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MINUTES of December 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Liz Atwell, Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Patricia Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Laura Perez, Tony Rees, Greg Varner, Susan Vilardo

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jen Binder

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey (joined via Zoom)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Matt Bierkan, Alex Boltz, Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Katie Harper, Barb Isemann, Abby Rau, Laura Stith

STAFF PRESENT: Marcie Keith, Cindy Knoblauch, Denny Moell, Erica Pursley, Lee Ann Watson

1. Call to Order: The December 11, 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.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the December 11, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Action Item 3. "Appalachian Community Grant Program Technical Assistance Grant Subrecipient Agreement with the Clermont County Port Authority" and Action Item 4. "Consultant Agreement with TBD Solutions for Operational and Sustainability Planning for the Crisis Receiving Center". (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Susan Vilardo).
4. Training-Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC)-PATH Homeless Program: Alex Boltz and Abby Rau presented on behalf of GCB/CRC on the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program. The PATH Program is designed to provide intensive outreach services and supports to Clermont County residents who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness and have a diagnosed behavioral health disorder or a possible behavioral health disorder. Services of the PATH Program include connection to mental health and addiction services, addressing medical issues, connection to benefits and other community resources, and housing referrals.

5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands. Lee Ann added that the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) Director, Lori Criss, resigned her position effective December 1st. The Governor has nominated LeeAnne Cornyn as the new OMHAS Director. Lee Ann also said that she attended several meetings regarding OMHAS' suggested changes to Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS). The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) sent a letter to OMHAS and Ohio Department of Medicaid leadership at the end of November to express concerns related to the suggested changes. At the November 30th OACBHA membership meeting, it was announced that OMHAS would not be pursuing the proposed regional MRSS model. And finally, Lee Ann said the second Mental Health Roundtable was held on November 29th. The group decided to focus on developing an asset map to identify the behavioral health resources in the community and the access points to care.

Associate Director Denny Moell said his report stands. Denny added that he and Marcie Keith attended several prevention conferences in the last month.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith said her report stands.

6. Committee Reports:
 - A. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jackie Block summarized the information from that evening's Committee meeting. Regarding CY 2024 Staff Salary Actions, Jacki said in the past, the Board has aligned with the Clermont Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) staff salary actions. Jacki said for CY 2024, the BCC is recommending a 2% cost-of-living salary increase and up to a 3% merit increase for BCC employees for a total of up to 5% salary increase for staff. The financial impact to the budget for SFY24 with a 5% increase would be \$11,535. The Finance Committee recommended to the Board to incorporate a cost-of-living increase of 2% and a merit increase based on performance of up to 3% for eligible employees to be determined by the Executive Director. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve a 2% cost-of-living increase and up to a 3% merit increase as determined by the Executive Director. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Joy Lytle).
 - B. Jacki also reported on the Child Focus Reconciliation Correction. At the November Finance meeting it was reported that Child Focus underspent its FY 2023 contract by \$508,604. However, after further inspection of the reconciliation, it was determined that the actual underspent amount for FY 2023 was \$352,550.
7. Unfinished Business:
 - A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Crisis Funding Update: The Southwest Collaborative is still moving forward with purchasing property in Clinton County for a short-term mental health facility which will be funded by ARPA I funding. The Collaborative has submitted a Letter of Intent to the seller for the purchase of the property and is now waiting to hear if the offer has been accepted. In addition, the new ARPA II proposal was submitted to OMHAS in mid-November. Lee Ann Watson will let the Board know if the new ARPA II proposal is accepted.
 - B. Crisis Receiving Center Update: In early December, the Board sent its Crisis Receiving Center grant proposal and letters of support to the Community Action Committee of Pike

County, the lead applicant for the for the Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP). The Community Action Committee of Pike County has a total of six (6) health care projects in their application, which is titled "Building Healthy Appalachian Communities". The Board received formal confirmation on December 7th that it will receive ACGP Technical Assistance funding to hire a consultant to develop an operational and sustainability plan for the Crisis Receiving Center. The Board will be using TBD Solutions as the Consultant.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) said her report stands.

Katie Harper of NAMI SW Ohio said her report stands. Katie highlighted that NAMI will be adding two new support groups, called NAMI Connections, in Clermont County. One support group will be at the Miami Township Library and the other will be at the Goshen library. The groups will meet monthly and are intended for individuals living with mental illness.

Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura added that Child Focus' holiday donation program, the Giving Tree, served four-hundred thirty-seven (437) children, a 42% increase from 2022 and the highest number of children ever served. Child Focus also hosted Sensory Santa, an event which allows children with sensory issues to visit Santa in an environment that is more suited to their needs.

Hope Community Center's report stands.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. CY 2024 Juvenile Lease Agreement: The Board leases several offices in its building to the Juvenile Probation Department to provide spaces for Juvenile Probation Officers and the Juvenile Probation Virtual Learning Academy. Lee Ann Watson stated that the lease agreement remains the same as in past years. Lee Ann also mentioned that the Juvenile Probation building should be completed by late summer, and Probation staff should be moving out of the Board's building shortly after their building is finished. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY 2024 Juvenile Lease Agreement for offices in the Board's building at 2337 Clermont Center Drive Batavia, Ohio 45103 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
2. Election of Officers for CY 2024: Annually, in December, the Board must elect a slate of individuals to serve as Officers for the Board of Directors for the coming calendar year. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the slate of officers for the Board for CY 2024 as follows:

Chairperson – Patricia Lawrence
Vice-Chairperson – Andy Bateman
Treasurer – Jacki Block
Secretary – Greg Varner

(Motion-Tony Rees, second-Laura Perez).

3. Appalachian Community Grant Program Technical Assistance Grant Subrecipient Agreement with the Clermont County Port Authority. The Board received formal confirmation on December 7th that it received Appalachian Community Technical Assistance funding in the amount of \$39,900 to hire a consultant to develop an operational and sustainability plan for the Crisis Receiving Center that is planned to be located at the Board's office at 2337 Clermont Center Drive Batavia, Ohio 45103. To receive the funding, the Board must sign the Subrecipient Agreement. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Appalachian Community Grant Program Technical Assistance Grant Subrecipient Agreement with the Clermont County Port Authority and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Tony Rees).
4. Consultant Agreement with TBD Solutions for Operational and Sustainability Planning for the Crisis Receiving Center: TBD Solutions was identified as the Consultant to be utilized to develop an operational and sustainability plan for the Crisis Receiving Center. As mentioned above, funding for the Consultant is being provided by the Appalachian Community Technical Assistance Grant. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Consultant Agreement in the amount of \$39,900 with TBD Solutions for Operational and Sustainability Planning for the Crisis Receiving Center and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Susan Vilardo).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Selection of Committee Assignments for CY 2024: Board members made their committee selections. The final CY 2024 committee rosters as assigned by Chairperson Patricia Lawrence are as follows:

Program Committee

Andy Bateman-Chairperson
 Jenifer Binder
 Jara Bonner
 Joy Lytle
 Laura Perez
 Tony Rees
 Susan Vilardo
 Patricia Lawrence-ex officio

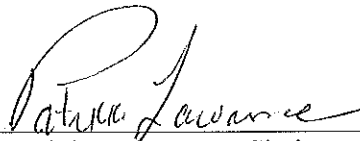
Finance Committee

Jacki Block-Chairperson
 Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell
 Rebecca Cochran-Kasson
 Greg Varner
 Patricia Lawrence-ex officio

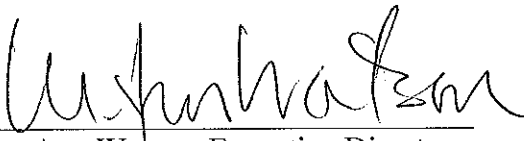
2. Levy Committee: Lee Ann Watson said that the Board's levy will soon be on the ballot and that she would like to form a Levy Committee to develop the levy campaign. Jara

Bonner, Laura Perez, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Patricia Lawrence, and Joy Lytle agreed to be on the Levy Committee.

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Susan Vilardo distributed cards and a poem which she wrote, and had published, to the Board and Board staff.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the December 11, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).



Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director