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### MINUTES of October 9, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Liz Atwell, Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Patty Lawrence, Tony Rees, Greg Varner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jen Binder, Jara Bonner, Nova Levante, Joy Lytle, Laura Perez, Susan Vilardo (joined by Zoom)

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Heather Cokl, Susan Graham, Katie Harper

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

1. Call to Order: The October 9, 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 October 9, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Tony Rees).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
4. Training-NAMI of Southwest Ohio, Katie Harper: Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Southwest Ohio (NAMI), Katie Harper, presented on the supports NAMI provides in Clermont County. NAMI's mission is to provide advocacy, education, support, and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. NAMI's services are free and include classes, presentations, and support groups. In Clermont County for FY 2023, NAMI served two-thousand, seven-hundred, thirty-seven people, gave one-hundred sixty-two presentations and classes, and served five school districts. In FY 2024, NAMI projects to serve three-thousand, three-hundred, fifty-eight people, give three-hundred eight classes, and serve six school districts.

5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands.

Associate Director Denny Moell said he attended the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) National Forum in Washington D.C. on August 29-August 31, 2023. The Forum featured both training and practical information on comprehensive responses to substance use disorders and overdoses that prioritize prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction efforts.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith stated that the Suicide Prevention Coalition held its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Suicide Candlelight Vigil on September 7, 2023 at Sycamore Park in Batavia. Marcie reported the event was a success in both attendance and vendor participation. The event featured a reading of the names of those lost to suicide, the reading of the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) Proclamation on Suicide Prevention Week by Commissioner David Painter, a light-up remembrance ornament tree, and music by West Clermont School's choir, Alpha.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jackie Block summarized the information from that evening's Committee meeting. Jacki said the FY 2023 agency budget reconciliation is nearly complete. Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) underearned its FY23 contract by \$318,010, and Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of GCB, underearned its FY 2023 contract by \$255,480. Reconciliation for Child Focus has not yet been completed, but it is estimated that Child Focus underearned its FY 2023 contract by \$496,841. The contributing factor for underearning for the agencies was workforce issues. Final reconciliation numbers will be brought to the Finance Committee in November. Jacki also reported that the Board's revenues and expenditures are on track.

Jacki stated that the State FY24-26 biennial budget included an increase in Medicaid rates for reimbursement of community behavioral health services. The rates have not increased since 2016 and prior to that it had been over 20 years since the last rate increase. The new rates would take effect on January 1, 2024. The average increase in rates would be approximately 12.65%. The Board has traditionally matched the non-Medicaid rates to the Medicaid rates. Jacki informed the Board members that if the Board chooses to match these increased rates, it would have an estimated impact on Board expenses in FY 2024 of \$118,998 and in FY 2025, \$237,996. By recommendation of the Finance Committee, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Board to match the new behavioral health Medicaid rates for services provided to individuals without Medicaid effective January 1, 2024. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

Jacki also gave an update on the State Opioid and Stimulant Response 2.0 No Cost Extension and the State Opioid and Stimulant Response 3.2 (SOS 3.2) funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS). Jacki reminded the Board members that the SOS 2.0 No Cost Extension funding, which providing funding to the County to support the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC), ended on September 29, 2023. The Board's SFY 2024 SOS 3.2 (Year 2) allocation will be reduced by \$94,263 which brings the total amount funded to approximately \$1,175,000. The

Committee discussed sustainability and funding priorities. In light of the SOS reduction in funding for SFY 2024 and the end of the SOS 2.0 No Cost Extension, the Finance Committee recommended concluding the funding to the BCC for the CASC program in order to continue funding services based on Board priorities. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation of ending funding to the BCC for the CASC program for SFY24. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Liz Atwell).

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. Changes to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 340: One of the recent changes to ORC 340 states that County Commissioners are authorized to determine the size of the governing boards of Mental Health and Recovery Boards with options of nine, twelve, fourteen, fifteen, or eighteen members. Lee Ann Watson discussed this change with Commissioner Batchler who requested that Lee Ann present the Board's recommendations at a BCC session. After some discussion, the general consensus of the Board members was to reduce the size of the Board of Directors of the Mental Health and Recovery Board (CCMHRB) from a fourteen-member Board to a twelve-member Board. Lee Ann said she will ask the BCC to attend the November 2023 Board meeting to hear the feedback of the Board members so that a formal decision can be made by the BCC.
- B. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Crisis Funding Update: The Southwest Collaborative is still moving forward with purchasing the property in Clinton County for a short-term mental health residential facility utilizing ARPA I funding. The Collaborative is still awaiting legal approval on the letter of intent for the purchase of the property. Lee Ann reminded the Board that no Board areas in the Southwest Collaborative were awarded ARPA II funding. The Boards in the Southwest Collaborative met with OMHAS Director Lori Criss and several of her staff on September 26th to discuss why the Southwest Ohio region was not awarded the funding. According to OMHAS, the Southwest Ohio proposals were scored the lowest of all the regions and did not meet some of the required criteria. The Collaborative provided OMHAS with feedback related to the confusion around what was considered an eligible project, and the miscommunication related to the requirement for a regional based project. The Southwest Collaborative will be meeting with OMHAS again in several weeks to determine a plan.
- C. FY 2024-FY 2026 Strategic Plan: As discussed at the September 11, 2023 Board meeting, the Board members agreed to review the FY 2024-2026 Strategic Plan prior to voting on it at the October 9, 2023 Board meeting. Lee Ann Watson advised the Board that all suggested changes had been made to the document. Patty Lawrence made note of the sections of the Plan that specifically relate to Board member responsibilities. There were no further edits or comments on the Plan.

8. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Updated Strategic Plan for FY 2024-FY 2026: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2024-FY 2026 Strategic Plan as presented. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
2. Resolution on the Board's Opposition of the Legalization of Marijuana, State Issue 2 on the November 2023 ballot: The Board members discussed the pros and cons of the legalization of marijuana. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve

the Resolution that states the Board opposes State Issue 2, the legalization of marijuana. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Andy Bateman).

3. FY 2024 PATH Agreement with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board for services for homeless individuals with an increase to the Board's match amount, for a total of \$13,733: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2024 PATH Agreement with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
4. Agreement with On Our Way Home (OOWH) for SOS Recovery Housing funding in the amount of \$21,000: The Board was awarded additional funding from OMHAS for recovery housing. OOWH operates two recovery houses in Clermont County. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agreement with OOWH as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Tony Rees).
5. Amendment to the FY 2024 Purchase of Services (POS) Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) for SOS Recovery Housing funding in the amount of \$10,000: The Board was awarded additional funding from OMHAS for recovery housing. GCB operates two recovery houses in Clermont County. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Amendment to the FY 2024 POS contract with GCB as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Greg Varner).
6. Amendment to the FY 2024 Purchase of Services Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) for Community Transition Program (CTP) funding in the amount of \$50,000. Similar to previous years, the Board was awarded CTP funding from OMHAS. GCB is the agency that provides these services. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Amendment to the FY 2024 POS contract with GCB as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Child Focus and Children's Protective Services Holiday Donations: Both Child Focus and Clermont County's Children's Protective Services have launched their charity drive campaigns. Board staff invited Board members to join the staff group in donating to these two causes if they so choose. Board members asked Board staff to send the links to the two charity campaigns.
2. SOS SFY 2024 Funding: This item was discussed during the Finance Committee section of the agenda.

9. Agency Directors' Reports:

Susan Graham of Child Focus said her report stands. Susan added that Child Focus is holding its annual fundraising dinner on October 12 at the Little Miami Brewing Event Center in Milford, Ohio. This year's event is called "Encourage the Heart: Rockin' on the River." Susan also reported that Child Focus received a no-cost extension on their SAMHSA grant from September 30, 2023 through February, 2024. Next, Susan informed the Board that the school-based mental

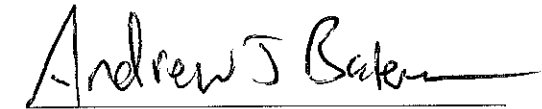
health program needs assessment/evaluation is progressing. The assessment/evaluation is being funded through an Interact for Health grant and the evaluation will be conducted by the University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center. Lastly, Susan said that Child Focus received word earlier that day from OMHAS, that there will be changes to the Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) funding model at the state level.

Heather Cokl of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)/Clermont Recovery Center (CRC) said her report stands. Heather thanked the Board for the Appreciation Week gifts, the decision to match the Medicaid billing rate increase, and for the decision to oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana. Heather also mentioned that the ACT and WIN programs passed the Fidelity Reviews with great feedback. Heather added that GCB had hired the PATH SUD outreach person.

Hope Community Center's report stands.

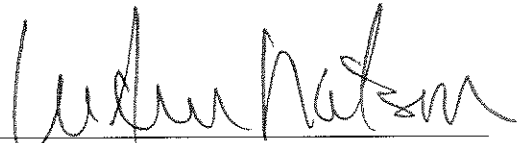
NAMI of Southwest Ohio's report stands.

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the October 9, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the October 9, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Tony Rees).



~~Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson~~

Andrew Buteman  
acting chair



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director