

### MINUTES of June 9, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Andrew (Andy) Bateman, Gretchen Behimer, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Joe Ellison, Patty Lawrence, Laura Perez, Tony Rees, Greg Varner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joy Lytle

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond Bailey

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Richard Chaney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jen Dorschug, Susan Graham, Pamela Lindeman

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

1. Call to Order: The June 9, 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 Andy Bateman welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. A formal farewell was given to Board members Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, and Greg Varner as this was their last meeting before their terms expire on June 30, 2025.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the June 9, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Tony Rees).
3. Approval of the Minutes as Corrected: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes as corrected from the May 12, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Jara Bonner).
4. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands.  
  
Associate Director Denny Moell's report stands.  
  
Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith's report stands.
5. Committee Reports:
  - A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met prior to the Board of Directors' meeting on June 9, 2025 at 6:00pm. Finance Committee Chair Jacki Block summarized that evening's meeting.

Review of Financials: Jacki said the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) Profit and Loss Statement as of June 3, 2025.

Child Focus School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Request: Jacki Block said that Child Focus has requested a FY25 line-item budget reallocation from medication and therapy to SBMH consultation and prevention services. Child Focus has experienced an unusually high number of Crisis Response Team referrals this year, specifically twenty-one as opposed to the average amount of four (4) annually, and the need for youth mental health services is on the rise. Jacki also reminded the Board that \$36,000 was reallocated to prevention services at mid-year revision in February 2025. Funding was approved to be reallocated to prevention and consultation services at the mid-year revision due to the increase in Crisis Response Team referrals despite the fact that those service lines are capped annually to not exceed the contracted amount. Jacki said the Committee's concern with the request is that if they allow one agency to exceed capped contracted amounts, they would be obligated to allow other contracted agencies to do the same. Ultimately, the Committee did not make a final decision, but instead requested additional data from Child Focus. Once the Committee reviews the additional data, they will make a formal recommendation to the full Board. The following additional data was requested from Child Focus: the number of school-based prevention units delivered per month; the date, number of responders, and units delivered at each of the twenty-one crisis responses; and outcomes for FY25 SBMH services.

Temporary Operating Board Budget: Jacki Block said that Board staff requested a temporary operating budget to start FY26 at FY25 levels until the State budget is released and the Board approves the final budget. The Finance Committee supported a temporary FY26 operating budget until the actual budget is approved by the Board in July. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve a temporary FY26 operating budget at the amount of FY25. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Gretchen Behimer).

6. Unfinished Business: Crisis Receiving Center: Lee Watson said the Crisis Receiving Center project is still on schedule and will go out for bid in July 2025.

Levy Planning: Lee Ann Watson gave a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on May 14, 2025. The BCC has not yet given the Board the authorization to be on the November 2025 ballot with its request of a renewal with a .5% increase. The BCC will be voting on the matter in July 2025. Lee Ann said it is not likely the BCC is going to approve an increase. However, the BCC did approve allocating the County's opioid settlement funding of up to approximately \$9 million to the Board for operational costs of the Crisis Receiving Center.

7. Agency Directors' Reports: Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center's (GCB/CRC) report stands. Jen Dorschug added that GCB's caseload and walk-in access appointments are up from their usual averages, particularly in youth services. In addition, GCB's Behavioral Health Urgent Care served over two hundred and seventy individuals in 2025 with 25% of that number being new clients.

Child Focus's report stands.

Hope Community Center's (HCC) report stands.

NAMI of SW Ohio's report stands.

8. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Election of Officers: Board members Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, and Greg Varner, who all hold Board Officer positions, will be at the end of their Board terms on June 30, 2025. Therefore, the Board must elect and approve a new slate of Officers. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the new slate of Officers as follows:

**Chairperson**-Gretchen Behimer

**Vice-Chairperson/Program Committee Chair**-Liz Atwell

**Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair**-Patty Lawrence

**Secretary**-Laura Perez

(Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jara Bonner).

2. FY26 Agreement for Adult Residential Care with Alternate Living Solutions, Inc. (ALS) for Mellon Meadows Care Center, Inc. and Peebles Place Care Center, Inc.: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Agreement for Adult Residential Care with ALS for Mellon Meadows and Peebles Place as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Tony Rees).
3. FY26 Health Officers and Chief Clinical Officers (CCOs): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Health Officers and CCOs as presented. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Greg Varner).
4. FY26 Agreement with Cincinnati Children's Hospital for Indigent Youth Inpatient Psychiatric Services: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Agreement with Children's Hospital for psychiatric inpatient services for indigent children/adolescents as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Gretchen Behimer).
5. FY26 Agreement with Beckett Springs for Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Services: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Agreement with Beckett Springs for adult inpatient psychiatric services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Liz Atwell).
6. FY26 MOU Template with the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCCDD) Board for Project Partners for Shared Services for Dually Diagnosed Individuals: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 MOU

template with CCDD as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Gretchen Behimer, second-Jara Bonner).

7. FY26 Central Clinic Agreement for Forensic Monitoring Services: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Central Clinic Agreement for Forensic Monitoring Services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Greg Varner).
8. FY26 Agreement with Sparks Psychological Services for Evaluation and Testimonial Services for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Probate Clients: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Agreement with Sparks Psychological Services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Jacki Block).

B. Discussion Items:

1. School-Based Mental Health Services: Susan Graham of Child Focus said that Child Focus spent several months working on a School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) services redesign and that there were five (5) key things leading to the need for a redesign:
  - The schools' continued requests for increased services
  - Services provider turnover due to high stress and burnout
  - The need to increase salaries to remain competitive in the job market
  - Increased community needs
  - The challenge of parent engagement with regard to completion of paperwork to open the youth in services at Child Focus

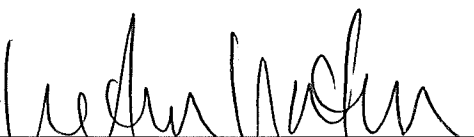
Susan said that Child Focus worked with Board staff to develop a formula to calculate funding for each school. Factors for that formula included community needs/gaps, student attendance, district enrollment, and district financial need. Some districts have additional mental health professionals on site, so their needs may not be as high as districts that do have that resource. The schools were provided with a menu of available services to choose from, and the Board will provide a base allocation to each school district based on the funding formula. If a school district requests more services than what can be available with the Board funding, the district will be responsible for the additional funding for services. Child Focus has heard from all of the school districts and some of the districts agreed to provide additional funding to increase the level of services offered in their district above the amount funded by the Board dollars. Collectively, the districts will pay an additional \$143,306 to receive additional services beyond those funded by the Board. Some school districts chose not to increase the funding, and therefore some SBMH staff will be moved out of those districts. As such, Susan said that there are one-hundred four students that will no longer be seen by a provider in their school district. Child Focus will continue to service those individuals outside of school hours on a sliding fee scale basis, but some families may need subsidy for the services.

In addition, Susan presented a table showing a breakdown of the number of full-time SBMH providers that will be assigned to each school in FY26. Child Focus will also

provide three (3) regional intake providers. Child Focus and the Board will enter into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with each school district to clarify the roles of all three parties.

2. 2025 Clermont County Fair Schedule: Board staff advised the Board members that the Clermont County Fair will take place July 20-July 26, 2025. The Board will have two adjoining booths in the Commercial Building at the fair. Board staff will send out the sign-up schedule so Board members can have the opportunity to participate at the Board's booth if they wish. Board staff and other community partners will also staff the Board's booth.
3. Cancellation of July or August Meeting: Board staff asked the Board members to consider cancelling the August 2025 Board meeting due to the delay in the announcement of the State and Federal budgets as well as scheduling conflicts. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to cancel the August 2025 Board meeting. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jara Bonner).
4. FY26 Mini Grants: Board staff said that the final date of submission for the FY26 mini grant project proposals was May 16, 2025. The Board received twenty (20) proposals totaling \$54,787.27 in requests. Since the Board's budget for the program is \$30,000 some proposals may receive partial funding, and some may not be funded at all. The Mini Grant Review Committee has rated the proposals and now the proposals are under the review of Executive Director Lee Ann Watson.
5. Construction Manager: Lee Ann Watson asked the Board members for guidance on hiring an outside Construction Manager for the Crisis Receiving Center renovation project. A Construction Manager is estimated to cost \$60,000. Kleinfelder, the architecture firm hired for renovation design, said that they act on behalf of the Board as the Construction Manager as part of their contract with the Board. Board members agreed that hiring a Construction Manager is expensive and unnecessary and therefore advised Lee Ann to allow Kleinfelder to act as Construction Manager for the project. Kleinfelder will meet with Board staff on a regular basis for construction updates and will be on-site at least once per month.
9. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the June 9, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.
10. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the June 9, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Gretchen Behimer).

  
Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson

  
Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director