Clermont County
MENTAL HEALTH
& RECOVERY BOARD

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MINUTES of September 14, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Gretchen Behimer, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson (online), Joy Lytle, Nathan O'Der, Laura Perez (online), Tony Rees

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joe Ellison, Jeff Higgins, Patty Lawrence

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Chaney (online)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey

GUESTS PRESENT: Jen Dorschug, Alicia Fine, Krissie Myers, Audrey Peterman, Kale Stewart, Laura Stith, Joe Wessels

STAFF PRESENT: Cindy Knoblauch, Erica Pursley, Kelsey Smothers, Lee Ann Watson

STAFF EXCUSED: Denny Moell

1. Call to Order: The September 14, 2026, Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person and virtually at 7:00 pm at 4357 Ferguson Drive, Suite 230, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245. Chairperson Gretchen Behimer welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. All attendees introduced themselves due to new guests being present.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the September 14, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Action Item # VIII. A. 9. NHO Resolution for Capital Funding. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Jara Bonner).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes as corrected from the July 13, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jara Bonner).
4. Training: Child Focus-School Based Mental Health Services Update: Krissie Myers gave a PowerPoint presentation that included a brief summarization of the old and new School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) models and a review of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 data outcomes for SBMH services. Krissie reviewed outcomes pertaining to staffing, service delivery, accessibility of services, and clinical outcomes. Board staff will provide the Board members with slides from the presentation for closer review. The Board members provided positive feedback on the data.

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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 Coordinator Kelsey Smothers' report stands.

6. Committee Reports:
   A. Finance Committee-Review of September 14, 2026 Meeting:
      1. Review of Fiscal Reports: Board staff summarized that evening's Finance Committee meeting for the full Board. At the meeting, the Committee approved the FY26 and FY27 Profit and Loss Statements.

      2. GCB Crisis Receiving Center Budget: The Finance Committee also reviewed the Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services' (GCB) proposed Crisis Receiving Center Budget. GCB is the Provider Agency the Board has asked to operate the Crisis Receiving Center, which is currently under construction. An agreed upon budget is necessary to move forward with contracting with GCB in order to begin hiring staff for the Center. The proposed annual budget is $2,272,179 which includes staffing, but not start-up costs such as equipment, supplies, and furniture. The start-up costs will be covered by the Board's capital funding. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed budget and discussion with the full Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve GCB's proposed Crisis Receiving Center Budget with annual expenses of $2,272,179 as presented. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Tony Rees).

   B. Strategic Planning Committee-Review of August 25, 2026 Meeting: Lee Ann Watson stated that the Strategic Planning Committee met on August 25 to review the final revisions of the Board's 2027-2029 Strategic Plan. The new 2027-2029 Strategic Plan will be presented at the October 19, 2026 meeting for formal Board review and approval.

   C. Succession Planning Committee: Committee Chair Nathan O'Der reminded the Board members that Board member Mark Johnson resigned, leaving one County-appointed position open on the Board of Directors. Nathan said that there has been an application submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), but it has not yet been sent to Lee Ann Watson. Once it is received, the Board of Directors will have the opportunity to review the application. Nathan also asked Board members to encourage other interested parties to apply as well.

7. Unfinished Business:
   A. Alternative Living Solutions (ALS) Increase Request: The Board approved the FY27 ALS contract at the May 11, 2026 meeting with a per diem rate set at the FY26 rate. However, ALS later requested a per diem increase for which the Board denied at its June 8, 2026 meeting. Lee Ann Watson informed ALS of the Board's denial of the request to increase the FY27 per diem rate and has not yet heard back from the ALS Director.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Laura Stith said that Child Focus' report stands. Laura added that Child Focus will be hosting its annual *Encourage the Heart: Rockin' on the River* fundraiser at

Little Miami Brewing Company Event Center on October 8, 2026. Laura also said that Child Focus recently completed its Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Accreditation survey. Child Focus will receive the final outcome of the accreditation survey in about six (6) weeks and will share them with the Board. Initial results from the surveyors were positive, and the survey team was very complimentary of services provided by Child Focus.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services' (GCB) report stands. Jen Dorschug added that GCB staff, along with the Board's Associate Director Denny Moell and Magistrate Brown from the Clermont County Probate Court, presented at a recent DBH Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Meeting. Jen reported that Clermont's presentation was well received and that Clermont County was the only county that had a Magistrate present.

Hope Community Center's report stands

NAMI of Southwest Ohio's report stands.

9. New Business:
   A. Action Items
      1. Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Agreement with Talbert House for Operation of the Transitional Living of Southwest Ohio (TLSO) Residential Facility: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Agreement with Talbert House as presented and to authorize the Executive Director and Board Chair to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Tony Rees).

      2. Adoption of Updated Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards Internal Controls Policies and Procedures: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve Adoption of Updated Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards Internal Controls Policies and Procedures as presented. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Liz Atwell).

      3. Addendum to the FY27 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) Purchase of Service (POS) Contract for Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Funding for System of Care (SOC) Youth and Family Funding: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY27 GCB/CRC POS for DBH Funding for SOC Youth and Family Funding in the amount of $250,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Jara Bonner).

      4. Addendum to the FY27 GCB/CRC POS for DBH Funding for Rural Outreach: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY27 GCB/CRC POS for DBH Funding for Rural Outreach in the amount of $90,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Tony Rees).

      5. FY27 Juvenile Court Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for DBH funding for Addiction Treatment Program (ATP) Court Docket Administrative Costs: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Juvenile Court/Family

Dependency Docket MOU for DBH Funding for ATP Court Docket administrative costs in the amount of $1,768 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jara Bonner).

6. FY27 Municipal Court MOU for DBH Funding for ATP Court Docket Administrative Costs: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Municipal Court/OVI Docket MOU for DBH Funding for ATP Court Docket administrative costs in the amount of $4,889 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Liz Atwell).

7. Addendum to the FY27 GCB/CRC POS Contract for DBH funding for ATP Services for eligible participants of OVI and Family Dependency Courts: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY27 GCB POS Contract for DBH ATP funding in the amount of $53,343 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Joy Lytle).

8. FY27 MOU with On Our Way Home (OOWH) for DBH Overdose Awareness Day Funding in the Amount of $7,582.50 for the "Hope Lives Here" event: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 MOU with OOWH for DBH Overdose Awareness funding and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Tony Rees).

9. Resolution in Support of New Housing Ohio (NHO) Receiving DBH Capital Funding for the Residential Facility Project in Felicity: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Resolution in support of NHO receiving DBH Capital Funding in the amount of $200,000 for the residential facility project in Felicity and to authorize the Executive Director and Board Chair to sign the Resolution on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Tony Rees).

B. Discussion Items:
   1. GCB Changes to Open Access at Clermont Recovery Center and Impact to the System of Care: Jen Dorschug gave a presentation on the change. Beginning on September 14, 2026, GCB transitioned its open access from its Clermont Recovery Center location in Batavia, to its Amelia office. The intent of the change is to provide integrated, comprehensive care to clients; to expand client access to other GCB services such as the Behavioral Health Urgent Care, Primary Care, and the Living Room; to improve client management and ease of being connected to treatment; to have all initial assessments done at one location; and to increase GCB's financial efficiency. Jen stated that all staff at the Amelia office are dually trained in mental health and substance use disorder treatment and assessment. GCB does not foresee a negative impact on Clermont's system of care. The Board expressed concern that they were not informed on the matter prior to the change.

   2. Reminder that the October Meeting is on the Third Monday of the Month: Board staff reminded Board members and attendees that due to Indigenous People's Day falling on the regularly scheduled Board meeting day of the second Monday of each month, October

Board meetings take place on the third Monday of the month. Therefore, this year the October meeting will be held on October 19th.

3. Cancellation of November 9, 2026 Board meeting: The Board discussed the possible cancellation of the November 9, 2026 Board meeting. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to cancel the November 9, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Nathan O'Der).

4. Opioid Settlement Agreement with the Clermont Board of County Commissioners (BCC): Lee Ann Watson received the second draft of the Opioid Settlement Funding Agreement from the BCC that formally earmarks Clermont's settlement dollars for the operational costs for the Crisis Receiving Center. The Prosecutor's Office is currently reviewing the agreement. Lee Ann will keep the Board posted on any changes to the status of the agreement.

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the September 14, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the September 14, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Tony Rees).

Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson

Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director