



2337 Clermont Center Drive • Batavia, Ohio 45103

TELEPHONE: (513) 732-5400 FAX: (513) 732-5414 TTY: 1-800-750-0750

WEBSITE: [www.ccmhrb.org](http://www.ccmhrb.org) CRISIS HOTLINE: (513) 528-SAVE (7283)

### MINUTES of April 12, 2021

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Carrie Brown, Karen Conrad, Laura Esslinger, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patty Lawrence, Greg Varner
- MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Kelley Costello
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESENT:** Raymond Bailey
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER EXCUSED:** Richard Chaney
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Heather Cokl, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Pamela Lindeman, Emily Neal, Jeff O'Neil, Laura Stith
- STAFF PRESENT:** Cindy Knoblauch, Erica Pursley, Karen Scherra, Lee Ann Watson

1. The meeting was conducted on video conference via Zoom due to the State of Ohio "Shelter at Home" order and the changes in the Open Meetings regulations due to the coronavirus. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed the Board members and the meeting proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the April 12, 2021 Board meeting with the addition of Discussion Item number 5, "OACBHA's 2021 Opiate and Other Drug Conference". (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Erica Koe-Krompecher).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Greg Varner).
4. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Regarding OACBHA, Karen stated that an ad-hoc committee has been started that includes nine Board Directors, including Karen, who are serving on OhioRISE Committees. Since much of what is decided about the services connected to OhioRISE will impact Boards and providers, this committee will provide an opportunity to share information from each of the State-level OhioRISE committees and to create an opportunity for shared input on the development and implementation of the program. The Committee first met on March 16th and will continue to meet monthly.

Regarding Opioid/Drug Issues, Karen Scherra and Associate Director Lee Ann Watson participated in the Overdose Fatality Review on March 29th. The first six months of overdose deaths in 2020 were reviewed. Based on the information for that time period, the number of

overdose deaths increased in 2020 compared to 2019. Public Health will have the final numbers in a few months.

Regarding OMHAS related activities, Karen Scherra mentioned that she continues to participate in all the ENGAGE Team and Board Representatives meetings, which include a monthly local MRSS meeting led by CFI staff. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, they had a meeting of the Board representatives working on the project from both the Southwest and Northwest projects, along with the Project Directors. The team discussed plans moving forward for the end of the grant in September, where the project is budget-wise, and how OhioRISE will impact sustainability of the MRSS services, both positively and negatively. The group decided to meet monthly to compare notes and to advocate together on areas of importance to the current projects and the decisions being made for the state-wide expansion of MRSS services.

As the lead for the Southwest Collaborative, Karen Scherra stated that she has established a monthly meeting for all the Southwest Collaborative members. The first meeting occurred on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and included OMHAS and OACBHA staff, as OMHAS had requested to have quarterly meetings with all the Collaboratives. The group got an update on several OMHAS initiatives and the group was asked for input on those areas, including the new Multi-System Adult funds and programs that OMHAS is planning for FY2022. Karen added that an exact definition of a multi-system adult has not been firmly established yet.

Regarding Federal Activities/Legislation, Karen Scherra highlighted President Biden's plan to direct \$2.5 billion in funding to address the nation's rising mental illness and addiction crisis as a result of COVID-19. The funding will be aimed at increasing access to behavioral health services and allocated to states. The funds will be broken down into two components by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- \$1.65 billion will go toward the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, which gives the receiving states and territories money to improve already-existing treatment infrastructure and create or enhance prevention and treatment programs.
- \$825 million will be allocated through the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant program, which will be used by the states to deal specifically with mental health treatment services.

Karen Scherra also added that the National Council, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), and National Association for Behavioral Healthcare (NABH) sent a letter to the Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urging the inclusion of individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders in the Phase 1 COVID-19 vaccination groups. The letter also highlights the need for immediate distribution of vaccines directly to behavioral health providers as they navigate this public health crisis.

Karen Scherra also mentioned that the federal government has re-introduced telehealth legislation. The legislation seeks to support the expansion of telehealth services for substance use care. Other news at the federal level included the April 1<sup>st</sup> White House press release that outlines the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities for their first year in office. These important priorities range from expanding evidence-based approaches to improve access to prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction services, reducing the supply of illicit substances, and efforts to address racial equality in drug policy and health care.

Regarding Ohio Activities/Legislation, Karen Scherra stated that during the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Ohio General Assembly overrode Governor DeWine's veto of SB 22 that restricts the Governor's health orders by permitting the General Assembly to rescind orders and rules issued by the governor or the Ohio Department of Health.

Karen Scherra further mentioned the passing of two Ohio House bills that will impact the behavioral health system.

- SB 2 – Mental Health Treatment - To make changes to the requirements for competency evaluations and mental health treatment in criminal cases and to enter into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).
- SB 57 – Housing Taxation - To exempt from property taxation qualifying housing for individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance use disorder. OACBHA supported these bills.

Karen Scherra wrapped up by mentioning the articles/documents attached to her report. The first was an OACBHA “one-pager” that discussed eating disorders in the age of a pandemic. The second was an article titled “How Much Does that School Levy Cost? Ohio GOP Lawmakers Want to Make it Easier to Understand”. House Bill 140 will dictate the rewrite of how levy language appears on Ohio ballots. One of the proposed changes would be that the cost of levies can be expressed using \$100,000 of appraised home value instead of the current \$100 increments. Another proposed change would include adding on the ballot the total amount a levy would collect each year.

5. Committee Reports: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block reported to the Board members on items discussed at the Finance Committee meeting of April 12, 2021. Jacki stated that the Board is financially on track for FY 2021. Jacki also mentioned that the Finance Committee reviewed the SFY 2022 sliding fee scale which is based off the 2021 federal poverty guidelines. The scale uses family annual income to measure Board subsidy amounts. Jacki said the Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve the scale. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2022 sliding fee scale as presented. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Dorothy Glancy).

Another item discussed by the Finance Committee was the FY 2022 Mini-Grants. Jacki reminded the Board members that the mini-grants were not offered by the Board in FY 2021 due to the anticipated additional expenses of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jacki said the Finance Committee recommends that the Board offer the mini-grants for FY 2022, but at a lower amount, specifically no more than \$30,000, as opposed to the \$40,000 that was offered in the past. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the funding for FY 2022 mini-grants at an amount of \$30,000. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Andy Bateman).

Jacki wrapped up by announcing some funding received by the Board. The Board recently received an additional \$58,500 in withdrawal management/crisis funding which was provided to the collaboratives and allocated in Southwest based on county population. The Board is also receiving a \$20,000 payout of Community Investment dollars that were originally allocated to Central Pharmacy for medications used at the Board's contract agencies. As of fourth quarter, the unused allocation amount can be requested by the Board.

6. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the State Budget FY22-23 Update. Karen Scherra said that at the beginning of the budget negotiation phase, OACBHA was optimistic about our “requests” and receiving \$15 million in additional state funding for behavioral health services, as well as six changes in statutory language in HB 110. However, discussions with legislators did not go as anticipated. Now, OACBHA has decreased their funding request to an additional \$3 million and reduced to two language changes: access to data, mainly pertaining to Medicaid, for Boards to improve planning and track outcomes; and clarification or removal of the mandated 120-day notices for any changes in contracts with agencies. The preliminary version of the bill will be out on April 14<sup>th</sup> and the final bill is due by April 16. Representative Jean Schmidt is a member of the House Finance Committee and Karen has shared the OACBHA platform with her. Karen said Boards will know by July 1 what, if any, additional funding will be allotted.

In addition to the disappointing news regarding state funding, Karen Scherra explained that OACBHA’s recently released statement declaring racism as a public health crisis has come under fire. A state legislator, who happens to be a member of the House Finance Committee, sent a letter to OACBHA demanding they provide evidence that systemic racism still exists in Ohio. This disagreement could impact funding decisions for the behavioral health system. OACBHA has decided to stand behind its statement against racism and respond respectfully to the legislator.

Karen Scherra mentioned that yet another blow to the behavioral health system is that legislators are discussing reducing the number of Board members on the ADAMH Boards to 5-9 members instead of the current 14-18 members. This all stems from a disagreement at the Erie/Ottawa Board which caused five members to resign and the Erie County Commissioners to request splitting from Ottawa County. Legislators are also discussing giving County Commissioners more control of ADAMH Boards as rumors are swirling that Boards are poorly run. Commissioners currently appoint 60% of Board members and OMHAS appoints 40%. The OMHAS appointees are directly involved in the behavioral health system. These decisions could make it into the language of the current budget bill, but Karen hopes if they do come to a vote, they will be in a separate bill. Karen said she will keep the Board apprised of the situation.

The second discussion item was the MRSS/OhioRISE Update. As a part of the Ohio Department of Medicaid’s effort to launch the next generation of its managed care program, the Ohio Department of Medicaid will implement OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence), a specialized managed care program for youth with complex behavioral health and multi-system needs. Karen Scherra said, while the OhioRISE concept sounds great, it is not going to solve everything; specifically, where to place older, aggressive adolescents who have nowhere left to go. Karen said OhioRISE starts in January 2022 and stakeholders have been meeting in committees to help design a practical and helpful plan for the services and the rollout. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Karen is attending a meeting that will be an overview of the rules of OhioRISE as well as the data that has been collected for the program.

OhioRISE will be a key funding source for the continuation of Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS). Our MRSS program is currently funded under the OMHAS ENGAGE grant and will continue to be covered until OhioRISE is under way through grant carryover funds and/or OMHAS continuation funds. Clermont is recognized as a leader in MRSS. Karen said

she will be attending the MRSS RFP discussion with Boards on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Karen has been asked to do a presentation on how Clermont runs its MRSS programming.

The third discussion item was the Upcoming Program Committee Meetings. Karen Scherra said that all Board members, not just the Program Committee, are welcome to attend the meetings with the agencies to discuss program funding needs for FY 2022. Karen said Board staff would share the dates, times, and Zoom links for the meetings with the full Board. Karen opened the floor to any items Board members would like agencies to present on at the Program Committee meetings. Andy Bateman said he would like a summary of where funds are currently being spent and strategies to cut back if possible. Patty Lawrence said she would like for agencies to help Board members become better advocates for services in their communities.

The fourth discussion item was the Retreat Wrap-Up and Planning for Resumption of In-Person Meetings. Karen Scherra shared with the agency representatives present at the Board meeting that during the Board retreat on March 13<sup>th</sup>, Board staff presented a spreadsheet detailing the Board's funding sources and distribution. Karen advised the agencies that she would make sure they received a copy of that spreadsheet as well as an aid in presenting to the Program Committee. Moving on, Karen asked the Board if there were any comments, positive or negative, about the retreat. Andy Bateman stated that he thought the retreat was very instructional and found the funding distribution spreadsheet very useful.

Karen Scherra then asked if the Board thought that proceeding with an in-person retreat was a good move and if future Board meetings should be held in-person. Raymond Bailey said he would like to see the meeting switch to a hybrid model, leaving the option to attend in person or virtually as early as the May meeting. Dorothy Glancy said she thinks the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine will play a part in the resumption of in-person meetings. Andy Bateman stated that he too would like to see a hybrid meeting structure so as to be mindful of attendees' concerns. Karen Conrad and Erica Koe-Krompecher said they were leaning toward a hybrid model as well. Karen Scherra said she would have Board staff send out a poll to see where to go from here.

The fifth and final discussion item was the OACBHA 2021 Opiate and Other Drug Conference. Karen Scherra mentioned that Board staff recently sent out the information about the conference in an email. Last year's conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the event is virtual and is being held May 11-13. Karen said the Board received two free registrations to be used for Board members and staff that would like to attend as well as two free registrations for agency staff. The Board will cover any additional registrations for Board members or staff. Karen advised that if anyone was interested in going, they should contact Cindy Knoblauch. The cost of the conference is \$250 for all three days or \$100 per day if a person cannot attend all three days.

7. Agency Directors' Reports: Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura added that normal operations have resumed at Child Focus. The waiting rooms have reopened, and meetings are being held in person, and Child Focus is following all state-mandated guidelines for facemasks and social distancing. Laura also reported some information on the Crisis Response Team. The Crisis Response Team had two responses so far for April. One was at New Richmond Schools and one was at Grant Career Center. Both situations were related to the recent death of a student. Laura also provided information on Mobile Crisis runs during its expanded hours. Runs during the expanded hours of operation were as follows: October 10-

12%; 20-21% November through January, 35% in February, and 12% in March. On a sidenote, Karen Scherra thanked Child Focus for allowing the Board use of the Carter Center for its retreat in March.

Jeff O'Neil of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)/Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of GCB, said his report stands. Jeff said that GCB is at an all-time high in enrollment for all services. He said the surge was expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This surge creates growing challenges with workforce needs and staffing. Jeff also said after two years, the new Managed Care organizations have been announced. There will be 6-7 starting in January 2022. Jeff said Aetna was not one of them, but Aetna will be part of the OhioRISE program. Jeff anticipates some billing changes and challenges with the new Managed Care companies.

Heather Cokl, also of GCB/CRC, provided some additional updates. Heather concurred with Jeff O'Neil that there is indeed a high demand for services at CRC. February and March saw a 66% increase in enrollments with high retention rates and only five no shows. Heather said GCB/CRC is planning to resume additional face-to-face appointments within 2-3 weeks. Heather also mentioned that GCB's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) has launched its intensive outpatient program. Heather closed by reporting that GCB's vocational leaders completed a training through Ohio Means Jobs focusing on strategies to deal with anxiety during a pandemic.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report was a little late but will be in next month's Board meeting packet. Amy added that HCC will be tentatively reopening on its regular schedule of 3 days/week on June 1<sup>st</sup> depending on the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine among HCC members, and the ability to utilize public transportation through CTC. Amy said CTC needs a 2-week notice to schedule the transportation of clients to the center. The Parent Support Partners (PSPs) have been making those calls to CTC on behalf of the clients. Amy added that all of HCC's PSPs have full caseloads and may begin to discharge inactive clients. Amy closed by reporting one of the PSPs will be attending a trauma training in May.

Emily Neal of NAMI Southwest Ohio said her report stands. Emily added that NAMI continues to offer its family and peer support groups virtually and that attendance is high. Emily said NAMI hopes to continue to offer some of its classes virtually since the attendance is so high using that platform. Emily said 12 people attended Sunday's peer meeting and NAMI currently has 3-5 Family Support Groups. Emily said 20 people attended the Family-to-Family group at the end of March and the April 19 class is open for registration. Registration is also open for the Hope for Recovery class in May. Thirty-seven (37) Ending the Silence classes were presented in two days at Loveland Middle School. A total of 1,067 students attended the classes.

8. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the April 12, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting.

9. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the April 12, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-John Kelly).

  
Karen Conrad, Chairperson

  
Karen J. Scherza, Executive Director