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MINUTES of March 13, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jen Binder, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Patricia Lawrence, Laura Perez, Tony Rees, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Nova Levante, Joy Lytle

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Jen Dorschug, Alicia Fine, Barb Isemann, Pamela Lindeman, Lauren McKelvey, Karen Tucker

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

1. Call to Order: The March 13, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person at 7:00 pm at 2337 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, Ohio 45103 with the option of guests joining in-person or virtually, via Zoom. 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 March 13, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting with the change of removing item # VI. B. 1. d. "Marketing Budget Line Item" as it was also on the agenda as VII. A. 1. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jacki Block).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Jara Bonner).
4. Oath of Office: Board members Andy Bateman of Loveland, Ohio, Jen Binder of Cincinnati, Ohio, Jacki Block of Batavia, Ohio, Jara Bonner of Milford, Ohio, Patricia Lawrence of Loveland, Ohio, Laura Perez of Milford, Ohio, Tony Rees of Batavia, Ohio, and Greg Varner of Cincinnati, Ohio were sworn in as members of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board of Directors by Notary, Cindy Knoblauch.
5. Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) Presentation-Care Management Services, Jen Dorschug: Jen Dorschug, Associate Vice President of Mental Health Services, provided information on the Care Management services at GCB. Care management services focus on assisting persons with severe and persistent mental illness on the development of skills, access to resources, and increasing an individual's quality of life and ability to manage symptoms of their illness, all with the goal of reaching recovery. GCB provides client-centered services in

locations that best meet the needs of the people served; whether that is in the client's home, in the community, or at the GCB offices. The intensity of the care management services are determined based on each person's individual need. The services are designed for adults and transition-aged youth who have been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness such as major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia. Jen stated that the lack of availability of safe affordable housing and transportation are often barriers that Care Managers face as they work with their clients to reach recovery. The presentation ended with a brief Q&A session. Jen's presentation was accompanied by a handout that outlined GCB's Mental Health Care Management Program.

6. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands as presented. Lee Ann added that Marcie Keith, the Board's newly hired Community Engagement Manager, was selected as the Southwest Ohio winner of the Everyday Heroes Award for her work in child abuse and neglect prevention. Marcie was nominated for the award by Family and Children First.

Lee Ann also added that in response to the dire need for housing in the community, NAMI Ohio has been assisting Clermont in connecting with a housing developer to explore the possibility of building supportive housing for individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness. Lee Ann stated she will keep the Board members apprised of the progress.

Lee Ann mentioned that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the operation of the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) program has yet to be released by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). GCB, who currently contracts with the BCC for staffing of the CASC program plans to re-apply for that contract once the RFP is released. The current contract between GCB and the BCC ends May 31.

7. Finance Committee: Jacki Block, Finance Chair provided a summary of the Finance Committee meeting that occurred prior to the Board meeting.
 - a. SOS 3.0 Award: The SOS 3.0 Award was received on January 13th, 2023 in the amount of \$842,075.22. Of that funding, \$807,276 will be allocated to GCB for the following: CASC staffing and operations, salaries and benefits for Peer Recovery Coaches, mileage, transitional housing support, and a Transitional Support Specialist. The remaining funding is allocated as follows, \$23,800.22 is budgeted for Board salary & fringes for administrative cost of managing the grant funding, and \$10,999 is budgeted for the harm reduction machine supplies.
 - b. SOR 2.0 No-Cost Extension (NCE) Award: The SOR 2.0 No Cost Extension (NCE) Award was received January 12th, 2023 in the amount of \$332,965.78. Of that amount, \$44,323.78 will be allocated to GCB for CASC supplies, Uber cards for client transportation, and staff training. On Our Way Home (OOWH) will receive \$13,642 for life skills activities for residents and utilities at OOWH's two recovery houses. The remaining \$275,000 will go to the BCC to support the CASC program. This will be the last fiscal year the Board will be able to fund the CASC program.
 - c. PATH Funding: The PATH outreach program was implemented to connect homeless residents with a suspected mental illness to treatment and housing services. The program is funded by the Department of Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS)

through the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and serviced by GCB in both Hamilton and Clermont Counties. In order for Clermont residents to be serviced by the PATH program, the Clermont Board is required to provide match funds based on the amount funded by the State. The Board had previously approved local match funding for the PATH program for SFY23 in the amount of \$11,624. However, there was an opportunity for additional federal dollars for FY23 which translates into an increase in the Board's match amount of \$2,109 for a total match amount of \$13,733. The Finance Committee recommended the Board approve the PATH agreement once it is available for signature.

- d. Board Marketing Line Item: Jacki Block stated that the Marketing Line Item will be discussed under the Unfinished Business section of the Board agenda.
8. Program Committee: Andy Bateman discussed the February 27, 2023 Program committee meetings with Child Focus and GCB.
- a. Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) requested that the Board provide funding to sustain the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) intensive care management program services that are currently being supported by a SAMHSA grant that is ending September 30, 2023. The additional amount GCB requested is \$110,007 per year. ACT provides intensive services to the most severely mentally ill clients.

GCB also requested consideration for possible future funding of CASC if needed.

- b. Child Focus requested additional funding for school-based services to provide additional school-based staff. Child Focus would also like the ability to bill monthly for 1/12 of the approved allocation rather than by fee for service. Child Focus also requested the Board's support in completing a needs assessment for school-based services before additional funding is awarded.

Child Focus further requested an increase in the Medicaid unit cost (billing rate) by 15% for School Based services, Diagnostic Assessment, Care Management and two other services. Currently, Ohio is looking to increase the Medicaid unit cost (billing rate) by up to 10%. The request is if the Ohio rate change is not approved. If this is approved, Child Focus would request that the Board also increase unit cost by 10% for clients without Medicaid. The Medicaid rates have not been increased for many years.

In addition, Child Focus is requesting a discussion and review of the current 24/7 in-person staffing for Mobile Crisis services. Staffing for the overnight shift is a challenge and minimal calls for service are received for in-person response during those hours.

Child Focus also plans to request funding for their Social Worker position who provides services at Domestic Relations Court. That position is currently being funded at \$75,000 per year through a SAMHSA grant that ends September 30, 2023. The position has been beneficial for the Court by providing support to family and children, a quick referral to treatment, and connection to resources. Child Focus will also discuss funding options for that position with the Court.

More information about the programmatic needs of the Provider Agencies will be discussed at the retreat on April 22.

9. Unfinished Business:

- a. Marketing Budget Line Item: Lee Ann Watson reminded the Board members that during the October 10, 2022 Board meeting, the Board discussed adding a marketing line item to the budget. Board staff suggested considering a marketing budget of \$10,000 per year once the Community Engagement Manager position was filled. The new Community Engagement Manager, Marcie Keith, presented to the Board members a proposed budget for FY23, and an explanation of the need for the replenishment of community outreach supplies as well as supplies that align with the new logo. A new budget for FY24 will be presented to the Board at the June Board meeting. Lee Ann explained that Board staff discussed the Marketing Budget Line Item at the Finance Committee, and recommended approval of the line item. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Marketing Budget Line Item in the amount of \$10,000 for FY2023. (Motion-Laura Perez, second-Tony Rees).

10. New Business-Action Items:

- a. SFY2023 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) CASC Agreement for SOR 2.0 NCE funding.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the SFY2023 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) CASC Agreement for SOR 2.0 NCE funding in the amount of \$275,000. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Jara Bonner).

- b. FY2023 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) POS Amendment for SOR 2.0 NCE Funding:

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2023 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) POS Amendment for SOR 2.0 NCE Funding in the amount of \$44,323.78 for CASC supplies. (Motion-Laura Perez, second-Greg Varner).

- c. FY2023 On Our Way Home (OOWH) MOU for SOR 2.0 NCE Funding: Lee Ann Watson stated that the Board staff recommended providing one-time SOR 2.0 NCE funding to assist OOWH until they receive their Capital Grant funding. The funding, in the amount of \$13,642, would be used for life skills activities for residents and utilities at OOWH's two recovery houses. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2023 On Our Way Home (OOWH) MOU for SOR 2.0 NCE Funding in the amount of \$13,642. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Jara Bonner).

- d. Harm Reduction Machine Placement: Lee Ann Watson explained to the Board members that plans to place the machine at another location did not work out. After discussing options with community partners, it was recommended that the machine be placed at the Board office. Associate Director Denny Moell explained that the machine will be a designated Project DAWN site and will be accessible to all community members by

anonymous registration. The machine will be stocked with health and wellness supplies and overdose prevention supplies. Board staff will stock the machine. Funding for the machine was made possible by a \$20,000 grant from Interact for Health. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the placement of the Harm Reduction Vending Machine outside the front of the Board's office building at 2337 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, Ohio 45103. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Jen Binder).

11. Discussion Items:

- a. Review of February Board Training: Lee Ann Watson opened the floor for questions or comments regarding the OACBHA Board training that was presented at the February 2023 Board meeting. Patricia Lawrence commented that she would like to review the Sunshine Laws and Open Meetings Act policy on OACBHA's website. Board staff advised they would locate and send that policy to Patricia.
- b. Strategic Planning Update: Lee Ann Watson stated that the Board staff are meeting with the Strategic Plan Consultant, Angie Carl, on March 15 to begin the process of creating the Board's revised strategic plan. Patricia Lawrence will also be attending the meeting. Angie Carl served as consultant when the Board last formalized its strategic plan in 2005 and she is currently assisting GCB with developing their plan.
- c. April Retreat: Lee Ann Watson said the retreat will be primarily focused on the development of the Strategic Plan and brainstorming on community priorities and needs. The retreat will kick off with the April Board meeting on April 22, 2023 at 9:00am and will continue with discussion about the Strategic Plan, FY24 programmatic needs requests, and the Gillette Ethical Budgeting guidelines.
- d. Brown County Care Center: Lee Ann Watson reminded the Board members that issues at Brown County Care Center (BCCC) such as bed bugs, understaffing, and other violations, were brought to the attention of the Board and OMHAS in late August 2022. GCB and Board staff met with the BCC owner and manager on multiple occasions, beginning in September, to provide guidance on what was needed to correct the issues. GCB developed a timeline for each concern, which was reviewed at each of the meetings with BCCC. Unfortunately, BCCC staff have not fixed the violations. OMHAS has been in communication with BCCC and provided a 30-day deadline to submit evidence that the violations were corrected. Due to the danger in BCCC not being able to maintain their certification, Board staff consulted the County Prosecutor's office on how to proceed. Since BCCC's OMHAS licensure was compromised, which is a breach of contract, the Prosecutor's Office advised to terminate the contract between the Board and BCCC through certified mail, which has been done. Clermont County has seven residents at the facility. The three Clermont residents who receive funding from the Board for their room and board will be moved to another contracted adult care facility known as Peebles Place Care Center, Inc. The other four Clermont residents, who receive Residential State Supplement (RSS) funding to pay for their room and board, are also being relocated.
- e. OneOhio Funding: Lee Ann Watson reported that she has begun conversations with County leadership about the OneOhio funding. The Board could be eligible to receive the State opioid settlement installments received by the County to support SUD treatment. The Board will need to submit a proposal to the BCC detailing how the funding will be utilized. The Board may also have an opportunity to apply for funding through Region

14's allocation of \$56 million from the opioid settlement. The project must be regional, and unanimously agreed upon by all the partners in Region 14.

- f. Expiration of Hope Community Center's Certification: Lee Ann Watson recently received notice that Hope Community Center's (HCC) certification through OMHAS had expired in 2021. During COVID-19, OMHAS was not able to complete site visits to finalize certification renewals, and therefore past due certifications were not addressed. The new HCC Director, Becky Mosteller, who started the position in July 2022, was unaware of the expiration. HCC will be submitting its certification renewal application to OMHAS within 30 days and will also be contracting with Recovery Center, a similar agency to HCC but in Hamilton County, for consulting.

12. Agency Directors' Reports:

Child Focus- Pamela Lindeman stated that the Child Focus report stands and added that Child Focus completed its CARF reaccreditation site visit on March 10, and she anticipates a full three-year reaccreditation.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services /Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC)- Alicia Fine said that GCB's report stands and added that GCB recently attended and participated in the Ohio Recovery Housing Conference. Two male residents of GCB's Merwin Recovery House were presenters at the conference as well as other GCB staff and peers. The presentations went very well. GCB staff also attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Forum in Washington D.C. in January, as did Board Associate Director Denny Moell.

Alicia added that GCB had nine clients recently graduate from the OVI Court treatment program. The program takes between 18 months and two years to complete. The treatment component of the OVI Court program is funded through grants directly awarded to GCB as well as OMHAS grants that pass through the Board to GCB.

Hope Community Center- Report stands.

NAMI, SW Ohio- Report stands.

13. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Lee Ann Watson announced that Board Member John Kelly had resigned earlier that day. With Mr. Kelly's resignation, the Board now has three open OMHAS appointed positions. There were no comments from public attendees at the March 13, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting.
14. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the March 13, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Tony Rees).



Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director