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MINUTES of December 14, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Carrie Brown, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Laura Esslinger, Dorothy Glancy, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patty Lawrence, Geoff Schwerzler, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: John Kelly

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: Katie Shepherd

ASSOCIATE MEMBER EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey, Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Emily Neal, Julia Saldanha, 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 December 14, 2020 Board meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Jacki Block).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2020 Board of Directors’ meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Erica Koe-Krompecher).
4. Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. With regard to Hospital Updates/Utilization, Karen said admissions to the state hospitals in Central and Northeast Ohio had been suspended due to a large number of COVID-19 cases. Twin Valley Hospital has since reopened. Karen added that OMHAS Director Lori Criss contracted COVID-19 but is now better.

Under OACBHA, Karen said the group of OACBHA directors and Ohio Council directors, the “Futures Group”, continued to meet every two weeks to educate each other on the areas chosen as most problematic between Boards and providers to develop a better understanding of the issues regarding Board/provider contracts and solutions that could be suggested. Jeff O’Neil of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) is also part of the group. The group had its last meeting earlier today. Karen said the group did not accomplish all the goals it had originally intended to, but that the group plans to continue communication. Karen also added that Jeff O’Neil will be the incoming President of the Ohio Council.

Karen also mentioned the Hospital Services Workgroup, which she chairs, met on November 17. One new topic was the number of young adults close to turning 18 who are seriously mentally ill, often aggressive, and violent, and the lack of inpatient and residential treatment available to this population. Karen had this topic added, as Clermont had a case like this in Juvenile Detention that many people were involved with but there were few options for the client. Although there are few cases like this per county, it is a larger problem when you look at the number of statewide cases. A sub-committee has been formed to address this issue, involving Board directors/staff, OACBHA staff, OMHAS staff, and staff from other state agencies.

Under Criminal Justice Related Activities, Karen Scherra said the monthly Stakeholders Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) meetings that involve her, GCB and CASC staff, Municipal Court Probation Officers, and County Administration have continued via Zoom. The number of participants in CASC continued to decrease in November after an all-time high during September. The next meeting will be held on December 15th. Commissioner Painter has asked Karen to apply for an award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) to recognize the CASC program. The application is due in March.

Under Suicide Prevention, Karen said Associate Director Lee Ann Watson is currently working on several projects and grants for the Suicide Prevention Coalition. Karen said, unfortunately, there was a 14-year-old from Milford who recently died by suicide, which serves as a very sad reminder of the importance of suicide prevention programs in Clermont County.

Under COVID-19 Related Activities, Karen Scherra said that there is hope that Behavioral Health workers, especially those with high client contact, will be considered a priority group for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Karen added that the Board's contract agencies have not experienced many cases of COVID-19 among staff.

Karen also mentioned a discussion with Senator Portman's office. On December 3rd, Senator Portman's team held a webinar to discuss the drafting and development of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 2.0, a package that the Senator is working on for introduction in the next Congress. Karen attached an outline of the package to the Board mailing. Karen said the new provisions could possibly pay for such projects as diversion from jail and a crisis stabilization unit. Nan Cahall, the SW Ohio Director for Senator Portman, reached out to Karen Scherra in a follow-up call for a quote on the benefits of CARA 2.0 for Clermont County.

Karen also briefly mentioned several meetings she recently attended. Karen participated in the monthly NACo Health Steering Committee call on December 3rd. Much of the focus was on priorities in the health arena for NACo in the coming year and on COVID and its impact on counties. On December 7th, Karen participated in a NACo Focus Group that involved several breakouts for specific topics. She was assigned the "Health" session. NACo has joined with the Pew Foundation/Research Center to develop a partnership to address critical issues facing counties. Karen said she is not sure how she was selected, but it was an interesting group, and addiction and mental health advocacy were on the top of the list to discuss. On a side note, Karen said she received a thank you note and gift from NACo; a pair of NACo socks.

Before wrapping up, Karen also mentioned the articles she had attached to the Board meeting packet. One was the article about the CARA 2.0 funding. Another was information on Child Focus, Inc.'s (CFI) rebranding reveal, which she and Lee Ann Watson attended. The third article was on Ohio declaring a state of emergency on childhood trauma and how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation. More focus is needed on finding a solution to the childhood trauma crisis. Karen said there is no youth-specific state funding to the mental health and recovery Boards. That funding goes to Family and Children First. Lastly, Karen mentioned the article on Ohio lawmakers and their attempt to curb Governor DeWine's ability to issue health orders such as those which have quarantined Ohioans during the pandemic and closed businesses.

On a side note, Board Chair Karen Conrad advised Karen Scherra of a typo in her Executive Director's Report date. The date of the report read October, instead of December.

5. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chair Jacki Block reported to the Board on items discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. Jacki reported the CCMHRB's CY2021 budget has not been approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). As such, Board staff will need to bring the budget before the Board for approval in January.

Jacki also reported on the SFY2021 Title XX update. Jacki said Board staff received notice on 12/4/2020 of the 2nd quarter Title XX allocation in the amount of \$27,872. There is still no word on 3rd or 4th quarter allocations. Without the 3rd and 4th quarter allocations, there is currently a shortfall of \$68,206 in the Board's FY21 allocation.

Jacki advised the Board about a PEP grant awarded to the Board. Board staff applied to Public Entities Pool, the Board's insurance provider, for a Safety Equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) grant on 10/5/2020. Board staff received notice on 12/1/2020 of the maximum award of \$1,000. This grant funding can be used to purchase safety equipment or PPE.

Jacki also updated the Board on meetings to be held regarding contract agencies' budgets. In January, Board staff will be scheduling mid-year meetings to review contracts and spending. The meetings will not be completed prior to the January Board meeting. Board staff will bring information to the Committee at the February meeting.

Jacki informed the Board that the BCC approved giving all County employees four (4) hours of holiday pay for December 24th, Christmas Eve. The CCMHRB office will be closed that day. Board Staff will be using four (4) hours of vacation leave plus four (4) hours of holiday pay that day.

Lastly, Jacki reported on the SOR 2.0 award update. OMHAS hopes to have the SOR 2.0 award information out by the end of this week. The statewide requests for SOR 2.0 funding exceeded \$71 million dollars and OMHAS only has \$50 million available. Board Staff is hopeful they will have the information on funding by Friday.

6. Action Items: The first action item was the Election of Board Officers for CY2021. Annually, at this time, the Board must elect a slate of individuals to serve as Officers for the Board for the coming calendar year.

Karen Conrad has indicated that she would be willing to serve another year as Chair, and Jackie Block, Andy Bateman and Dorothy Glancy are all also willing to serve another year as officers of the Board. Andy Bateman was appointed as the Vice Chairperson earlier in the year when Carole Cottrell resigned from the Board.

The proposed slate for the officer positions would be as follows:

Chairperson – Karen Conrad

Vice Chairperson, Chair-Mental Health/Addiction Program Committee – Andy Bateman

Treasurer, Chair-Finance Committee – Jackie Block

Secretary – Dorothy Glancy

Both Karen Conrad and Dorothy Glancy are in the last year of their second terms on the Board. Both of their terms will end in June. At that point, the Board will have to elect a new Chairperson and Secretary.

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the slate of officers as presented. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Jacki Block)

The second action item was FY2021 MOU with Municipal Court for the Indigent Driver Program (IDAT). For almost two decades, the Board has had an arrangement in place with the local Municipal Court for the use of the Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) Fund dollars to support treatment services provided by the Clermont Recovery Center.

In past years, the amount of funds included in the contract has varied, based on the amount in the Fund, the Board's financial situation, and the needs of the system and clients. The amount has been reduced significantly over the past couple years, as there are fewer indigent clients accessing services at Clermont Recovery Center since the implementation of Medicaid Expansion. The amounts of fines that are deposited in the IDAT Fund has also been decreasing. The judges can declare a "surplus" in the fund, which then allows them to use the funds for services other than for those with an alcohol dependency. The judges have declared a surplus once in recent years.

Karen Scherra has not yet been able to meet with the judges to determine the amount of the contract for FY2021, but she is working to have that accomplished before the end of the calendar year. She is requesting that the Court maintain the amount of the funds for FY2021 at \$75,000, the amount contracted for in the past several fiscal years.

As in previous years, after the end of the fiscal year, the Board will provide the Court with documentation that the funds were expended, providing services to individuals who meet the established criteria. At that point, the judges will sign a judgment entry that releases the funds to the Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2021 MOU with Municipal Court for the Indigent Driver Program (IDAT) and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Laura Esslinger).

7. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the OACBHA Legislative Week. Every year at the end of January, the state Board, OACBHA, hosts a “Legislative Day” where State Representatives and Board staff can meet and have discussions about current issues and concerns. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OACBHA is having “Legislative Week” during the last week of January where Boards can set up virtual meetings with State Representatives. OACBHA has given Boards the choice of either setting up the meetings themselves or having an OACBHA staff member facilitate the meetings. The alternative platform also gives Board members an opportunity to attend the meetings as they will be virtual. Karen Scherra asked the Board members and agencies if any members would be interested in attending these meetings. Karen said there will be meeting materials provided by OACBHA that Boards can adapt to their own counties. Board members Jacki Block, Andy Bateman, and Patty Lawrence expressed interest in attending the meetings. Karen said she will have more information at the January Board meeting.

The second discussion item was the Board Retreat 2021. Karen Scherra asked Board members for feedback on how the 2021 Board retreat should take place, whether in person or virtually via Zoom. Karen reminded the Board that the 2020 Board retreat was canceled due to the pandemic and she feels that missing a second year would not be a good idea. Karen advised the Board that if the meeting is held in person, a larger venue would have to be located, as the regular Board meeting room is not large enough to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Several Board members expressed interest in holding an in-person retreat at a larger venue in March or April. It was also suggested that if the retreat must be held via Zoom, in order to limit the length, the Board meeting for that month should be kept separate instead of holding both meetings together as it has been done in the past. Karen Scherra said she will start looking for a possible venue to hold the retreat if the in-person route is appropriate once the retreat date rolls around.

The third discussion item was the Board In-Service Training 2021. Karen Scherra said Board member in-service training is a state requirement and the Board must decide if the training should be virtual or in-person, or possibly part of the Board retreat. Topics previously discussed as areas of interest were Budgeting Ethics, Board member roles, and the Sunshine Law. Andy Bateman stated that the Sunshine Law training could be done via sharing of summarized materials, and probably didn't require an actual training. Many Board members expressed interest in the Budgeting Ethics training. The Board members also expressed interest in holding the training in person at a safe venue where social distancing guidelines can be followed. Karen Scherra suggested using the Budgeting Ethics training video from the training OACBHA held in September or having Board staff present on the material from that September training, since the Board staff attended that training.

The fourth discussion item was the Upcoming Review of Agency Services/Claims/Allocation. As mentioned previously in the meeting, Board staff will be scheduling mid-year meetings in January to review agency contracts and the current status of their budgets. Since the meetings will not be completed prior to the January Board meeting, Board staff will bring information to the Finance Committee and the full Board of Directors at the February meeting. After the information is discussed at the February Board meetings, Karen Scherra stated that the Program Committee can convene to discuss any questions or concerns and bring those items to the retreat

for further discussion. Karen mentioned that since the levy passed, it is generally the expectation of the community that services will be increased, not decreased.

The fifth discussion item was the State Budget Updates. Karen Scherra reiterated that the SOR 2.0 funding information has not yet been released, and that Board staff will hopefully hear by Friday. Karen also stated that OMHAS Director Lori Criss recently advised the Boards that while she cannot say much about the State budget, she is confident Governor DeWine fully supports behavioral health services. However, Director Criss also stated that there may be funding issues due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state budget. Karen added that there could be issues with funding for behavioral health due to all the newly elected legislative members and that as of yet, the behavioral health system has not identified any "behavioral health champions" in the legislative seats. Karen is hoping that during Legislative Week, with enough advocacy, the system will identify champions for our system. Karen also said that state funding will be influenced by the federal budget. Karen pointed out one positive about the federal budget; it is unlikely that Medicaid Expansion will be ending, at least for a while. Medicaid Expansion is critical to providing access to treatment for clients in the mental health and recovery system and would gravely impact the Board's budget if expanded Medicaid was no longer available. In the next few months, Karen would like to focus on advocating at the state level for funding for behavioral health services and programs.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)/Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of GCB said her report stands. Alicia added that GCB is "holding the line" during the pandemic. There has been an uptick in client/staff exposure to COVID-19, but staff has been diligent and responsive to protocol and contingency plans for making sure clients receive necessary services. Both the Batavia and Amelia sites are still seeing clients in person as well as virtually. The number of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clients have increased again. There are currently 554 MAT clients, and the MAT clinic is seeing 55-65 clients per day. The new mental health grant project, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), is also seeing many clients and is now up to 136 enrollees. CCBHC clients have access to nurse visits that include mental and physical health assessments. Alicia said most of GCB's programs have seen a rise in referrals. Mental health case management has seen an increase in referrals for six months in a row.

Alicia said GCB received a grant that will fund several drive-through wellness events. The first one will be held on December 16 from 2:30-5:30. Alicia said the event will include Narcan training, food boxes, family resource bags, and more. There will be a total of three wellness events held in December. Alicia also mentioned that the Drug Free Coalition, headed by Mary Wolff, recently received notice that it was funded for year 6-10. Patty Hassel, GCB Fiscal Officer, added that GCB recently completed its annual agency-wide audit. Patty said it went well and the entire audit was virtual.

Susan Graham of Child Focus, Inc (CFI) said the agency is currently in the process of rebranding. CFI held an event to celebrate the fresh new look that includes a new logo, a more streamlined and accessible website, and online registration for services. Susan added that CFI has seen a rise in client exposure to COVID-19, but only 8% of CFI's staff has become infected. A majority of the positive cases happened in November and the school-based mental health staff was the hardest hit. Susan said CFI is still conducting services in-person and virtually.

Susan said CFI's Giving Tree program was a success and 150 families were sponsored through the event. Susan also thanked the Board for its donation to the program. Lastly, Susan gave an update on Mobile Crisis. The program, which recently expanded to 24/7 availability, reported 25%, or 8 out of 33, of its runs happened during the new expanded hours last month.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy added that HCC is open and operating on Tuesdays. Amy said social distancing guidelines are being followed and everyone attending is required to wear a mask. HCC's Peer Support Partners (PSPs) are at capacity serving 15-17 families each. Amy plans to put together a summary of the PSPs' duties and accomplishments, and she will make that summary available to the Board members. Amy closed by saying she is gearing up to apply for grants as HCC's current grants are due to expire in 2021.

Emily Neal of NAMI Southwest Ohio said NAMI's support programming is strong and maintaining good attendance. Emily added that 50 people attended NAMI's recent training on Mental Health and Racism. NAMI's programming can be found on their Facebook page.

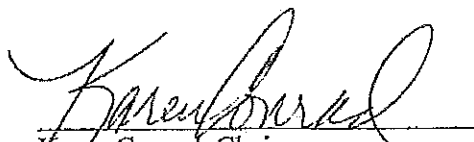
9. Comments from Public Attendees: Raymond Bailey, public attendee, introduced himself and expressed his interest in becoming a Board member. Karen Scherra welcomed Mr. Bailey and stated that he was a former Board member.

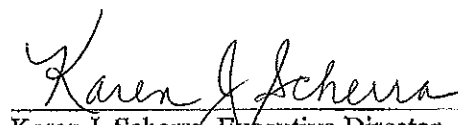
10. Executive Session: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Greg Varner). Jacki Block-yea, Carrie Brown-yea, Karen Conrad-yea, Kelley Costello-yea, Laura Esslinger-yea, Dorothy Glancy-yea, Erica Koe-Krompecher-yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Geoff Schwerzler-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Jacki Block). Andy Bateman-yea, Carrie Brown-yea, Karen Conrad-yea, Laura Esslinger-yea, Dorothy Glancy-yea, Erica Koe-Krompecher-yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Geoff Schwerzler-yea, Greg Varner-yea. The Board moved back into Regular Session at 8:30 p.m.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve Karen Scherra's employment agreement as Executive Director of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board for the next 12 months. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Dorothy Glancy).

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the December 14, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Kelley Costello).


Karen Conrad, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director