



2337 Clermont Center Drive • Batavia, Ohio 45103  
telephone 513.732.5400 • fax 513.732.5414 • TTY 800.750.0750  
website www.ccmhrb.com • Crisis Hotline 513.528.SAVE (7283)

### MINUTES of May 8, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andy Bateman, Jen Binder, Jacki Block, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Nova Levante, Greg Varner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jara Bonner, Patricia Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Laura Perez, Tony Rees

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Liz Atwell, Lucas Blackwood, Heather Coki, Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Barbara Isemann, Susan Vilardo

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

**STAFF EXCUSED:** Denny Moell

1. Call to Order: The May 8, 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. Vice-Chairperson Andy Bateman welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. All attendees introduced themselves as two potential new Board members were in attendance: Liz Atwell and Susan Vilardo.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the May 8, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Discussion Item 5. Cancellation of the July 2023 Board Meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Jen Binder).
3. Presentation-Judge Anita Bechmann: Judge Bechmann was unable to attend and will reschedule her presentation.
4. Presentation-Barbara Isemann, On Our Way Home: Barbara Isemann gave a PowerPoint presentation and update on the On Our Way Home recovery houses located in New Richmond and Bethel. The house in New Richmond is for men, and the house in Bethel is for women. Both houses have residents, and the majority of the residents have been successful in their recovery. The women's recovery house is having a bit more difficulty with keeping the beds full. Barbara stated that On Our Way Home recently received the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) Community Capital Project funding for approximately \$500,000 to cover the cost of buying and renovating the homes. The Board supported On Our Way Home's application for the Capital Project grant funding. Barbara shared that the Board has provided approximately \$80,000 in funding to On Our Way Home in FY2022 and FY2023. Utilizing Board funding, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) provides peer recovery services at the two

houses. Barbara explained the philosophy of the houses, including the requirements that residents must work and pay rent as well as attend addiction recovery meetings. The presentation also included videos of two personal success stories of residents at On Our Way Home. The presentation garnered a lot of questions from Board members.

5. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
6. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson and Associate Director Denny Moell said their reports stand. Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith added that she is working on restarting the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) subcommittee of the Clermont Addiction and Recovery Partnership (CARP).
7. Committee Reports:

A. Program Committee: Program Committee Chairperson Andy Bateman provided a summary and recommendations of the contract provider program funding requests:

**Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB):**

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT): ACT provides intensive services to the most severely mentally ill clients. The SAMHSA grant that funded ACT services will end September 30, 2023. GCB requested \$110,007 per year in Board funding to sustain ACT intensive care management program after the grant funding ends. In FY24, the Board's cost would be \$81,709 for 9 months. Andy Bateman stated that the program committee recommends approval of funding for ACT.

CASC: GCB did not request a specific amount from the Board to fund the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) but advocated for the continuation of funding to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to assist with the funding of the project. Andy Bateman stated that the Program Committee does not recommend approval of future funding for CASC.

**Child Focus:**

Medicaid Billing Unit Increase of %15: Child Focus requested a 15% increase in the Medicaid unit cost (billing rate) for School-based Services, Diagnostic Assessment, Care Management, and two other services. Currently, Ohio is looking to increase the Medicaid unit cost by up to 10% for certain behavioral health services. The request from Child Focus stands if the Ohio rate change is not approved. If it is approved, Child Focus requests that the Board increase unit costs for non-Medicaid clients by 10%. Andy Bateman stated that the Program Committee recommended tabling the decision to increase the Medicaid billing unit cost until a decision has been made regarding inclusion in the State budget. Andy also stated that the Program Committee might consider increasing the non-Medicaid unit cost if Medicaid unit cost is increased by the state.

School-based Services: Child Focus requested funding for additional school-based services staff. Andy Bateman stated that the Program Committee recommends tabling the decision on additional funding for school-based mental health staff until the needs assessment/program

evaluation has been completed. Andy informed the Board that Child Focus is in the process of applying for a grant to fund the needs assessment and stated that the Program Committee recommended that the Board provide funding if the grant is not awarded or assist to supplement any gaps that might not be covered by that grant.

Child Focus also requested changing the method by which school-based services are billed. Currently, school-based services are being billed and paid for by the Board for each unit delivered (fee for service). Child Focus stated that having the staff complete treatment notes for billing is interfering with providing services and requested that funding be provided in a lump sum each month (grant funded). Andy Bateman stated that the Program Committee did not recommend approving the change in structure of billing and wants to continue the philosophy of fee for service reimbursement which gives a more accurate indication of clients served.

Crisis Services: At the February Program Committee meeting Child Focus mentioned the possibility of rethinking the 24/7 in-person Mobile Crisis response since utilization was low and staffing was a major challenge. Recently, Child Focus informed the Executive Director that they do want to continue the 24/7 in-person Mobile Crisis response since the 24/7 access is needed to meet the fidelity requirements for the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services program (MRSS) and requirements of GCB's recent grant application to continue the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). Andy stated that the Program Committee would like to schedule a Program Committee meeting to further discuss the need for the service with Child Focus.

Domestic Court Position: Child Focus originally requested that the Board fund the continuation of the Domestic Court Liaison position. Currently, the Domestic Court Liaison position is funded through a federal grant that ends on September 30, 2023. Andy stated that Child Focus informed Board staff that funding of the after-hours Mobile Crisis response is a higher priority and funding to support the continuation of the Domestic Court position will be obtained through other means.

#### **NAMI of SW Ohio:**

NAMI has been focusing more heavily on Clermont County, and particularly our more rural communities. NAMI has increased the support groups and educational trainings provided in Clermont County. The Board currently funds NAMI in the amount of \$30,000. The funding was increased to \$30,000 in 2020. NAMI cannot obtain funding from any other source for operational costs to support the programming. The request is to increase the budget to \$50,000. Andy Bateman stated that more information is needed related to the number of County residents served, the specific plan for funding and expected outcomes for the additional funding, and that the Program Committee would like to meet with NAMI to discuss their request.

#### **Hope Community Center (HCC):**

HCC would benefit from additional leadership support since HCC is currently being operated by two part-time peers. OMHAS regulations have increased for peer services. In order for HCC to meet the increased requirements of OMHAS for certification of the service, increased structure, and funding at HCC will be needed. There has been discussion about the possibility of the Recovery Center in Hamilton County becoming more involved in the

operation of HCC on a longer-term basis. Hope Community Center has not yet made a formal funding request. However, Board staff are in communication with Recovery Center regarding future direction. Andy Bateman stated that the Program Committee recommends an additional Program Committee meeting to review Recovery Center's proposal once more details are gathered.

**Survivors of Suicide Support Group:**

The lack of a survivors of suicide support group in Clermont County is a gap in our Continuum of Care. Two clinicians from Child Focus were recently trained in a model to lead such a support group. In order to close this gap, the Board is being asked to fund the support group through Child Focus at \$5,000/year. Andy Bateman stated that the Program Committee recommends approval of funding for \$5000 to Child Focus to lead the support group.

B. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block gave a summary of the Finance Committee meeting held that evening prior to the Board of Directors' meeting. In the House-passed version of HB 33, the 421-line item was decreased from the as introduced version, and additional earmarks were added. The combination of the reduction and the earmarks would result in a real dollar cut of approximately 15%, or \$301,590 per year for the Board's base allocations. Knowing that, the Finance Committee makes the following recommendations to the full Board for formal approval at the June, 2023 meeting, pending further information on the state budget:

**GCB's ACT Services-**To approve funding at \$110,000 per fiscal year (81,000 for FY24).

**Survivors of Suicide Support Group-**To approve funding to Child Focus to facilitate the support group in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**Board Operational Expenses-** The Finance Committee is also making recommendations to "right-size" the Board's FY24 operational expenses budget to align with recent inflation. The Committee would like to add an estimated 9% to the budget for expenses such as utilities and building insurance. The Committee would also like to set aside \$25,000 for unexpected operational costs.

**Clinical Services Set-Aside-** The Committee would like to set aside \$250,000 in FY24 for clinical services. This recommendation will be voted on at the June Board meeting. All recommendations will be approved at the June Board meeting.

Jacki Block said in response to the cut in funding at the state level, the Board's State Association, OACBHA, strongly recommends advocacy from Board members to lobby having the 421-line item returned to the originally proposed amount in the State Budget. Board staff will send a template letter to Board members to use in their personal advocacy to Senator Johnson.

8. Unfinished Business: NONE

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Flexible Work Arrangements Personnel Policy: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Flexible Work Arrangements Personnel Policy which allows the Executive Director the authority to permit employees to work flexible/alternative schedules as needed, while maintaining the effectiveness of Board operations. (Motion-Nova Levante, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

B. Discussion Items

1. Review of Board Retreat/Strategic Planning Process: Lee Ann Watson informed the Board members that the strategic planning process is going well. Board staff and two Board members have met with the Strategic Planning Consultant twice since the Board Retreat. Lee Ann asked the Board for any comments or feedback on the Retreat and/or the Strategic Plan. Greg Varner said the Strategic Plan will hopefully be completed by summer for discussion and review by the Board members. Andy Bateman said he found the Gillette Priority Grid handout that was shared at the Retreat to be very helpful as it provides a guideline for prioritization of Board funded services. Andy also said that he appreciated the annual Retreat as a whole since it gives existing and new Board members an opportunity to delve further into discussion to increase the understanding of the Board's role. Andy closed by telling the Board that he believes they are all capable of carrying out the Board's task at hand as the behavioral health leader in Clermont County and he is encouraged by the strength of the Board as one entity.
  2. Update on Strategic Planning Process: No further comments.
  3. Review of State Biennial Budget: No further discussion.
  4. Total Wellness Event: Marcie Keith reminded the Board that the Total Wellness Event is being held on May 20, 2023 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Board is partnering with Public Health and West Clermont School District for the event. The event is slotted to have 28 vendors and will focus on the mind/body connection of total wellbeing. Marcie encouraged the Board members to stop by the event.
  5. Cancellation of the July 2023 Board meeting: In consideration of the uncertainty of the State's biennial budget, Board members discussed cancelling the July 2023 Board meeting to give the Committees more time to process funding requests for FY24. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to cancel the July 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
10. Agency Directors' Reports: Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) said her report stands. Alicia gave a brief summary of GCB's recent activity. She informed the Board members that the Drug Free Coalition recently participated in the "We are the Change" rally. There has also been an increase in referrals to the Adolescent Treatment Program at CRC. Alicia also told the Board members about the new ITP Court Docket at Municipal Court.

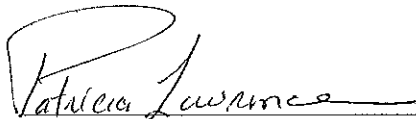
Heather Cokl of Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of GCB, said her report stands.

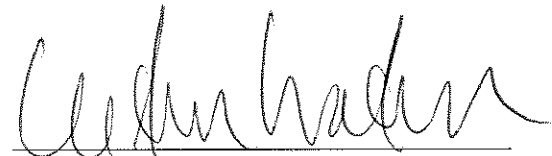
Susan Graham of Child Focus said her report stands. Susan provided a brief summary of Child Focus's recent activity including that the agency now has staff in every Clermont County school

district and that Dr. Laura Stith is being recognized at an upcoming Cincinnati Reds' Mental Health Awareness Day baseball game.

Hope Community Center's and NAMI of SW Ohio's reports stand.

11. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Board staff announced the Clermont County Fair is July 23 through July 29 and the Board will need volunteers to cover its booth at the Fair. The Fair booth schedule will be available at the June Board meeting for Board members to sign up for time slots. The Board's booth theme will be focused on mental/emotional wellness.
12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the May 8, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Jen Binder).

  
Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson

  
Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director