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MINUTES of January 13, 2025

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jara Bonner, Greg Varner

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey

GUESTS PRESENT: Jennifer Dorschug, Alicia Fine, Zoe Fiscus-Doss, Susan Graham, Samantha Murphy, Emily Stoll

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

STAFF EXCUSED: Lee Ann Watson

1. Call to Order: The January 13, 2025, 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.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the January 13, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Discussion Item #3 "Executive Director Evaluation". (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Laura Perez).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Gretchen Behimer).
4. Training: Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)-Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic: Jennifer Dorschug and Samantha Murphy gave a brief presentation accompanied by handouts and a slide show on GCB's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). CCBHCs are designed to deliver integrated, comprehensive care for individuals of all ages (youth-adult) facing serious mental health and substance use disorders. CCBHC model required services are:
 - Crisis Services
 - Screening and Assessment
 - Treatment Planning
 - Outpatient Services

- Primary Care
- Targeted Case Management
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Peer/Family Recovery Support
- Veteran Services

With the aid of additional grant funding, GCB has expanded its CCBHC services to include a Behavioral Health Urgent Care and “The Living Room”. The Behavioral Health Urgent Care provides “walk-in” services for individuals facing mental health or substance use crises and serves individuals 18 and older. The goal is to stabilize the client and reduce the need for more intensive interventions such as ER or hospital stays. The Living Room is a peer-supported walk-in, community resource for individuals who are experiencing a self-defined urgent issue/stressful event. It is a non-clinical, peer-staffed setting with access to on-call clinical staff. The Living Room provides connection with others with lived experience, education on wellness strategies, assistance with problem solving, and safety planning to prevent future urgent issues/stressful events. It can accommodate four (4) guests at a time and serves as an alternative place to go for support when mobile crisis, law enforcement intervention, and emergency services are not needed.

5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: In Executive Director Lee Ann Watson’s absence, Associate Director Denny Moell said her report stands. Denny also highlighted two items from Lee Ann’s report. Denny said Lee Ann met with County Administrator Tom Eigel on December 12, 2024, to discuss the Board’s request to have a replacement levy with a .25% increase on the November 2025 voters’ ballot. At their meeting, Lee Ann presented budget projections, a history of the Board’s levy increases, and a summary of taxpayer impact. Mr. Eigel advised Lee Ann he would pass the information onto the Clermont Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and that she should expect a call back. Lee Ann has not heard back yet but will be expected to give a presentation regarding her request as well as a summary of the cost of operations and sustainability for the Crisis Receiving Center, a pivotal piece to the levy increase request.

Denny also said that Lee Ann has been keeping an eye on the status of House Bill 257, which would allow public bodies to conduct meetings virtually if signed into law. Board staff had learned earlier in the day that Governor DeWine had signed the Bill into law on January 8, 2025. The new law will take effect on April 8, 2025. Andy Bateman suggested adding “Virtual Meetings” to the Agenda to discuss at the Board’s retreat in April.

Associate Director Denny Moell said his report stands. Denny mentioned the section of his report regarding harm reduction. Denny said the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board (CCMHRB) is expanding its harm reduction efforts by contracting with the County for the installation of Naloxone Emergency Overdose Cabinets in Clermont County buildings and other partnering businesses. CCMHRB recently obtained funding from the Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative and has purchased fifty of the cabinets which are designed to be utilized during an opioid overdose. The plan is to begin installing the cabinets first in Clermont County buildings and then expand the effort throughout Clermont County to other interested businesses and public entities. Clermont County Veterans Services Commission received the first cabinet to be placed in their building in Batavia.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith said her report stands. Marcie added that she is continuing Crisis Awareness Education Training efforts. The last training had ten participants, and each participant was given a three-day survival backpack kit for attending. The training is available to schools, area businesses, provider agencies, and community partners such as Townships.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met at 6:00pm on January 13, 2025. Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block summarized the information from that evening's Committee meeting. Jacki said the Committee had reviewed and approved the Profit and Loss Budget Statement and the Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) County Appropriations as presented. The Board's CY25 County Appropriations allocation is \$10,331,294.

The Committee also discussed staff salary actions for CY25. Jacki said CCMHRB usually aligns with the BCC for yearly staff salary increases. For 2025, the BCC approved a 1.25% across the Board salary increase and up to an additional 3% merit increase for a total of up to 4.25%. Should the Board align with the BCC, the FY25 budgetary impact for the Board would be \$12,190. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve a 1.25% salary increase for all Board staff and to authorize the Executive Director to approve up to an additional 3% merit increase. (Motion-Laura Perez, second-Joy Lytle). The Executive Director's salary increase will include the 1.25% plus up to an additional 3% merit increase based on her employee evaluation which will be completed by the Board of Directors at the February 2025 Board meeting.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. School-Based Redesign Model: Denny Moell said Board staff are still in discussions with Child Focus to develop a solid plan that is satisfactory to all parties involved. Lee Ann Watson will have more to report on the matter at the February 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.
- B. Strategic Plan/Gillette Model Review: Denny Moell said Board staff are working on a new platform and dashboard for the Board's Strategic Plan. The updates will be shared with the Board at the February 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.
- C. Crisis Receiving Center Update: Denny Moell said that the Board has been awarded \$1 million from OneOhio for operational costs of the Crisis Receiving Center and an additional \$1 million from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Capital Grant project for renovations for the Center. In addition, the Board was awarded \$1.3 million from the BCC to sustain the Crisis Receiving Center. Board staff are currently working with an architect and moving forward with the project.
- D. Calendar Year 2025 Facilities Contract: Denny Moell said Board staff had requested that the CY25 Facilities contract for building maintenance be approved by the BCC without its annual 3% increase. The Board's building recently lost its tenants, and it is anticipated that Facilities work orders for 2025 will be at a minimum since there are only five (5) employees

currently occupying the Board's building. The BCC agreed to approve the CY25 Facilities contract at the CY24 rate.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Susan Graham of Child Focus said her report stands. Susan added that Child Focus and Board staff are making progress on the school-based redesign model. Susan also said meetings regarding the new model with the school Superintendents are going well. In addition, Susan said Child Focus had applied for continued funding for Crisis and Mobile Response and Stabilization services. They will hear back in a couple of weeks.

Jennifer Dorschug of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) said her report stands. Jennifer added that GCB's CCBHC grant covers extensive staff training. Jennifer said all direct services staff have been trained in solutions-focused therapy and trauma-informed care. The CCBHC has served over 200 individuals through open-access walk-ins. The grant also allowed GCB staff to revamp the nursing assessment to make it more thorough and allow for more comprehensive care. The assessment will be updated annually.

Zoe Fiscus-Doss of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Zoe added that HCC's attendance was slightly down during the month of December due to the holiday season. HCC is also currently conducting research with other like organizations and models to see if HCC's operations and/or programming can be improved.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Revised Tuition Assistance Reimbursement Policy: Board staff revised the Tuition Assistance Reimbursement policy to align more closely with the BCC. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revised Tuition Assistance Reimbursement policy. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
2. Resolution to Support the Crisis Receiving Center Capital Grant Project: During each state biennial budget cycle, the Board submits a community capital project funding request to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS). For FY25-26, the Board's priority for capital funding is the Crisis Receiving Center. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Resolution supporting the Board's Crisis Receiving Center Capital Grant Project and to authorize the Executive Director and Board Chair to sign the Resolution on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Gretchen Behimer).
3. 120-Day Notice for the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Purchase of Service (POS) Contract with Child Focus: Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards are statutorily required to provide 120-day notices to their contract mental health and addiction services providers to inform them of any potential changes to the next year's contract, including contract terms and allocation. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the 120-Day Notice for the FY26 POS Contract with Child Focus as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the notice on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joy Lytle).

4. 120-Day Notice for the FY26 POS Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the 120-Day Notice for the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the notice on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Laura Perez).
5. 120-Day Notice for the FY26 POS Contract with Hope Community Center (HCC): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the 120-Day Notice for the FY26 POS Contract with HCC as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the notice on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Gretchen Behimer).
6. Amendment to the FY25 GCB/CRC POS Contract for SOS 4.0 Funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) for Addiction Services: OMHAS has provided funding in the amount of \$342,299 to the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board under SOS 4.0 for services and supports for individuals with a substance use disorder. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Amendment to the FY25 GCB/CRC POS Contract for SOS 4.0 funding from OMHAS for addiction services and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Tony Rees).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Board Member and Board Meeting Evaluation Forms: Board staff reminded the Board that the annual Board Member and Board Meeting Evaluation Forms need to be completed as part of the Board's Culture of Quality requirements. All Board members were supplied with the forms and asked to complete and return them as soon as possible.
2. Review of Tentative CY25 Board Meeting/Training Schedule: Denny Moell advised the Board that the CY25 Board Meeting/Training Schedule was included in the Board packet sent to all Board members. Denny asked members to review the schedule and said any feedback or suggestions are welcome.
3. Executive Director Evaluation: Chairperson Andy Bateman supplied all Board members present at the meeting with the Executive Director's performance evaluation form. Board members were requested to review and fill out the form to evaluate the Executive Director's performance. Board members are to bring the completed form to the February 10, 2025 Board meeting at which the Executive Director shall receive her performance review during Executive Session.
10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the January 13, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the January 13, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Laura Perez).


Andrew Bateman, Chairperson


Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director