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### MINUTES of April 26, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elizabeth Atwell, Andrew (Andy) Bateman, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Gretchen Behimer, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Joe Ellison, Patty Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Laura Perez, Tony Rees

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Greg Varner

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond Bailey

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Richard Chaney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** NONE

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

1. Call to Order: The April 26, 2025, Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person at 9:00 am prior to the Board's annual Retreat at Clingman Park, 2156 U.S. Highway 50, Batavia, Ohio 45103. Chairperson Andy Bateman 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 April 26, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Gretchen Behimer).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Liz Atwell, second-Tony Rees).
4. Training: NONE
5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said that her report and the staff member reports stand.
6. Committee Reports:
  - A. Levy Committee: At the Levy Committee's April 14, 2025 meeting, the Committee discussed the elimination of replacement tax levies. Currently a bill is pending to eliminate the option of replacement tax levies. If the bill passes, the new law will take effect October 1, 2025. The Committee now has no other option than to ask the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for a renewal levy with an increase. Due to Board budget cuts and the impending operational costs of the new Crisis Receiving Center, the Committee decided to ask for a renewal with a .5% increase. Lee Ann Watson and Erica Pursley met with County

Administration on April 24, 2025 to discuss this decision. In addition, the BCC reached out to ask if the County OneOhio opiate lawsuit settlement funding would be enough funding for the Receiving Center for the Board to not have to ask for a tax increase. Lee Ann explained that there are gaps in the behavioral health continuum of care in Clermont County on top of the Board's over \$800,000 cut in state funding and its need for the sustainability of the Crisis Receiving Center. Lee Ann will be giving a presentation to the BBC on May 14th to explain the Board's need for placement on the November 2025 ballot with a renewal levy with a .5% increase.

7. Unfinished Business: NONE

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Child Focus's report stands.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center's (GCB/CRC) report stands.

Hope Community Center's (HCC) report stands.

NAMI of SW Ohio's report stands.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Addendum to the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) Purchase of Services (POS) Contract for State Opioid and Stimulant Response (SOS) 3.0 No-Cost Extension (NCE) Funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT): This funding shall be passed on to GCB to provide MAT services in Clermont County. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY25 GCB/CRC POS contract for SOS 3.0 NCE funding from OMHAS in the amount of \$105,364.42 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Laura Perez).

2. New Policy on Virtual Board Meeting Attendance: The Board discussed a formal policy on virtual Board meeting attendance in response to the new state law allowing Board members to virtually attend Board of Director meetings. The Board reviewed the new drafted policy and suggested several changes. Board staff will update the policy with the changes and will bring it back to the Board for approval in May. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to table the new policy regarding virtual Board meeting attendance entitled "Virtual Board and Committee Meetings" until the May 12, 2025 meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Laura Perez).

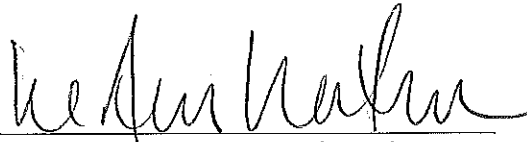
B. Discussion Items:

1. A Perfect Stay Residential Services Proposal: Board staff informed the Board that they had been approached by a mental health professional wishing to start a Family Care Home in Clermont County called "A Perfect Stay". The individual would need start-up

funding for furniture and other supplies for the home. The individual currently works for Talbert House, and is licensed for, and runs a similar facility in Hamilton County. The facility would house eight (8) residents with a serious and persistent mental illness or co-occurring disorder and would be certified through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS). Board staff have done a thorough check of the individual's credentials. After much discussion, Board members said that staff could move forward with drafting out a contract for start-up funding in the amount of up to \$28,000. Board staff plan to bring the contract to the May 2025 Board meeting for review and approval.

2. 2025 OACBHA Mental Health and Addiction Conference-Free Registration: Lee Ann Watson advised Board members that there is one free ticket left for the Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Authorities' (OACBHA) 2025 Mental Health and Addiction Conference. Board members were asked to reach out to Lee Ann if they would like to utilize the remaining ticket.
3. School-Based Mental Health Redistribution of Funding to Other Schools: Lee Ann Watson said that Child Focus and the Board have met with all but one (1) Clermont County school district regarding the new school-based mental health services redesign model. The Board will be providing a specified amount of funding for these services to each school district. Lee Ann asked the Board if in the case any district chose not to utilize the Board funding if the remaining funding should be redistributed evenly across the other school districts. After much discussion, the Board thought it best to hold onto the funding in case the school district decided to opt in at a later date. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to retain unused school-based mental health services funding and not redistribute it to other school districts. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the April 26, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.
11. Executive Session-Personnel Matter: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter into Executive Session. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson). Elizabeth Atwell-yea, Andrew (Andy) Bateman-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jacki Block-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Joy Lytle-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Tony Rees-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:25am.  
  
A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Jara Bonner). Elizabeth Atwell-yea, Andrew (Andy) Bateman-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jacki Block-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Joy Lytle-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Tony Rees-yea. The Board moved into Regular Session at 10:48 am.
12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the April 26, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Jara Bonner).

  
Andrew Bateman, Chairperson

  
Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director