



MINUTES of February 9, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell (Zoom), Gretchen Behimer, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joe Ellison, Jeff Higgins, Mark Johnson, Patty Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Nathan O’Der, Laura Perez (Zoom)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tony Rees

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey (Zoom)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Alicia Fine, Beth McManus, Kale Stewart, Laura Stith

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

1. Call to Order: The February 9, 2026, Board of Directors’ meeting was conducted in person and virtually at 7:00 pm from the temporary Board office building at 4357 Ferguson Drive, Suite 230, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245. Chairperson Gretchen Behimer 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 February 9, 2026 Board of Directors’ meeting with the addition of: Item #V., B. 2. “Succession Planning Committee”, a. “Review of February 9, 2026 Meeting”. (Motion-Nathan O’Der, second-Mark Johnson).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2026 Board of Directors’ meeting as corrected. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Nathan O’Der).
4. Training: NONE
5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said that her report stands.

Associate Director Denny Moell’s report stands.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith’s report stands.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Program Committee: The Program Committee met on February 2, 2026 via Zoom at 7:00 pm. Committee Chair Liz Atwell summarized that evening's meeting. The Committee reviewed the draft of the Calendar Year 2026-2028 (CY26-28) Community Assessment Plan (CAP). The CAP includes a community needs assessment, measures to address those needs, and a listing of Clermont's crisis and behavioral health services. In addition, the Committee discussed agency mid-year funding requests. Child Focus reported no funding requests but has been discussing with Board staff the increase in behavioral health concerns for pre-kindergarten aged children. Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) anticipates being overspent on the FY26 Contract by \$175,000 (\$150,000 in substance use disorder services and \$25,000 in mental health services). Lastly, the Committee discussed the alignment of agency funding needs with the Gillette Model priority grid. The Committee will be meeting with the Board's Provider Agencies on February 17, 2026. The Board will further discuss the Program Committee meeting outcomes at the Board's annual Retreat on March 7, 2026.

B. Board Member Succession Planning Subcommittee: The Succession Planning Committee met on February 9, 2026 via Zoom at 1:00 pm. Committee Chair Nathan O'Der said that Committee members met with Executive Director Lee Ann Watson and had a productive discussion on the development of a succession plan for Board members. The Board will further discuss the Succession Planning Committee meeting outcomes at the Board's annual Retreat on March 7, 2026.

7. Unfinished Business: NONE

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura added that Child Focus is seeing a 27% increase from last year in Crisis Hotline calls. Laura also highlighted some of the second quarter outcomes for the School-Based Mental Health redesign; including a reported 100% staff retention rate and 100% of school staff satisfaction with services. Lastly, Child Focus will be hosting a charity Cornhole Tournament at Little Miami Brewing Event center on March 18, 2026.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center's (GCB/CRC) report stands. Alicia Fine added that GCB's Primary Healthcare Clinic is thriving with two hundred seventy-four (274) enrollments. GCB has also started referring clients to Transitional Living of Southwest Ohio (TLSO) and A Perfect Stay.

Hope Community Center's (HCC) report stands.

NAMI of SW Ohio's report stands.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. FY27 Purchase of Services (POS) Contract Standards: A motion was made, and approved by majority vote, to table the FY27 POS Contract Standards until a legal opinion is obtained regarding the addition of requiring legal United States citizenship to receive

Board funded services. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Patty Lawrence). Liz Atwell-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Jeff Higgins-nay, Mark Johnson-yea, Joy Lytle-yea, Nathan O'Der-yea, Laura Perez-yea.

2. CY26 Perkins/Carmack Construction Contract for Crisis Receiving Center: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY26 Perkins/Carmack Construction Contract for \$1,385,000 for the Crisis Receiving Center as presented. (Motion-Mark Johnson, second-Jara Bonner).
3. CY2026-2028 Community Assessment and Plan (CAP): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY2026-2028 CAP as presented. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Joe Ellison).
4. Updated Procurement Card Policy 10.08: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Updated Procurement Card Policy 10.08 as presented to mirror the spending limits approved by the Board of County Commissioners. (Motion-Mark Johnson, second-Jeff Higgins).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Provider Agency Mid-Year Revisions: Erica Pursley informed the Board members that the Board's Provider Agencies had no mid-year revisions. However, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) did notify Board staff that GCB anticipates overspending its FY26 POS contract by \$150,000 in substance use disorder services and \$25,000 in mental health services. The Board will discuss this matter further at its annual Board Retreat on March 7, 2026.
2. Annual Conflict of Interest Statements: Board staff requested that all Board members and staff submit a signed Conflict of Interest Declaration for calendar year 2026.
3. Retreat Agenda Topics: The Board listed the following topics for the Board Retreat on March 7, 2026.
 - Gillette Priority Grid Update
 - Strategic Plan Update
 - Crisis Receiving Center
 - Board Succession Plan
 - Financial Projections
 - Community Assessment and Plan (CAP)/Community Needs
 - FY27 Agency Funding Needs
4. Review of Board Meeting Evaluations: The Board will discuss the Board meeting evaluations at the annual Board Retreat on March 7, 2026.

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Kale Stewart of On Our Way Home (OOWH) said that OOWH would like to contribute to the Board's Community Assessment Plan (CAP).
11. Executive Session-Personnel Matter: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Patty Lawrence). Elizabeth Atwell-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Jeff Higgins-yea, Mark Johnson-yea, Joy Lytle-yea, Laura Perez-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:06 pm.
- A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson). Elizabeth Atwell-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Jeff Higgins-yea, Mark Johnson-yea, Joy Lytle-yea, Nathan O'Der-yea, Laura Perez-yea. The Board moved back into Regular Session at 8:29 pm.
- The Board discussed the matter of CY2026 salary actions for the Executive Director. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the maximum salary increase for the Executive Director. (Motion-Mark Johnson, second-Patty Lawrence).
12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the February 9, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).



Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director