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MINUTES of October 14, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Atwell, Andrew (Andy) Bateman, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Patty Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Greg Varner, Susan Vilardo

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Laura Perez, Tony Rees

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ray Bailey (by Zoom)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Pamela Lindeman, Heather Sinclair, Laura Stith

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

STAFF EXCUSED: Marcie Keith

1. Call to Order: The October 14, 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.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the October 14, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Susan Vilardo, second-Joy Lytle).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Elizabeth Atwell).
4. Training: Child Focus, Dr. Laura Stith-Wasserman Day Treatment: Dr. Laura Stith gave a brief overview of Child Focus' Wasserman Day Treatment Program accompanied by a PowerPoint slide presentation. The program began in 1996 and started as a partial hospitalization program. It has now expanded into a day treatment program and has two locations, one in Clermont County and one in Brown County. Payers for the program include the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board (CCMHRB), Medicaid/Insurance, and schools. The program is for youth ages 3-18 (three to eighteen) whose mental health needs are not able to be maintained in a typical school environment. The program is comprised of 3 (three) sub-programs:
 - Early Childhood Day Treatment (ECDT)-100% treatment, 9:00am-12:30pm
 - School-Based Day Treatment (SBDT)-80% treatment, 20% academic, 8:30am-1:30pm
 - Tranquest (TQ)-50% treatment, 50% academic, 8:30am-1:30pm

The standard is 8 (eight) kids per classroom. The program is staffed by a Coordinator, Office Manager, Therapists, qualified mental health specialists, a nurse, a psychiatrist, teachers, and a School Resource Officer (SRO). The program schedule consists of treatment groups, individual/family therapy, academics grades K-12, parent groups, family meetings, and home visits. The average length of stay is 18 months with an objective to discharge youth back to a typical school environment or to a less restrictive setting.

5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands. Lee Ann also mentioned the section of her report regarding New Housing Ohio (NHO). Lee Ann said the purchase of the land in Felicity originally chosen for the NHO project fell through. However, NHO is negotiating a price on property adjacent to the original property. NHO assured Lee Ann that progress is being made and that they continue to work with OMHAS and other entities on their funding.

Lee Ann also added that she had recently sent the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) a completed application for a potential new Board member. Lee Ann said Gretchen Behimer, former County employee, applied for the CCMHRB vacancy. If appointed, Gretchen will complete the Board's 12-member composition with one-third being state appointees and two-thirds being county appointees. Lee Ann said Gretchen will make a valuable Board member with her knowledge of the county, the behavioral health system, and youth mental health.

Associate Director Denny Moell said his report stands. Denny added that harm reduction efforts in Clermont County continue with the recent purchase of Naloxone Overdose Emergency Cabinets intended for placement in publicly accessible buildings throughout the County including governmental agencies, libraries, schools, and private businesses. The BCC has already approved the placement of the cabinets in all 33 county buildings. Funding for the cabinets was secured through a grant from the Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative to purchase 67 total cabinets along with signage and instructional posters.

While the primary goal of this effort is to reduce the number of opioid overdose related fatalities that occur in Clermont County, a secondary benefit is to reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders by normalizing the utilization of Naloxone as a lifesaving strategy similar to the utilization of a AED or CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver as a means of saving lives. Training in the usage of Naloxone will be provided by staff of the CCMHRB to employees/staff members who work in buildings where Naloxone Emergency Overdose Cabinets have been placed.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith's report stands.

6. Committee Reports:

- A. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block summarized the information from the 6:00 pm Finance Committee meeting. Jacki said that the State Fiscal Year 2024 (SFY24) agency reconciliations were complete. Child Focus utilized 83% of its contract, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) utilized 94% of its contract, and Clermont Recovery Center (a subsidiary of GCB) utilized 90% of its contract. The Board's ending fund balance for SFY24 was \$3,949,799 plus \$1,000,000 in required reserves. Jacki also reported that the Board received an additional \$33,000 from the Ohio

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) for Jail Linkage services. Jacki further mentioned that the Board is in the process of reviewing its IT solutions and there will likely be an increase in cost due to rising industry costs and the need for new servers. Board staff will bring the final additional cost to the Committee in January 2025. Lastly, Jacki advised the Board that based on information received from the state we should anticipate SFY26-27 state funding from OMHAS to be either flat funding or reduced funding due to changes in state leadership. Jacki stated that the Finance Committee approved the budget and finance updates as presented.

- B. Levy Planning Committee: Levy Committee Co-Chair Jara Bonner gave a recap of the Committee's meeting on September 16, 2024. Jara said the Board had approved a replacement levy with an increase from .75mil to 1 mil and a campaign budget of \$40,000. The Committee would like Lee Ann Watson to research hiring a levy campaign consultant for marketing, ballot chasing, and possibly other services that fall within the budget. The Committee reviewed several taglines but did not settle on one yet. Possible taglines are as follows:

- "Let's Talk"
- "Help Us, Help Clermont County"
- "Without Behavioral Health There is No Health"
- "Your Support, Clermont's Success"
- "Our Community, Our Success"
- "Support Today, Wellness Tomorrow"
- "Together We Make Clermont Better" #Better Together

The Committee also discussed several fundraising ideas. The most popular fundraising ideas were as follows:

- T-shirt Sale
- Jeans for Mental Health (donation collection)
- Cruise-In for Mental Health
- Local Restaurant Partnership

The Levy Planning Committee will meet again on November 18, 2025 via Zoom, an on-line communication system.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. SOS 4.0 Grant Application: Lee Ann Watson said she had submitted the application to OMHAS for the SOS 4.0 funding. As discussed at the September Board meeting, the Board and GCB split up the programming and each applied for the SOS 4.0 funding. GCB applied for the funding to cover the CASC positions, as well as new positions for their mobile treatment van. The Board applied for funding for the following: 1) retention of the current Peer Recovery Coaches and an additional Peer Recovery Coach to work with the new mobile treatment van; 2) retention of the SUD PATH Outreach Specialist; 3) a new Prevention Specialist and training for existing prevention staff in the PAX Good Behavior Game for implementation in After School and Summer Camp programming; and 4) Overdose Awareness Day activities. The Board's funding request was for \$684,598. The application was submitted on the due date of September 23rd.

B. ARPA I Funding Update: Lee Ann Watson said the Southwest Collaborative has finalized the purchase of the building and property in Warren County for the short-term mental health Adam/Amanda residential facility. The Warren/Clinton Board Director signed the purchase paperwork on September 25th. The total purchase price, including renovations, was \$5.3 million.

C. Crisis Receiving Center Update: The second Crisis Planning meeting was held on September 24th. The Crisis Consultants from TBD Solutions are facilitating the meetings. The next meeting will be on October 22nd and will focus on the cost of the different crisis facilities. Lee Ann Watson invited the Board members to join the meeting and will have staff send out the information to join. Lee Ann said the Board of County Commissioners has asked her to present at their next meeting to advocate for county funding for the Center. Lee Ann said she is still waiting to hear back about the OneOhio grant for the Center. If the Board gets approved for that, it will be \$3.3 million in funding for the Center.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) said her report stands. Alicia added that GCB/CRC's Overdose Awareness Day outreach event went well. Alicia also said GCB is in its second year of a four-year grant for its Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic.

Susan Graham of Child Focus said her report stands. Susan added that Child Focus' annual charity event, "Encourage the Heart-Rockin' on the River" was a success and the event netted double what it did last year. Susan thanked Jacki, Andy, Denny, and Lee Ann for attending the event. Susan also said that the Crisis Response Team has already had more calls this year than it did in total last year.

NAMI of Southwest Ohio's report stands.

Hope Community Center's report stands.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) Agreement with Juvenile Court for Funding in the Amount of \$28,200 for a Therapist at the Juvenile Detention Center: Judge Shriver had approached Lee Ann Watson to request funding to increase the part-time therapist to a full-time position. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY25 Agreement with Juvenile Court for funding 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-Susan Vilardo, second-Jara Bonner).
2. CY 2025 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 CY25 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-Joy Lytle, second-Susan Vilardo).

B. Discussion Items:

1. School Based Mental Health Redesign Model: Board staff met with Child Focus staff many times throughout the past several months to discuss school based mental health and have finally developed a redesigned model that they believe is equitable. Over the past month and a half, Lee Ann Watson and Child Focus have been meeting with the Superintendents of the school districts to discuss the new model and gather feedback. So far, the feedback has been positive. From the discussions with the school districts, Board staff and Child Focus staff have identified the following issues that need to be addressed by the school-based mental health redesign model:

- Workforce/adequate staffing
- Increased need
- Family engagement
- Quality versus quantity
- Limited funding

The new school-based mental health model will address these issues by using the following techniques:

- Regional Intake Specialists who will complete client paperwork for the school-based clinicians
- Schools will have the ability to choose from a menu of services
- Expanding funding sources to include not just Child Focus and the Board but also the schools and the families receiving services

Lee Ann Watson said the final school-based mental health services model will be data driven. Data will be drawn and analyzed from the Department of Education, Child Focus and Ohio Department of Medicaid to determine need across the districts and prioritize funding.

The team will consider the following criteria:

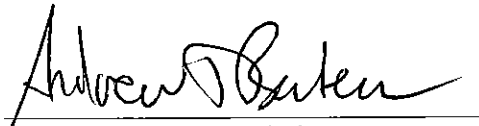
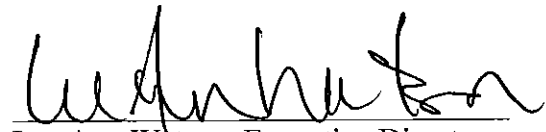
- Does the district have other resources available?
- Is the child/district financially disadvantaged?
- What is the district's historical use of crisis services?
- What is the attendance/truancy rate of the district?
- What's the district's referral versus enrollment ratio?
- What is the district's enrollment rate?

Child Focus and the Board will be meeting again with the Superintendents in January to discuss their allocations.

2. Program Committee Meeting Scheduling: Program Committee Chair, Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell said she has tentatively scheduled a meeting for the Program Committee for November 4, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom. The Committee will discuss its purpose and

how it will make recommendations to the Board regarding provider agency programming. The Committee will also discuss the frequency of Program Committee meetings. Board staff will send out a tentative calendar invite for November 4, 2024.

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Susan Vilardo said she had attended the art show and sale at Hope Community Center with her brother. Susan said she and her brother were welcomed warmly and they had a lovely time. Susan said Hope Community Center did a great job. There were no additional announcements or comments from public attendees at the October 14, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the October 14, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Susan Vilardo).


Andrew Bateman, Chairperson
Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director