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## MINUTES of November 10, 2025

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Gretchen Behimer, Jara Bonner, Jeff Higgins, Patty Lawrence, Joy Lytle (Zoom), Nathan O'Der, Laura Perez (Zoom)
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joe Ellison, Tony Rees
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Raymond Bailey (Zoom)
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Richard Chaney
<b>GUESTS PRESENT:</b>	Aniysha Blanchard, Jen Dorschug, Alicia Fine, Zoe Fiscus-Doss, Barb Isemann, Mark Johnson, Beth McManus, Krissie Myers, Laura Stith
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Marcie Keith, Cindy Knoblauch, Denny Moell, Erica Pursley, Lee Ann Watson

1. Call to Order: The November 10, 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. Chairperson Gretchen Behimer welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. In attendance was prospective Board member Mark Johnson. Mark gave a brief introduction in addition to the other attendees.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the November 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting with the additions of: Item #3, Approval of the Minutes of October 31, 2025; Item # VI B. 1. c. A Perfect Stay Funding Request; and Item # VI. B. 2. b. Levy Discussion and Review. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Liz Atwell). A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the October 31, 2025 Board of Directors' Special Meeting. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Liz Atwell).
4. Oath of Office: Nathan O'Der of Cincinnati, Ohio (Union Township) was sworn in as a member of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board of Directors by Notary, Cynthia Knoblauch.

5. Training: Child Focus-School-Based Mental Health Redesign Update: Krissie Myers and Laura Stith gave a presentation and update on the newly redesigned school-based mental health (SBMH) services model. The new model is currently being used in all school districts in Clermont County. The presentation included data outcomes for staffing, service delivery, accessibility of services, clinical outcomes, referrals, and hours of service. The data collected shows positive outcomes for the first quarter.
6. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson stated that her report stands.

Associate Director Denny Moell stated that his report stands.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith stated that her report stands.

7. Committee Reports:
  - A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met on November 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Finance Committee Chair Patty Lawrence and Board staff summarized that evening's meeting.

Review of Fiscal Reports: Patty said that the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Provider Agency Purchase of Services (POS) Reconciliations for Child Focus (94% utilization), Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) (101% utilization), and Clermont Recovery Center (CRC, a division of GCB) (99% utilization). In addition, the Committee reviewed and approved the FY25 fiscal projections with actuals, the FY26 Profit and Loss Statement, the Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) county budget transfer, and the CY26 Annual County Appropriations.

Levy Budget Update: Board staff reported that the 2025 levy campaign cost was approximately \$81,000.

A Perfect Stay Funding Request: Patty Lawrence said that Aniysha Blanchard, Owner and Operator of the mental health residential housing organization, A Perfect Stay, requested additional funding from the Board. A Perfect Stay is requesting temporary financial assistance with property rental and utilities expenses to maintain essential operations while finalizing licensure for housing residents in Clermont County. The funding will support the home's foundational operating expenses for three (3) months, while awaiting licensure from the State of Ohio. The Finance Committee recommended approval by the full Board for rental and utilities expenses as well as an additional \$1,000 for already incurred out-of-pocket rental expenses of Ms. Blanchard for a total of \$11,080 as outlined by the submitted budget. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve funding to A Perfect Stay Residential Services in the amount of \$11,080. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Nathan O'Der).

- B. Levy Committee: Review of the October 22, 2025 Levy Committee Meeting: The Levy Committee met for the final time on October 22, 2025. Levy Committee Co-Chair Jara Bonner said that during that meeting, the Committee finalized the levy campaign and polling location coverage. Jara also thanked everyone for their efforts toward passing the Board's levy on November 4, 2025.

Levy Discussion and Review: Lee Ann Watson asked for feedback regarding the Board's 2025 Levy Campaign. Feedback and comments included:

- Voters seemed positive about the levy at the polls
- Board should consider asking the Commissioners for a 10-year levy
- Voters had a lot of questions about the levy at the polls
- The informational sheet provided to the poll workers was helpful and should be sent out more in advance next time
- Marketing toolkit was very helpful
- Levy signs were great; not too wordy
- Helpful for agencies to discuss the importance of the levy with clients

Marcie Keith stated that she will be performing a “data dive” into polling location statistics to hopefully outline ideal polling coverage times, what areas of the county lack support of the Board’s levy, and what precincts will be top priority for the next levy campaign in five (5) years. Once Marcie completes her data analyzation, the Levy Committee will reconvene to discuss the outcomes.

8. Unfinished Business: Crisis Receiving Center Update: The advertisement for bids for the renovation of the Board’s office for the Crisis Receiving Center at 2337 Clermont Center Drive in Batavia has officially been published. The advertisement will run in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* on November 11 and November 18, 2025. The advertisement is also posted on an electronic platform that is accessible to Contractors throughout the State of Ohio. All bids received will be opened on December 9, 2025 at 2:00pm. The contract for the chosen bid will be finalized no later than January 14, 2026. The project completion date is November 30, 2026.
9. Agency Directors’ Reports: Laura Stith of Child Focus said that her report stands. Laura added that the Crisis Hotline call volume reached an all-time high in the month of October and 26% of the calls were routed to the hotline via the national hotline, 988. Laura stated that Child Focus will implement its “Giving Tree” holiday donation program again this year. In addition to the Giving Tree, Child Focus will be helping its clients celebrate the holidays by providing a “Sensory Santa” experience. Sensory Santa will give youth who are unable to visit Santa in busy, loud locations, such as malls, an opportunity to visit Santa in a more relaxed, less over-stimulating environment.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center’s (GCB/CRC) report stands. Jen Dorschug added that GCB’s caseload is up a bit from average, reporting an intake of six hundred clients in the first quarter of FY26. GCB’s Behavioral Health Urgent Care sees approximately fifty clients per month. GCB’s ACT Team recently received its Fidelity Review, a competence review for evidence-based behavioral health interventions, and are awaiting the outcomes. GCB also recently began partnering with a new transportation service, home52, for transportation to medical appointments for Medicaid clients.

Hope Community Center’s (HCC) report stands. Zoe Fiscus-Doss added that there was a recent decrease in HCC’s attendance due to transportation issues. Zoe stated that she is looking into

alternatives. HCC's Clubhouse Model, which has been in development for four (4) months, is continuing to progress. HCC is hoping to soon have a fully operational kitchen and food-related classes as part of the Clubhouse Model. HCC also recently received a marketing grant, which will be used to update HCC's print materials and website. Lastly, HCC will be getting its CARF certification review in January 2026.

NAMI of SW Ohio's report stands.

10. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) Agreement with Juvenile Court for Funding in the Amount of \$28,200 for a Therapist at the Juvenile Detention Center: Lee Ann Watson shared the outcomes from the services provided by the Therapist at the Detention Center during 2025. Lee Ann stated that the data highlights the need to continue the position. Board members asked that the Executive Director reach out to Juvenile Court Judge James Shriver to discuss the long-term plan for the therapist position. The Board agreed that the CY26 funding does not guarantee funding for CY27. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY26 Agreement with Juvenile Court for funding in the amount of \$28,200 for a therapist at the Juvenile Detention Center as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).
2. CY 2026 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) and the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCDD) for Shared Funding of Services for Children Under the Care or Custody of Children's Protective Services (CPS): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY26 MOU with DJFS and CCDD for shared funding of services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Nathan O'Der).
3. Election of Officers for Calendar Year (CY) 2026: Chairperson Gretchen Behimer asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. The current slate of Officers agreed to remain as Officers. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY26 slate of officers as follows. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Jara Bonner).
  - **Chairperson**-Gretchen Behimer
  - **Vice-Chairperson/Program Committee Chair**-Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell
  - **Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair**-Patty Lawrence
  - **Secretary**-Laura Perez
4. Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) MOU with New Housing Ohio, Inc. (NHO) for Support of NHO's Felicity-Based Apartment Project: In order for NHO to apply for funding from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA), it must have a formal agreement with the Board showing its support of the project, and assurance of adult mental health services being provided by the Board's mental health provider, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, once the project is fully operational. The MOU states that the Board will

not provide funding for the project. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 MOU with NHO for Board support of the Felicity-Based Apartment Project and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Patty Lawrence).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Removing Copies of Contracts from Board Mailing Packet: Lee Ann Watson asked for guidance on whether the Board of Directors would like to receive copies of proposed contracts in the monthly Board meeting packet mailing. The question was raised since it is the Prosecutor's Office that approves the wording of the contracts, while the Board of Directors approves the funding amount. The majority of the Board of Directors requested that staff continue providing copies of proposed contracts in the Board mailing.
2. Scheduling of Annual Board Retreat: The annual Board retreat was scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 9:00am-3:00pm.
3. Selection of Committee Assignments for CY 2026: At the end of each calendar year, Board members must opt into either the Finance Committee or the Program Committee for the following calendar year. In 2026, the Board will also be implementing the Board **Succession Planning Committee**. After Committee selections were made, Board Chair Gretchen Behimer appointed the Committee members for CY2026 as follows:

**Finance Committee**

Patty Lawrence-Chairperson  
Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell  
Rebecca Cochran-Kasson  
Nathan O'Der  
Gretchen Behimer (ex officio)

**Program Committee**

Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell-Chairperson  
Jara Bonner  
Joe Ellison  
Jeff Higgins  
Joy Lytle  
Laura Perez  
Tony Rees  
Raymond Bailey (Associate Board Member)  
Gretchen Behimer (ex-officio)

**Succession Planning Committee**

Nathan O'Der-Chairperson  
Gretchen Behimer (ex officio)

4. Program Committee Meeting Scheduling: Program Committee Chairperson Liz Atwell and Board staff will be planning a Program Committee meeting for February 2026.

5. Closing the Office on Indigenous Peoples' Day and Re-scheduling Every October Board Meeting to the Third Monday in October: This Discussion item was tabled for consideration at the October 13, 2025 meeting. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to close the office on the second Monday of every October for Indigenous Peoples' Day and schedule every October Board of Directors' meeting for the third Monday of the month to allow Board members and staff to observe the federal holiday. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Nathan O'Der).
6. Board Succession Planning: Board Chair Gretchen Behimer established the Board Succession Planning Committee and appointed Nathan O'Der as the Chair of that Committee and herself as ex-officio. Gretchen and Nathan plan to start meeting in January 2026.
11. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Board staff reminded attendees that the December 8, 2025 Board meeting was cancelled. There were no additional announcements or comments from public attendees at the November 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.
12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the November 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).



Gretchen Behimer  
Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson

Lee Ann Watson  
Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director