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### MINUTES of April 13, 2026

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mark Johnson, Joy Lytle

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond Bailey (Zoom)

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Richard Chaney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Kiwii Bowers, Angel Cocco, Alicia Fine, Katie Harper, Meghan Kellner, Cassidy Lekan, Beth McManus, Stephanie Scott, Kale Stewart, Laura Stith

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

1. Call to Order: The April 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 April 13, 2026 Board of Directors’ meeting. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Tony Rees).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2026 Board of Directors’ meeting. (Motion-Nathan O’Der, second-Jara Bonner).
4. Training: Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)-Project Dawn/Narcan: Stephanie Scott gave a presentation on Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) and the administration of the overdose reversal drug naloxone or Narcan. The presentation included a training on the use of Narcan, dispersal of Narcan and a pamphlet on Project DAWN.
5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson highlighted portions of her report. Lee Ann’s highlights included:
  - The Southwest Collaborative is still awaiting approval from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) on the budget for the Adult Mobile Crisis Pilot.
  - The Crisis Receiving Center construction is ahead of schedule.

- The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has officially provided the Board with access to the opioid settlement funding in the amount of \$1.3 million per year through 2031.
- The 2035 Clermont Agenda for the Future identified youth mental health as a target need under the Health and Wellbeing theme area.

Associate Director Denny Moell summarized his report. The 2026 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training was held March 30, 2026 to April 3, 2026. There will also be a regional Advanced CIT Training, Engaging Older Adults, on April 14, 2026. In addition, Denny said that plans are underway for a Clermont CIT Dispatcher Training during the summer of 2026 and CIT Corrections Officer Training in fall of 2026.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith's report stands. Marcie added that there are several events scheduled in May in observance of Mental Health Awareness Month. These events include:

- *Connecting the Dots*-a community “conversation” about mental health, substance use, and prevention efforts in Clermont County
- Unveiling of the Suicide Prevention Mural at New Richmond Middle School
- *Escape into the Calm*-teen nature challenge
- *Creative Calm*-a women’s mocktail sip and paint social
- *Ties that Bind*-a father/son wilderness workshop
- *River Resilience*-a Veteran’s canoe adventure

6. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee-Review of April 13, 2026 Meeting: Committee Chair Patty Lawrence stated that as of April 7, 2026, the Board’s Profit and Loss Statement showed the Board had received 82% of its projected income and had depleted 57% of its projected expenses.

Patty also informed the Board members that Child Focus and GCB leadership reviewed their proposed Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budgets with a 12% reduction as requested by the Board. The Board is awaiting its FY27 budget from the state. Once the state budget is available, the Board of Directors will need to discuss and vote on the Board’s budget for FY27.

The Finance Committee recommended updating the Board’s FY27 Sliding Fee Scale to reflect 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines with the base set at 138% of poverty due to the Medicaid Expansion threshold. The new scale would be effective July 1, 2026 with client pay responsibility set at increments of 5%. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY27 Sliding Fee Scale to reflect 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).

7. Unfinished Business: NONE

8. Agency Directors’ Reports: Laura Stith said that Child Focus’ report stands. Laura added that the Crisis Hotline continues to receive a record number of calls, averaging between four hundred and five hundred calls per month. Most of the hotline calls are from the local hotline number,

but calls routed from the national 988 hotline are continuing to increase. Lastly, Laura also mentioned that Child Focus will be hosting its annual golf outing event in June of 2026.

Cassidy Lekan said that Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services' report stands.

Hope Community Center's report stands.

Katie Harper said that NAMI of Southwest Ohio's report stands. Katie stated that NAMI has added new support groups in Clermont County. Katie added that NAMI's Clermont Family to Family support group recently had a graduating class of eighteen; a record number of graduates.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Updated Provider Agency Audits Policy and Procedure O2.21: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the updated Provider Agency Audits Policy and Procedure O2.21 as presented (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Tony Rees).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Board Succession Planning: Board Succession Committee Chair Nathan O'Der reminded members of the request to submit two (2) names of potential Board members who fall into the suggested professional sectors from which the Board of Directors wishes to recruit new Board members. Board staff will send out a list of the priority sectors and then in a week or two, will send out another email asking members for two (2) names of potential Board members. Once some names have been collected, Nathan will schedule the next Board Succession Planning Committee meeting.
2. Post Retreat Survey Results: Cindy Knoblauch provided the Board members with the outcomes of the Post Retreat Survey. Survey data included an overall rating of 4.44 of 5. Attendee feedback included several mentions that the length of the agenda and the time allotted needed to be adjusted. Overall survey comments were positive showing that the 2026 Retreat was very productive.
3. Review of Strategic Plan: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said that the current Strategic Plan is in effect until the end of 2026. Lee Ann said that we need to start forming a Strategic Plan Work Group to begin working on the Board's next Strategic Plan. Ideally, the new Strategic Plan would be in place by the start of Calendar Year 2027 (CY27). The work group would consist of Board staff and a few Board members who would meet in person about once a month. Lee Ann added that Board staff will do most of the written work for the new Plan. Members who showed interest in possibly being part of the work group were Gretchen, Patty, Nathan and tentatively, Jeff.
4. How to Read the Provider Outcome Reports:
  - A. Child Focus: Laura Stith provided an overview of how to read Child Focus' monthly agency outcome report, including explanations of acronyms, comparison of outcome data, and how percentages are calculated.

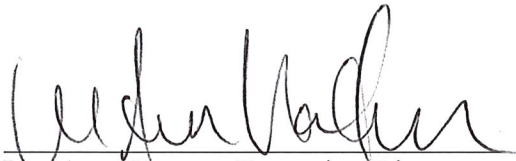
B. NAMI: Katie Harper provided an overview of how to read NAMI's monthly agency outcome report.

Board members suggested that agencies begin adding historical data trends comparing outcomes for "this month", "last month", and "this month last year".

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the April 13, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the April 13, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Nathan O'Der, second-Jeff Higgins).



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Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson



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Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director