

MINUTES of July 14, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Gretchen Behimer (by Zoom), Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joe Ellison, Patty Lawrence, Laura Perez (by Zoom), Tony Rees

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joy Lytle

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey (by Zoom)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Judge Anita Bechmann, Jen Dorschug, Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Julia Saldanha

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

1. Call to Order: The July 14, 2025, Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person and virtually at 7:00 pm from the Board office at 2337 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, Ohio, 45103. Vice-Chairperson Liz Atwell welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order.

Clermont County Municipal Court Judge Anita Bechmann thanked the Board of Directors and Board staff for all their hard work and efforts to make Clermont County a safer community. Judge Bechmann also said she supports the Board's work and is very impressed with the Board's progress and community collaboration.

2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the July 14, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Patty Lawrence).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion- Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Tony Rees).
4. Training: Board Staff, Denny Moell-CARP: The Clermont Addiction Recovery Partnership (CARP), one of the Board's coalitions, is a strategic initiative to combat substance misuse, addiction, and overdose deaths in Clermont County. CARP addresses harm reduction strategies, mitigation of risks from legalized substances, and expansion of recovery opportunities, with specific activities and outcome measurements for each strategic goal. Denny Moell gave a slideshow presentation that highlighted CARP's goals, strategies, initiatives, and achievements.

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

Associate Director Denny Moell's report stands.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith's report stands.

6. Committee Reports:

- A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met prior to the Board of Directors' meeting on July 14, 2025 at 6:00pm. Finance Committee Chair Patty Lawrence summarized that evening's meeting.

Review of Financials: Patty stated that the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) Profit and Loss Statement as of July 7, 2025. Patty said that the updated statement showed the Board having a total income of \$9,768,279 and total expenditures of \$7,658,469.

Adam/Amanda Residential Facility Operating Cost: Patty Lawrence reported that the Finance Committee approved a budget of up to \$240,000 annually for the three (3) beds available for Clermont County clients at the new Adam/Amanda Residential Facility in Warren County. Once a formal agreement is drafted, it will be brought before the Board as an action item.

Patty Lawrence said that the Committee recommended approval of the FY26 Purchase of Services (POS) Contracts as follows:

Child Focus: \$2,297,504

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services: \$1,897,641

Clermont Recovery Center: \$1,615,587.90

Total POS Contracts: \$5,810,732.90

SFY26 Board Budget: Patty Lawrence stated that the Committee reviewed the Board's SFY2026 budget. The budget included an annual income of \$6,899,752 and annual expenses of \$7,683,689. This means, as of right now, the Board will be deficit spending in FY26. However, we have not yet received all of the FY26 allocations from OMHAS. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Board budget as presented. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

SFY26 GCB Recovery Coach Funding: Patty Lawrence reminded the Board members that in response to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center's (GCB/CRC) FY26 POS funding request for full-time Peer Recovery Coaches, the Board had requested a detailed budget for the positions. The positions are currently funded by OMHAS SOS funding which is set to expire on September 29, 2025. Board staff received and reviewed the requested budget of \$145,893, which includes funding for two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. Board staff also mentioned Municipal Court and Family Recovery Court would be providing funding for 1.5 additional FTEs. The Finance Committee supported two (2) FTEs for Recovery Coaches and approved the FY26 POS budget as presented.

SFY25 Child Focus Request for Redistribution of POS Contract: Patty Lawrence stated that the Committee is deferring action on the request from Child Focus to redistribute FY25 POS budget funding from the medication and therapy line item to the prevention services line item, which is a capped service. The dilemma was that the Board of Directors had already approved a redistribution to preventions services in the amount of \$36,000 in February 2025 and that the prevention services line-item is capped. Susan Graham of Child Focus advised the Board the reason for a second FY25 redistribution request was due to an unexpected spike in crisis referrals to the Crisis Response Team and a rise in youth mental health needs in School Based Mental Health prevention services. Susan also said that the total redistribution request amount is for \$41,532 and that Child Focus will still be underspent on its FY25 POS Contract. A motion was made, and approved by majority vote, to approve Child Focus's request to redistribute FY25 POS budget line-item funding in the amount of \$41,532 from medication and therapy to prevention services. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Tony Rees). Liz Atwell-opposed, Gretchen Behimer-not able to vote due to Zoom connection issues, Jara Bonner-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Patty Lawrence-opposed, Laura Perez-yea.

Board Reserves Balance Correction: During Board staff's recent financial discussions with the County Office of Management and Budget around Board levy funding, a Board reserves balance correction was made to ensure the reserves account accurately reflects Board-approved allocations and actual fund activity. This adjustment resolved a discrepancy in prior period entries and has had a meaningful impact on the Board's financial planning. The reserves balance discrepancy between the County's records and the Board's records has been researched and found to have been incorrect prior to 2009, based on data obtained from the County's Munis accounting program. Going forward, Board staff will reconcile monthly to the County's fund balance in Munis. As a result, the Levy Committee is now positioned to request a levy renewal only, rather than an increase, for the November 2025 election. The correction has been documented and is reflected in the updated financial statements. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the Board reserves balance correction. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Board's corrected reserves balance as presented in the FY26 Fiscal Projection. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Jara Bonner).

7. Unfinished Business: Crisis Receiving Center: Lee Ann Watson said that due to minor design changes, the Crisis Receiving Center project is about six (6) weeks behind the original timeline and will now be going out for bid in September 2025. The design changes will also add an additional \$40,000 to the project budget.

Levy Planning: Lee Ann Watson said that the Board has formally requested permission from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to be on the November 2025 ballot for a levy renewal. Lee Ann said the BCC must now pass two Resolutions to give their formal permission. Once those Resolutions are approved by the BCC, the petition to be on the ballot can be filed with the Board of Elections. Lee Ann will continue to work with the Levy Consultant through the end of July. Lee Ann also said that the Levy Committee will need to meet very soon to discuss further campaign strategies.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center's (GCB/CRC) report stands. Jen Dorschug added that GCB's caseload and walk-in access appointments are still on an upward trend. Jen also said GCB/CRC will be participating in upcoming community events such as BRIDGE Day and the Clermont County Fair. Lastly, Jen shared that GCB will be participating in an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program review with the Board and Clermont County Probate Court Judge James Shriver.

NAMI of SW Ohio's report stands. Julia Saldanha thanked the Board for its ongoing support. Julia added that NAMI's support groups' attendance is steadily increasing. NAMI also has new classes starting in August in Clermont County as well as school presentations resuming with the start of the new school year.

Child Focus's report stands.

Hope Community Center's (HCC) report stands.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. FY26 Agreement with Hope Community Center (HCC): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Agreement with Hope Community Center in the amount of \$374,637 as presented and to allow the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
2. FY26 Agreement with NAMI SW Ohio: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Agreement with NAMI SW Ohio in the amount of \$40,000 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
3. FY26 Purchase of Services (POS) Contract Standards: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 POS Contract Standards as presented. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jara Bonner).
4. FY26 POS Contract with Child Focus: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 POS Contract with Child Focus in the amount of \$2,297,504 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Tony Rees).
5. FY26 POS Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC in the amount of \$3,513,228.90 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

6. FY26 GCB Health Officers: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the latest slate of FY26 GCB Health Officers as presented. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Tony Rees).
7. FY26 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with School Districts for School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Services: The MOUs will specify any additional funding that the school districts will provide for staffing, as well as other contractual requirements. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 MOUs with School Districts for SBMH Services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOUs on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second- Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
8. FY26 Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund (IDAT) MOU with Municipal Court: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, FY26 IDAT MOU with Municipal Court as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion- Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second- Tony Rees).

B. Discussion Items:

1. FY26 State Budget: Erica Pursley informed the Board members that the State of Ohio revised the formula for calculating Boards' annual budgets. Funding per Board was calculated based on various criteria such as suicide deaths, number of uninsured residents, poverty level, and veteran status. Boards were then ranked 1-5 within that data set. The Clermont Board's FY26 budget was set at \$385,000 less than FY25 and is projected to receive an additional \$316,000 cut in FY27.
 2. 2025 Clermont County Fair Booth Sign-Up: Cindy Knoblauch reminded the Board members that the Clermont County Fair will take place July 20-July 26, 2025. The Board will have two adjoining booths in the Commercial Building at the fair. Board staff encouraged Board members to sign-up to staff the Board's booth using the sign-up link sent out last month, as there are still several time slots available.
 3. Board Office Space Leasing: Lee Ann Watson said that she was asked by Commissioner Painter to consider allowing the Coroner's Office to lease available space at the Board's office building. The Coroner is in need of temporary space while its office is being mitigated for mold. Due to the Board's Prosecutor's guidance, the upcoming Crisis Receiving Center project, and opposition from Board members, the Coroner's Office will not be permitted tenancy.
10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Board staff reminded attendees that the August 11, 2025 Board meeting was cancelled. Board staff also asked the Board to consider allowing the use of head shots and bios of Board members on the Board's website. The topic of headshots and bios will be revisited at the September Board meeting.
 11. Executive Session-Personnel Matter: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second Rebecca Cochran-Kasson). Liz Atwell-yea,

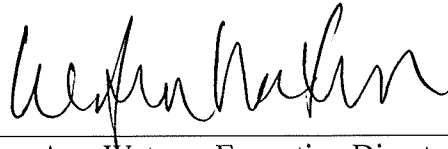
Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Tony Rees-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:51pm.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Patty Lawrence). Liz Atwell-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Tony Rees-yea. The Board moved into Regular Session at 8:57pm.

12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the July 14, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).



Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director