Clermont County
MENTAL HEALTH
& RECOVERY BOARD

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ENCLOSURE ONE

MINUTES of July 13, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Gretchen Behimer, Jara Bonner, Jeff Higgins, Patty Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Nathan O'Der, Tony Rees

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joe Ellison, Mark Johnson (Resigned 7/13/26), Laura Perez

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey (Zoom)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Jen Dorschug, Zoe Fiscus-Doss, Christina Shaynak-Diaz, Laura Stith

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

1. Call to Order: The July 13, 2026, Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person and virtually at 7:00 pm at 4357 Ferguson Drive, Suite 230, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245. Chairperson Gretchen Behimer 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 July 13, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of V.B.3., "Succession Planning Committee". (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes as corrected from the June 8, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Liz Atwell).
4. Training: Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA)-Board Ethics and the Open Meetings Act: Christina Shaynak-Diaz provided a slideshow presentation training module on Board ethics, the Open Meetings Act, and state level updates pertaining to the Boards.
5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson highlighted portions of her report. Lee Ann's highlights included:
   - The Board's Community Engagement Coordinator position has been filled. Kelsey Smothers starts on August 3, 2026.
   - The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) released SOS 4.0 carry-over funding to Boards. Clermont received $230,774 which was approved for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) medications for indigent clients at Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC).

- The Board learned on June 16th that we were awarded $200,000 in community capital funding to assist with the supportive permanent housing facility that New Housing Ohio will be developing in Felicity.
- Lee Ann is in the process of finalizing an agreement with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to receive opioid settlement funding for the Crisis Receiving Center.

Associate Director Denny Moell said his report stands.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee-Review of July 13, 2026 Meeting:

1. Review of Fiscal Reports: Committee Chair Patty Lawrence said that the Board has received 98%, or $7.7 million, of its projected fiscal year 2026 (FY26) funding, and FY26 expenditures total 80%, or $8.2 million. The Committee also reviewed and made a recommendation to the Board to approve the FY27 budget. Total annual expenses in the proposed budget are $9,600,890 and total annual income is $9,730,663. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 annual budget as presented. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Tony Rees).

2. GCB Request for Fee-for-Service Billing for Jail Linkage: At the June meeting, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) requested that fee-for-service billing for services provided to incarcerated clients be allowable under FY27 Purchase of Service (POS) contracts. Following the discontinuation of the Jail Linkage Project, some GCB clients continue to require brief supportive services while incarcerated. Medicaid does not reimburse services delivered in jail settings. Committee members reviewed the current Contract Standards, which permit funding for one assessment annually and up to two units of Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment (CPST) for incarcerated individuals. As this standard is already in place, the Finance Committee supported maintaining the current policy without changes. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to allow GCB to bill the Board for fee-for-service linkage at the jail and to allow Board staff to approve the billing code in GOSH, the Board's claims processing system. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Liz Atwell).

3. Leaving GCB MAT Funding at $300,000 for FY27: At the June meeting, GCB requested that funding for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) medications within its Opioid Treatment Program remain at $300,000 for SFY2027 while the agency develops a clinically appropriate transition plan related to client medication costs. The Board has received $230,774 in State Opioid and Stimulant (SOS) carryover funding, which will partially offset medication expenses in SFY2027. GCB will provide a mid-year update to the Finance Committee regarding progress on transitioning medication costs to clients when appropriate. The Finance Committee supported funding MAT medications for up to $300,000 for SFY2027. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve funding for GCB MAT medications for up to $300,000 in FY27. (Motion-Gretchen Behimer, second-Joy Lytle, abstained-Jeff Higgins).

4. FY26 HCC Budget Modification: Hope Community Center (HCC) requested approval to reallocate funds from the Personnel budget category to several underfunded program expense categories. The approved budget was based on staffing of five full-time employees (FTEs); however, the program has successfully operated with three FTEs and two part-time employees (PTEs), resulting in personnel savings. HCC requested that these savings be redirected to cover actual program expenses. If the budget modification is approved, the SFY26 contract will be underspent by approximately $121,876. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the HCC FY26 budget modification as presented. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Liz Atwell).

B. Strategic Planning Committee-Review of June 18, 2026 Meeting: The Strategic Planning Committee met on June 18, 2026 to discuss and review the Board's current Strategic Plan. Board staff were assigned the task of making the suggested changes to create the draft calendar year 2027-2029 Strategic Plan. The Committee will reconvene on July 14, 2026 to review the drafted Plan.

C. Succession Planning Committee: Committee Chair Nathan O'Der informed the Board members that Board member Mark Johnson was resigning, creating an open position on the Board of Directors. To fill the position, the Committee plans to reach out to its list of potential Board members, pare down the list of candidates, discuss the new list with the Executive Director, and make a recommendation to the Board.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. Resolution to Oppose Elimination of Property Taxes: Lee Ann Watson informed the Board members that the Resolution proposal did not obtain enough signatures to be approved for the November 2026 ballot.

B. FY27 Children's Hospital Increase Request: The Board approved the FY27 Children's Hospital agreement for in-patient services at the May 11, 2026 meeting. However, at the June 8, 2026 meeting, the Board learned that Children's Hospital asked for an increase following that approval. The Board requested that the Executive Director negotiate with Children's Hospital. After negotiation, Children's Hospital agreed to a 2% increase for FY27 that will remain in effect until the end of FY28. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Children's Hospital request for a per diem increase of 2%, good for two fiscal years, and totaling $946.34. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Jara Bonner).

C. Alternative Living Solutions (ALS) Increase Request: The Board approved the FY27 ALS contract at the May 11, 2026 meeting. However, since then, ALS has contacted the Executive Director with a per diem increase request. At the June 8, 2026 meeting, the Board denied an increase for ALS in FY27. ALS has not reached back out to the Executive Director to counter negotiate a rate. At this time, the per diem rate for adult residential mental health services at Mellon Meadows and Peebles, the facilities owned by ALS at which the Board has client's residing, will remain the same as FY26.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Laura Stith said that Child Focus' report stands. Laura added that Child Focus has contracted with a company to add Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to its

electronic health record reporting. The new technology will generate clinician notes, streamlining the process. Clinicians will be required to review, edit, and approve the AI generated notations. The process has been performed in a test environment to check for inaccuracies. So far, the new technology has been successful and will soon be going live throughout the agency.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services' (GCB) report stands. Jen Dorschug added that overall caseload numbers have increased. GCB has been working to keep clients safe during the recent heat wave. GCB's Behavioral Health Urgent Care has surpassed 2000 clients served and has prevented 700 individuals from requiring further outside care. Lastly, GCB hosted a mental health *Dungeons & Dragons* based youth camp in Felicity which engaged fifteen youth in treatment.

Hope Community Center's report stands. Zoe Fiscus-Doss added that HCC received a grant from DBH to expand its Clubhouse model. HCC staff recently attended a two-week training course on the Clubhouse model. Zoe said HCC's FY27 action plan is to increase client attendance. Lastly, HCC started Medicaid billing on July 13, 2026.

NAMI of Southwest Ohio's report stands.

9. New Business:
   A. Action Items
      1. FY27 Purchase of Services (POS) Contract Standards: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 POS Contract Standards as presented. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jeff Higgins).

      2. FY27 POS Contract with Child Focus: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 POS contract with Child Focus as presented and to authorize the Executive Director and Board Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Jeff Higgins).

      3. FY27 POS Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 POS contract with GCB as presented and to authorize the Executive Director and Board Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Nathan O'Der).

      4. FY27 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) for the Adult Mobile Crisis (AMC) Pilot: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 MOU with the Hamilton County MHRSB as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board in order for the Board to receive this funding. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).

      5. FY27 MOU with Child Focus for the Adult Mobile Crisis Pilot: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 MOU with Child Focus as presented and to

authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board in order to pass AMC funding onto Child Focus. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Nathan O'Der).

6. Revised Board Bylaws: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Revised Board Bylaws as presented. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Joy Lytle).

7. Revised Policy O2.17 "120-Day Notices": A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revised Policy O2.17 to include the new Ohio Revised Code change to 30-day notice as presented and to change the name of Policy O2.17 to "30-Day Notices". (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).

8. FY27 Family and Children First Agreement: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Family and Children First Agreement for the contribution in the amount of up to $25,000 for peer services as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Jeff Higgins).

9. FY27 Agreement with IPM Food Pantry for a Harm Reduction Machine: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 agreement with IPM Food Pantry for a new Harm Reduction Machine at 4623 Aicholtz Road as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Tony Rees).

10. FY27 MOUs with Family Recovery Court (Juvenile Court) and OVI Court (Municipal Court) for Specialized Docket Funds: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 MOUs with Family Recovery Court and OVI Court for Specialized Docket Funds as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOUs on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Jara Bonner).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Cancelling August or September 2026 Meeting: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to cancel the August 10, 2026 meeting. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Tony Rees).

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Board members discussed the matter of the Board receiving thirty-five mini grant proposals, totaling over $99,000 in funding requests. Thirteen organizations were awarded funding. The Board requested that staff send them the list of awardees. There were no other announcements or comments from public attendees at the July 13, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the July 13, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Tony Rees).

GBehimer

Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson

LeeAnn Watson

Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director