reasons, to switch to the County's ISD Department for IT services. After some discussion, the Board supported the staff decision to do so.

10. Agency Directors' Reports:

Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) said her report stands.

Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura added that Child Focus recently participated in Congressman Brad Wenstrup's Fentanyl Roundtable Discussion along with Denny Moell, Kelsey Smothers, and other attendees. Congressman Wenstrup deemed fentanyl a "weapon of mass destruction". Laura also said that the Clermont and Brown Crisis Hotline had experienced its highest call volume ever in FY 2023 at four-thousand, four-hundred seventy calls.

Hope Community Center's report stands.

NAMI Southwest Ohio's report stands.

11. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the August 14, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting.

12. Executive Session-Personnel Matter: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Laura Perez). Liz Atwell-yea, Jacki Block-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Nova Levante-yea, Tony Rees-yea, Greg Varner-yea, Susan Vilarado-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:06 pm.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Laura Perez). Liz Atwell-yea, Jacki Block-yea, Jara Bonner-

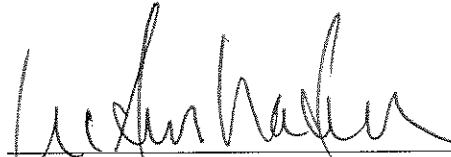
yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Nova Levante-yea, Tony Rees-yea, Greg Varner-yea, Susan Vilardo-yea. The Board moved back into Regular Session at 9:13 pm.

Patty Lawrence said the Board discussed and reviewed the renewal contract for the Executive Director position with Lee Ann Watson. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2024-FY 2026 Executive Director's contract with Lee Ann Watson. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jacki Block).

13. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the August 14, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Laura Perez).



Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director