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MINUTES of December 9, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Atwell, Andrew (Andy) Bateman, Gretchen Behimer, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Patty Lawrence, Laura Perez, Tony Rees, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joy Lytle

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Dustin Armstrong, Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Zoe Fiscus-Doss, Susan Graham, Katie Harper, Barbara Isemann, Pamela Lindeman, Kelly Palmer, Susan Vilardo

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

1. Call to Order: The December 9, 2024, 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 Andy Bateman welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. All Board members and staff, as well as new Board member Gretchen Behimer, introduced themselves as this was Gretchen's first meeting as a member of the Board. In addition, Andy announced that Susan Vilardo had tendered her resignation as a Board member as of December 7, 2024, due to relocating out of Clermont County. Susan gave her farewell, and the meeting proceeded.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the December 9, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Action Item #7 "Resolution to Approve the Submission of the Board's Application for Recovery Housing Program Funding". (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Jara Bonner).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting and the minutes from the November 4, 2024 Special Meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
4. Oath of Office: Gretchen Behimer of Loveland, Ohio was sworn in as a member of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board's Board of Directors by Notary, Cynthia Knoblauch.
5. Training: Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)-Employment Services: Dustin Armstrong and Kelly Palmer gave a brief presentation, accompanied by handouts and a slide show, on Employment Services offered at GCB. GCB offers two Employment services: WIN and ASPIRE. WIN supports individuals with a primary mental health diagnosis and ASPIRE

supports individuals with a primary substance use disorder diagnosis. Employment Services at GCB are based on the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model; an evidenced based model utilizing a strengths-based approach. Available services within WIN and ASPIRE are: Work Readiness and Skills Training; Community Employment; Career Exploration; Resume Preparation; Long-Term Follow Along Supports; and Advocacy.

Since July of 2024, Employment Services at GCB have received 142 referrals and placed 72 clients in jobs, with clients earning an average of \$15.00 per hour. GCB's Employment Services have a motto: "Employment is Recovery and Recovery Works".

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

Associate Director Denny Moell said that his report stands.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith said that her report stands.

7. Committee Reports:

- A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met at 6:00pm on December 9, 2024. Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block summarized the information from that evening's Committee meeting. Jacki said that the Committee had reviewed and approved the Profit and Loss Budget, the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) Year to Date Expenses, and the SFY 1st Quarter Provider Agency Budget versus Expenditures as presented.

The Committee also discussed moving forward with contracting with Cantata Health Solutions for Gosh Billing Support and Cloud-Based IT Services. For FY25, the cost will include a one-time fee of \$11,700 for setup and a monthly subscription fee of \$2,826.25. The Committee recommended approval of the Cantata contract listed as an Action Item further down the agenda.

Jacki Block said the Committee also discussed the application for SOS 4.0 funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (FFY25). Both the Board and GCB applied for this funding, and both were only awarded half of the requested amounts. The Board will receive \$342,299 in SOS 4.0 funding for FFY25. Board staff said SOS funding formerly provided \$1.3 million to the Board's budget, so this is a major cut in funding and will probably be the "new norm" going forward.

Jacki said the Committee also discussed the cost of hiring a Levy Consultant and more details would be given during the Levy Committee section of the agenda.

- B. Levy Planning Committee: Levy Committee Co-Chair Jara Bonner gave a recap of the Committee's meeting on November 18, 2024. Jara said that the Committee decided to use t-shirt sales and the "Cruise-In for Mental Health" event in May for levy fundraising. The 2025 levy tagline for the Board has not yet been finalized. The Committee also discussed levy ballot options. The Committee decided to have Executive Director Lee Ann Watson ask the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for a replacement levy with an increase from .75 mil to 1 mil. The Committee, however, is aware that the Commissioners may not approve of

such a request in today's political climate. If the BCC approves the option of a replacement with an increase, the Committee feels that hiring a Levy Consultant will be vital in passing the levy in November of 2025. Should the Board pass a replacement levy with an increase in 2025, the Board's revenue will increase by approximately \$3 million a year.

Regarding hiring a Levy Consultant, Jara said that the cost estimate is \$117,500, which is quite an increase to the Board's approved levy budget of \$40,000. However, the Finance Committee reviewed the Levy Consultant proposal and found that the itemized budget seemed reasonable, since some of the items were signs and items that the Board was already planning to purchase. The Finance Committee was also in agreement that in order to pass a replacement levy and/or an increase, the Board would need assistance. The Finance Committee pointed out that the levy budget would span two (2) fiscal years which will mean less of an impact on the Board's overall budget. In addition, some of the line items on the Levy Consultant's proposal may not even be utilized, such as voter polling. In anticipation of the BCC agreeing to allow the Board to request a replacement levy with an increase, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the contract with the Levy Consultant for up to \$117,500. (Motion-Gretchen Behimer, second-Laura Perez). The Levy Planning Committee will meet again on January 27, 2025 via Zoom, an on-line communication system.

- C. Program Committee: Program Committee Chair Liz Atwell said that at the November 4, 2024 Program Committee meeting, members discussed the new Child Focus School Based Mental Health Services Model. The new model would require districts to contribute to the cost of services and as a result would offer the districts more involvement in the decisions related to the program. In summary, the new model will include two (2) or three (3) clinicians responsible for intake paperwork; offering a menus of evidence-based services to schools; basing allocations to schools on identified needs; and families being billed for services based on a sliding fee scale.

Lee Ann Watson asked Child Focus staff for comment. Susan Graham of Child Focus stated that the "menu" of services offered includes primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention; TBS or case management services; consultation services; and therapy services. Child Focus worries that the fees being billed to families in the new model puts the mission of reaching children that would otherwise not have access to services at risk. Susan said billing families for services that were once provided at no charge could negatively impact youth in need since families may not be willing to pay for services and may withdrawal the youth from services. Susan stated that a school outside of Clermont County reported an 8% decrease in students receiving services when they implemented the same fee-for-service model. Further, some clients at that school were unable to receive services due to cost. Susan added that this new model could also affect the Board's levy outcome. Susan concluded by saying Child Focus is concerned about launching the fee for service component of the new school based mental health model at this time.

Lee Ann Watson added that the current model is over 20 years old and is no longer working. Many of the school based services that would be billed to families would likely be covered by Medicaid or private insurance, and the Board can no longer afford to pay for services for

families that have insurance and/or can afford to pay for their services. However, Lee Ann stated that she agreed that the new model is a drastic change, and perhaps more thought should be given to implementing the fee for service model for the families at a later date. Due to the uncertainty of how to proceed with the new school based services model, the Board opted to table the discussion until further data is collected.

Liz stated that the Program Committee will meet again in February of 2025 to discuss FY26 programming priorities including the sustainability of the Board's Crisis Receiving Center. The Committee's decisions will be data driven.

8. Unfinished Business:

NONE

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Heather Cokl of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) said her report stands. Heather said GCB/CRC hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for its clients. In addition, Heather said that along with boxes distributed at Crossroads Church, GCB/CRC also distributed an additional 40 food boxes to clients. Heather also said that GCB/CRC and Denny Moell hosted staff from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) for a site visit to discuss the Access to Wellness (ATW) program. ATW is a funding program to meet the needs of adults with severe and persistent mental illness who are involved in multiple systems. Heather said the site visit went very well.

Heather said that the Health Care Connection of Cincinnati has noted a rise in Hepatitis C cases. In response, GCB's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) has provided an additional pathway to treatment in Clermont County. In addition, GCB's Behavioral Health Urgent Care center has opened and has served over 300 community members. Heather said GCB will submit a summary of data to the Board.

Zoe Fiscus-Doss of Hope Community Center (HCC) said that her report stands. Zoe added that HCC has had a 17% rise in attendance from last quarter. HCC will also be open for services five (5) days per week starting in January 2025.

Katie Harper of NAMI of Southwest Ohio's (NAMI) said that her report stands. Katie added that NAMI has hired two (2) new staff, a full-time Marketing Manager and a new Office Coordinator/Operations Manager. Also, in January 2025, NAMI will reintroduce the "Basics" program for children with mental illness and their families.

Susan Graham of Child Focus said that her report stands. Susan added that Child Focus' "Giving Tree" program provided 150 families (500 individuals) with gifts and necessities for the holiday season. Child Focus has also partnered with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Cincinnati Joint Terrorism Task Force to address political and racial threats and mitigate violence in the community.

10. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2025 (CY25): Chairperson Andy Bateman asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. The current slate of Officers agreed to remain Officers. Andy noted that three (3) of the Officers (Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary) will reach the end of their terms with the Board in June of 2025. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY25 slate of officers as follows. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Jara Bonner).
 - **Chairperson**-Andrew (Andy) Bateman
 - **Vice-Chairperson/Program Committee Chair**-Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell
 - **Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair**-Jacki Block
 - **Secretary**-Greg Varner
2. Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Agreement with Sparks Psychological Services for Evaluation and Testimonial Services for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Probate Clients: Denny Moell said the Board contracts with Sparks to provide psychological evaluation services in the community for possible Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) clients and to testify to that recommendation at the AOT hearing. AOT is the practice of providing outpatient treatment under civil court order for individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness who have demonstrated difficulty engaging with treatment on a voluntary basis. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2025 Agreement with Sparks Psychological Services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Laura Perez, second-Greg Varner).
3. New FY25 Health Officers for Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB): Denny Moell said that Health Officers are responsible for approving admission of Clermont County residents to the State hospital and completing applications for involuntary admission of individuals to local hospitals for psychiatric inpatient services. The Board is responsible for approving Health Officers. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the new FY25 Health Officers for GCB. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Laura Perez).
4. CY25 Facilities Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for routine building maintenance at the Board's office at 2337 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, Ohio 45103: Lee Ann Watson said that this contract does not normally come before the Board as it is considered part of the operations of the Board and can therefore be signed by the Executive Director without approval from the Board of Directors. However, the BCC's contract has a clause in the agreement that the cost to the Board for these services will increase by 3% each year. Lee Ann asked for guidance on how to proceed given the increase. The Board supported Lee Ann's decision to ask the BCC to waive the 3% increase for 2025 and for her to proceed with the contract with or without the increase. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY25 Facilities Agreement with the BCC and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Gretchen Behimer, second-Jara Bonner).

5. Resolution to Support New Housing Ohio's (NHO's) Application for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) Capital Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing in Clermont County: Lee Ann Watson said that every two years, the Board submits a community capital project funding request to OMHAS. In FY23-24, the Board's priority for capital funding was NHO's purchase of property and construction of a 24-unit supportive permanent housing facility for adults with mental illness. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Resolution to support NHO's application for funding for permanent supportive housing. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Greg Varner).
6. Agreement with Cantata Health Solutions for Cloud Based IT Services: Erica Pursley said that the Board's IT Consultant, Geisler IT Services, has partnered with Cantata Health Solutions to continue to provide IT and GOSH support services. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the Agreement earlier in the agenda. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agreement with Cantata Health Solutions as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Gretchen Behimer).
7. Resolution to Approve the Submission of the Board's Application for Recovery Housing Program (RHP) Funding: Denny Moell said that Board staff is applying on behalf of the Board for RHP funding to provide stable, transitional housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder. The funding covers a period of not more than two (2) years or until the individual secures permanent housing, whichever is earlier. In order to apply for funding, the Board must submit a Resolution to support the submission of the funding request. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Resolution to approve the submission of the Board's application for RHP funding. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Liz Atwell).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Selection of Committee Assignments for CY25: Each year in December, Board members must opt into either the Finance Committee or the Program Committee for the following calendar year. After Committee selections were made, Andy Bateman appointed the Committee members for 2025 as follows:

Finance Committee

Jacki Block-Chairperson
Elizabeth Atwell
Gretchen Behimer
Rebecca Cochran-Kasson
Patty Lawrence
Greg Varner
Andy Bateman (ex officio)

Program Committee

Elizabeth Atwell-Chairperson

Jara Bonner
Joy Lytle
Laura Perez
Tony Rees
Andy Bateman (ex-officio)

2. SOS 4.0: GCB staff was given the opportunity to speak on the matter of the SOS 4.0 grant mentioned earlier in the agenda. Alicia Fine said that SOS funding has allowed the growth of many programs at GCB over the years. With the funding recently being cut in half, GCB will need to make decisions on scaling back programming such as Peer Outreach, the Quick Response Team, the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC), and Alcohol Use Treatment. Alicia said the awarded SOS 4.0 funding to GCB was \$426,000, which was 50% less than requested. Alicia stated that due to the funding cut, GCB will need to discuss FY26 funding priorities and continued support with the Program Committee.
11. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the December 9, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting.
12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the December 9, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca-Cochran Kasson).



Andrew Bateman, Chairperson



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director