Clermont County
MENTAL HEALTH
& RECOVERY BOARD

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MINUTES of June 8, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Gretchen Behimer, Jara Bonner (Zoom), Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joe Ellison, Jeff Higgins (Zoom), Patty Lawrence (Zoom), Joy Lytle, Nathan O'Der, Laura Perez, Tony Rees

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mark Johnson

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey (Zoom)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Cassidy Lekan, Beth McManus, Kelsey Smothers, Kale Stewart, Ian Schwartz

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

1. Call to Order: The June 8, 2026, Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person and virtually at 7:00 pm at 4357 Ferguson Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245. Chairperson Gretchen Behimer welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. Lee Ann Watson announced that Board staff member Marcie Keith, Community Engagement Manager, will be resigning from her position on June 26, 2026, and this will be her last Board of Directors' meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the June 8, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of item V. B. 2. "Succession Planning Committee Update". (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Laura Perez).

3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Liz Atwell).

4. Training: Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB): Prevention Services: Kelsey Smothers gave a presentation on GCB's Prevention Services that included discussion on the following handouts:
   - Annual Report FY25 "Primary Prevention in Clermont County"
   - 2026 Student Survey "Alcohol & Drug Misuse by Youth in Clermont County"
   - "Prevention Programs: GCBHS Prevention Services"
   - "Early Intervention" with program titles and descriptions

5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson highlighted portions of her report. Lee Ann's highlights included:

- The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) has approved the finalized budget for the adult mobile crisis pilot and Child Focus has hired one (1) of Peer positions for the program.
- Renovation for the Center continues to be ahead of schedule. Board staff continue to meet with the architect and contractor bi-weekly for updates.
- During budget discussions with GCB, it was mutually agreed that GCB's portion of the Jail Linkage project could be discontinued. The Jail Liaison position, who is employed by Child Focus, and the assigned duties of the position will remain as is and will continue to receive funding from the Board.
- The FY27 School-Based Mental Health MOUs to the school districts have been sent out. In agreement with Child Focus, the Board made a minor change to the MOU for this year. The change states that Child Focus and the Board reserve the right to reassign the provider(s) if referrals are not adequate to sustain a minimum level of service utilization for the staff.

<u>Associate Director Denny Moell</u> said that his report stands.

<u>Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith</u> said that her report stands.

6. <u>Committee Reports</u>:
   A. <u>Finance Committee-Review of June 8, 2026 Meeting</u>: Erica Pursley presented the agenda items from the Finance Committee meeting held earlier in the evening.
      1. <u>Review of Fiscal Reports</u>: The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the Profit and Loss Statement. The Committee also reviewed and approved the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 1st half 040 report that was submitted to DBH on April 30, 2026.
      2. <u>GCB Funding Requests</u>: GCB presented the Board with five (5) funding request memos:
         a. <u>FY26 Funding Adjustment</u>: GCB is requesting to move $275,000 from the mental health budget line item over to the substance use disorder (SUD) line. GCB and Board staff learned that clients enrolled in the Medicare QMB+ plan are eligible for behavioral health services reimbursement. It was previously believed that this plan did not cover behavioral health services. GCB staff will be reversing claims in GOSH for approximately $275,000 to bill Medicare QMB+ for the services. These reversals will reduce GCB's GOSH utilization and free up dollars to be moved for SUD services. The Finance Committee recommended approval from the Board. <u>A motion was made</u>, and unanimously approved, <u>to move $275,000 of GCB's FY2026 contract from mental health to SUD service claims</u>. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Liz Atwell).
         b. <u>FY27 ACT Monthly Code H0040</u>: GCB is requesting that the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) monthly billing code H0040 be added to the GCBHS fee-for-service contract for FY27. They will utilize the next six (6) months to establish and implement the Board required GOSH billing model as opposed to the current 1/12 monthly billing. The Finance Committee recommended approval from the Board. <u>A motion was made</u>, and unanimously approved<u>, to approve GCB's request to shift ACT billing from 1/12 monthly to GOSH billing effective January 1, 2027</u>. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
         c. <u>FY27 Fee-for-Service Billing for Services Provided in the Jail</u>: GCB is requesting that fee-for-service billing for clients who are incarcerated be allowable in the FY27

Purchase of Services (POS) contract. While the decision was made to discontinue the Jail Linkage project in its current form, there will continue to be GCB clients who will need brief, supportive services while in jail. Medicaid does not fund services provided in jail settings. This will enable support and coordination with jail medical regarding medication, court coordination regarding sentencing, and assisted outpatient treatment. Currently the Board has a billing rule in place to provide funding for one assessment and two units of Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment (CPST) annually for incarcerated clients. The Finance Committee tabled the request until further information is provided.

d. FY27 Funding for MAT Medications: GCB has requested Board funding for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to remain at $300,000 for FY27. The Finance Committee tabled the request until further information is provided.

e. Crisis Receiving Center Budget Clarification: GCB is requesting clarification regarding the budgeted funding available for GCB's operational model of the Board's Crisis Receiving Center. The Finance Committee tabled the request to give Board staff time to work on a reduced budget with GCB.

3. Warren/Clinton Capital Request: In September of 2025, the Warren/Clinton Board requested additional match funding for the Adam/Amanda crisis stabilization facility, called Transitional Living of Southwest Ohio (TLSO), located in Lebanon Ohio . The TLSO has been an on-going project for the Southwest Ohio Collaborative, which includes Clermont. The Board has been awaiting a budget to approve this additional match funding. The budget has been received, and Clermont's requested portion for the match funding is $76,706.72. The Finance Committee recommended approval from the Board later in the Agenda as this was an Action Item.
4. Increase in Children's Hospital Per Diem: The Board approved the FY27 Children's Hospital Agreement for inpatient psychiatric services for indigent children/adolescents at a per diem rate of $927.78. Children's Hospital has since contacted Board staff to ask for a 4.9% increase to $973.24 per diem. This comes after a 3% increase in FY25. The Finance Committee recommended having the Executive Director present a counteroffer to Children's Hospital for an amount decided by the full Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to provide Children's Hospital with a counteroffer of a 2% increase for FY27, with a guaranteed per diem rate for the next four (4) years. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
5. Central Clinic Forensic Monitoring: Each year, the Board contracts with Central Clinic Behavioral Health on behalf of Southern Ohio Forensic Evaluation Services (SOFE) for Forensic Monitoring services. Due to an increase in clients on conditional release, Central Clinic has requested an increase for FY27 from $16,281 to $24,000. The Finance Committee recommended approval from the Board later in the Agenda as this was an Action Item.
6. Request for Increase from Alternative Living Solutions (ALS): The Board approved the FY27 ALS Agreement for adult mental health residential care services at a per diem rate of $85.00. ALS has since contacted Board staff to ask for a 10% increase to $93.50 per diem for FY27. This comes after an increase in FY24. The Finance Committee tabled the request until more information from ALS can be provided.
7. Family and Children First (FCF) Contribution: The Board has not contributed to FCF since SFY2024. FCF has requested that the Board resume contributions in FY27,

specifically to support a Peer Support position with Child Focus on a reimbursement basis. The Finance Committee recommended approval from the Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 contribution to Family and Children First for up to $25,000 for Peer Support services provided by Child Focus. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

8. Funding for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27): The Board requested that the contract Provider Agencies submit FY27 budgets with a 12% cut due to previous state cuts to the Board's budget and uncertainty about the Board's FY27 budget. Board staff have since been notified that the Board will receive cuts in FY27 totaling approximately $86,000. After discussion, the Finance Committee recommended moving forward with the 12% cuts excluding the GCB substance use disorder budget line. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move forward with the 12% agency budget cuts for FY27, excluding the SUD budget line for the GCB POS contract. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Tony Rees).
9. County Funding for Crisis Receiving Center: The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has agreed to pass opioid settlement funding onto the Board for the sustainment of the operations of the Crisis Receiving Center. However, a formal contract for this agreement has not yet been put in place. Executive Director Lee Ann Watson has approached the BCC with concerns regarding the absence of a formal contract. The BCC has agreed to draft a formal contract providing the Board with opioid settlement funding in the amount of $1,000,000 per year through 2031. The contract would still require approval by the Commissioners.

B. Succession Planning Committee Update: Committee Chair Nathan O'Der said that he has started calling individuals who meet desired sector criteria to discuss the possibility of being Board members. Nathan said that he would like the recruiting process to directed by the Board members rather than the Executive Director. The Executive Director will still be utilized for guidance in the process. Nathan asked for assistance in calling people who have been recommended by Board members as possible recruits. Laura Perez said she would assist Nathan in that capacity.

7. Unfinished Business:
NONE

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Beth McManus said Child Focus' report stands. Beth added that the school-based mental health services redesign is still going well. Beth also said that the Adult Mobile Crisis (AMC) Pilot program is underway. Child Focus has hired one (1) AMC Peer and is searching for a second. Beth ended with inviting all attendees to participate in Child Focus' annual golf outing which takes place on June 15, 2026.

Cassidy Lekan said Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services' (GCB) report stands.

Hope Community Center's report stands.

NAMI of Southwest Ohio's report stands.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Warren Clinton Agreement for Capital Costs for the Adam/Amanda (TLSO) Crisis Stabilization/Residential Treatment Center: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Agreement with the Warren Clinton Board for match funding in the amount of $76,706.72 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Laura Perez).

2. FY27 Central Clinic Behavioral Health Agreement for Forensic Monitoring: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Agreement with Central Clinic with an increase to $24,000 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

3. FY27 Health Officers and Chief Clinical Officers (CCOs): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Health Officers and Chief Clinical Officers as presented. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Tony Rees).

4. FY27 POS Contract with Hope Community Center (HCC): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 POS contract with HCC in the amount of $219,336 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Liz Atwell, second-Joy Lytle).

5. FY27 NAMI of Southwest Ohio Agreement: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 agreement with NAMI in the amount of $40,000 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Laura Perez).

6. FY27 Juvenile Court (Family Recovery Court Docket) MOU for the GCB Peer Recovery Coach: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 MOU with Juvenile Court in the amount of $38,504 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joe Ellison-, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

7. Revised 2026 Service Priority Grid: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revised 2026 Service Priority Grid as presented. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Liz Atwell).

B. Discussion Items:

1. 2026 County Fair Booth and Sign-Ups: Board staff announced that the Board will again host a vendor's booth at the 2026 Clermont County Fair and encouraged Board members to volunteer to staff the booth. The theme this year is "Stronger Together: Connecting Our Community". Board staff will send the link to sign up to the Board later this week via email.

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the June 8, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.

11. Executive Session-Personnel Matter: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson). Elizabeth Atwell-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Jeff Higgins-yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Joy Lytle-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Tony Rees-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:16 pm.

    A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Laura Perez). Elizabeth Atwell-yea, Gretchen Behimer-yea, Jara Bonner-yea, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson-yea, Joe Ellison-yea, Jeff Higgins-yea, Mark Johnson-yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Joy Lytle-yea, Nathan O'Der-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Tony Rees-yea. The Board moved back into Regular Session at 8:25 pm.

    The Board discussed a personnel matter.

12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the June 8, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Joy Lytle).

GBehimer
Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson

Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director