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MINUTES of January 10, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jenifer Binder, Jacki Block, Rebecca Cochran, Kelley Costello, Richard Costello, John Kelly, Patricia Lawrence

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Barbara Bird (joined by Zoom), Laura Esslinger (joined by Zoom), Erica Koe-Krompecher, Greg Varner

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey (joined by Zoom), Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine

GUESTS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Amy Foley, Fonda Freeman, Susan Graham, Katie Harper, Patty Hassel, Pamela Lindeman, Jeff O'Neil, Laura Stith, Cheri Walter

STAFF PRESENT: Cindy Knoblauch, Erica Pursley, Karen Scherra, Lee Ann Watson

1. The meeting was conducted in person with the opportunity for guests to join by Zoom. Due to state law, Board members joining virtually cannot participate in voting on action items. Chairperson Patricia Lawrence welcomed the attendees and the meeting proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the January 10, 2022 Board meeting with the addition of Discussion Item 3. Legislative Update Regarding Boards. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-John Kelly).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Richard Costello, second-John Kelly).
4. Presentation by Cheri Walter, OACBHA CEO: Karen Scherra introduced the two guests joining from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA): Cheri Walters, OACBHA CEO, and Fonda Freeman, OACBHA Associate CEO. Cheri Walters began her presentation by thanking the Board members for their time and efforts. Cheri then presented her "State of the State" PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included a map of Ohio's addiction and mental health services boards. The presentation also laid out OACBHA's priority issues. Priorities included:
 - Response to COVID and the increase in behavioral health needs
 - Enhanced access to crisis services
 - Racism and health equity
 - Workforce needs

- Access to Medicaid data for service delivery planning
- General Assembly behavioral health bills
- Partnering with State and Federal leaders

The presentation included strategies OACBHA is taking to accomplish these priorities. Cheri also discussed OMHAS's current priorities, which are:

- Full spectrum of crisis services
- Implementation of 988
- Naloxone distribution
- Multi System Adults

Cheri Walter mentioned that OMHAS is underestimating the number of 988 calls that will be routed to local crisis hotlines. OMHAS had estimated 200,000 a year, while estimates from the Board areas across the state are 500,000.

Cheri Walter also provided a summary of federal funding for behavioral health programs and the recent changes to Managed Medicaid. According to Cheri, there will be an influx of federal funding for mental health and addiction prevention and treatment programs. All the federal funding has substantial reporting requirements. Medicaid now has seven Managed Care companies that have been operating live since January 1, 2022. Medicaid is also implementing the OhioRISE program for youth with complex behavioral health and multi-system needs. Cheri stated that if OhioRISE is successful, it can solve the current issue of parents having to give up custody of their kids in order to afford long term residential treatment for their kids.

Cheri Walters further discussed that the current bill to allow elected Boards, such as the local addiction and mental health Boards, to conduct their Board meetings virtually is being opposed at the state level.

Cheri Walters gave a summary of Ohio House Bill 523, legislation sponsored by Representative D.J. Swearingen. This bill would make changes to language in Ohio Revised Code 340 pertaining to local addiction and mental health services boards. Cheri said the changes will impact regulations on:

- Withdrawal from joint county Boards
- Joint county Board levies
- Board composition
- Board appointments
- Contracting requirements
- Executive Director duties
- Opioid Hub reporting
- Wait list reporting

Cheri Walters said H.B. 523, as introduced, would change the number of State and County appointed members to one-third state-appointed and two-thirds county-appointed. Boards would also be composed of either 6, 9, 12, 15, or 18 members.

Cheri Walters listed some important upcoming OACBHA events:

- Legislative Day - March 29, 2022
- Opioid Conference - June 6 and 7, 2022
- Recovery Conference - June 28, 2022

Cheri Walters asked the Board members if there were any questions and Board Chair Patricia Lawrence asked for a recap of the presentation at the December Board meeting regarding support OACBHA can offer to local Boards who are seeking a new Executive Director. Cheri Walters stated that OACBHA can assist with the hiring process for the Executive Director by providing examples of job descriptions; widely posting the position; receiving and reviewing the applications to assure applicants met the basic ORC 340 requirements; providing sample interview questions; and providing salary ranges. Cheri suggested that the applications for the Executive Director position be sent to OACBHA so that OACBHA can assist with the initial review of the applicants and then provide the Board members with all the resumes with a suggestion of the top candidates for the position. Having the applicants sent to OACBHA might be helpful in situations when an internal candidate is applying for the position. Cheri also mentioned that OACBHA can provide support to the new Executive Director through mentoring, new Director orientation, and trainings. Cheri asked Board Chairperson Patricia Lawrence if the Board had a timeline for the hiring process for the new Executive Director. Patricia said that the Executive Director, Karen Scherra, will be retiring on July 31, 2022, and the Board of Directors would like to have the new Executive Director overlap with Karen's employment by at least one month. Patricia also said the Board plans to post the position as soon as the end of January. Cheri agreed that the position posting should occur around this time, since the position will need to be posted for 30 days and then the applicant may need to give a 30-day notice for the position they are leaving. Additionally, Cheri mentioned that some smaller Boards have had to advertise the position several times due to lack of applicants.

Patricia Lawrence proposed forming an ad hoc search committee that would be responsible for the recruitment and selection of candidates for the Executive Director position. Patty proposed that the committee be comprised of the four Board Officers and any other Board member interested. Jenifer Binder expressed her interest in being part of the committee. Patricia further proposed that OACBHA provide the Board members with examples of job descriptions, assist with posting the position, and screen the applicants for the position. Patricia said once a few top candidates are selected, the Search Committee will bring those profiles before the full Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to create a Search Committee for the process of finding candidates for the Executive Director position and that Committee will be Andy Bateman, Jenifer Binder, Jacki Block, Patricia Lawrence, and Greg Varner. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Rebecca Cochran). Board staff will facilitate in setting the date for the first Search Committee meeting.

Karen Scherra mentioned that the Board members may need to look at the overall staffing structure of the Board. Karen stated that compared to other Boards with similar county population and budget, our Board staff is low in comparison.

5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared an update about OhioRISE from her report. Karen said on December 21, the participating boards in ENGAGE from both Southwest and Northwest Ohio met, along with the two Project Directors. The group

discussed a couple of disturbing developments: 1) that Aetna is planning to hire 589 staff to oversee OhioRISE, not counting the staff needed to operate the CMEs, having received \$48 million from the state for this purpose; and 2) that the MRSS certification process developed be eligible to bill Medicaid for MRSS services under OhioRISE has been scrapped. Karen said that while the Clermont County system did not fully support all the benchmarks established for the certification scoring, at least Child Focus had a score high enough to assure certification. Now, a fidelity measurement system will be developed that will be used for certification. Karen expressed concern about the direction of OhioRISE. Karen also mentioned that Child Focus has received the contract for MRSS billing from Aetna.

6. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block discussed the CY2022 County Appropriations Budget. Jacki stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed the County appropriations budget at its meeting prior to the Board meeting. Jacki reminded the Board members that the County appropriation budget is on the calendar year, not the state fiscal year. The budget has been approved by the County but still needs approval from the Board. County appropriations for the Mental Health and Recovery Board were set at \$8,892,820.00. Jacki said the Finance Committee recommends that the Board members approve this budget. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the CY2022 County Appropriations Budget. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Rebecca Cochran).

The second item Jacki Block discussed was the Board Staff Salary Actions. Jacki explained that the County Commissioners have approved a 5% salary increase for employees, which includes a 2% COL increase for all employees and an additional 3% for merit increases. Jacki said the Finance Committee recommends allowing Board staff to receive the 5% salary increase. Karen Scherra explained that due to the small staff size of the Board, she has not given merit increases in the recent past but provides all staff with the same increase that is recommended by the Commissioners and the Board of Directors. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve a 5% salary increase for the executive Director and to approve the 5% funding in the budget for salary increases for Board staff. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-John Kelly).

The third item Jacki Block discussed was Recovery Housing Rental Subsidies. Jacki said that the Finance Committee had discussed the potential concerns of rental subsidy funding for residents at a new recovery house that will be opening in Clermont County. Originally the recovery house was planning to house only clients of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB), one of the Board's contract agencies. However, the owners at the recovery house are now considering allowing individuals who have received treatment from other providers to live there as well. Jacki said she wanted to mention this concern to the Board as a decision will need to be made later as to whether to fund the rental subsidies of Clermont County residents who have not received services in the Board's system. Jacki said the rental subsidies would be funded by the SOR 2.0 grant.

The final item Jacki discussed was the Leased Vehicle Purchase. Jacki explained that Karen Scherra currently drives a car that is leased by the Board as part of her employment contract. The lease will be ending in June 2022 and Karen has requested to purchase the vehicle from the Board. For this to happen, the Board will need to purchase the vehicle at the end of its lease for

approximately \$15,000. Karen would then reimburse the Board for the same amount and the title would be transferred to her. Karen Scherra said that this action would be approved by the County Auditor's office if there is a Board resolution. Karen also mentioned that there would be no expense to the Board. Patty Lawrence stated that this transaction allows the Board to negotiate vehicle use with the new Director. Jacki stated that the Finance Committee recommends the approval of this action. Since there were no objections, Karen Scherra said she would bring a resolution for the Board to approve at a future meeting prior to the vehicle lease ending.

7. Action Items: The first action item was the Addendum to the FY 2022 POS Contract with GCB and the Addendum to the FY 2022 POS Contract with Child Focus. At the December 20th Board meeting, the Board approved additional funding in the amounts of \$175,000 for Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) and \$175,988.50 for Child Focus (CFI) to be used to address workforce issues. These funds are above and beyond what is reflected in their current FY 2022 Purchase of Service (POS) contracts with the Board. Since these funds are not included in GCB's or CFI's FY 2022 POS contracts, the Board needs to execute an Addendum to each contract which spells out the amount and purpose of the funds, along with information on use of the funds as requested by the Board of Directors. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY 2022 POS Contract with GCB and the Addendum to the FY 2022 POS Contract with Child Focus and to authorize the Executive Director to sign each Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Richard Costello).

The second action item was the FY 2022 MOU with Municipal Court for the Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) Funds. 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 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 several years, as there are fewer indigent clients accessing services at Clermont Recovery Center since the implementation of Medicaid Expansion. The amount of the 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 alcohol dependency treatment. The judges have declared a surplus only once in recent years. Karen Scherra was not able to meet with the judges to determine the amount of the contract for FY2022 due to some overall concerns they had with substance use treatment services. However, Karen was able to work with the outgoing and incoming Chief Probation Officers to get an MOU regarding the funds. Karen requested that the Court maintain the amount of the funding for FY 2022 at up to \$75,000, the amount they contracted for in the past several fiscal years, even though the Board only accessed about \$56,000 in FY 2021.

As in previous years, after the end of the fiscal year, the Board will provide the Court with documentation on the amount of the funds expended for providing services to individuals who met 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 FY 2022 MOU with Municipal Court for the Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) Funds and to

authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jenifer Binder, second-John Kelly).

The third and final action item was the Revision of the Board's Social Media Policies. Based on situations locally and beyond, Board staff thought it was prudent to review and possibly revise the Board's Social Media Policy. Karen Scherra stated that Clermont County Public Health had recently revised its Social Media Policy, which was approved by the County Prosecutor's Office, and the Board's new policy was adapted from their policies. The Board also adapted Public Health's policy outlining guidelines for public comments on social media sites. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revision and adaptation of the Board's Social Media Policy and the Public Use of Social Media Policy as presented. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran, second-Andy Bateman).

8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Recently Awarded Grants. Associate Director Lee Ann Watson reported that the Board was awarded an \$858,000 federal grant that runs from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2024. The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant was awarded by the Bureau of Justice as support for local governments to plan, develop, and implement programs to identify, respond to, and treat those impacted by substance misuse. This grant will sustain and expand the Quick Response Teams (QRT) at the Clermont County Sheriff's Office and at Milford/Miami Township (MMART). The grant funding will be utilized for staffing for the first responders attached to the teams, as well as the two full time Recovery Coaches already associated with the team. The funding will allow the Sheriff's Office QRT to expand the outreach from once a week to twice a week. In addition, a full-time mental health professional will be added to the team that goes out in the community with Recovery Coaches and First Responders. The grant will also pay for a part-time coordinator who will work with Child Focus on the Handle with Care program. Handle with Care is a national program that provides confidential communication between law enforcement and school officials when a student has been exposed to trauma in order to give the school a "heads up to handle with care" in case the child has issues at school. The grant will also cover the cost of Narcan that will be distributed by Clermont Recovery Center (CRC).

Lee Ann Watson said the Board received two other grants as well. Both grants are from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF). One is for \$5,000, and one is for \$6,000. The grants will fund the work associated with implementing a strategic plan for the Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition as well as leadership training for members of the Coalition. Lee Ann stated that the funding will be used specifically for marketing materials to increase awareness of the risks for suicide, along with the development of survivor packets for the coroner to hand out to loved ones of those lost to suicide.

Karen Scherra said Clermont will be receiving funding through two OMHAS alcohol misuse grants. GCB applied and received one of the grants, and the Board received the other. GCB will be working with the Clermont County OVI Court to expand services for those with alcohol use disorder. Karen said there will be more information as the program develops.

The second discussion item was the update on COVID and its impact on the behavioral health system in Ohio. Karen Scherra stated that Cheri Walter had covered a lot of the information in

her presentation earlier in the agenda, including the situation at the local state hospital, Summit Behavioral Healthcare. There are currently six clients, as well as several staff members at Summit Behavioral Health with COVID. Two other state hospitals have stopped admissions due to COVID outbreaks at the hospitals. Karen said OMHAS Director Lori Criss announced that healthcare agencies are required to notify both OMHAS and their local Boards if clients or staff are diagnosed with COVID. However, many counties are not fulfilling that requirement. Karen said fortunately, Clermont County agencies have been following the guidelines. Lee Ann Watson stated that both GCB and CFI have been regularly sending incident reports to the Board.

In addition, Karen Scherra said that OMHAS has made available COVID testing kits that Boards can order for clients in congregate living situations. Boards are allowed to order up to 1,000 kits. Karen said Lee Ann Watson was able to work with the provider agencies to get kits ordered for clients who meet the qualifications.

On a sidenote, Karen Scherra said she recently learned in a meeting with OMHAS that they have been receiving many calls about individuals with a mental illness being homeless with no available resources for housing. OMHAS stated that each County Community Action Agency should have funding available to assist, and that if the local areas are out of funding, that the state still has funding available. We will be looking into that issue for our county.

The third discussion item was the Legislative Update Regarding Boards. Karen Scherra stated that Cheri Walter had covered most of this topic during her presentation earlier in the agenda, specifically the information regarding H.B. 523. Karen said advocacy may be needed from Board members as they could be adversely affected if the bill passes.

9. 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 continues to see rising cases of COVID among staff and clients but that services remain in place. Alicia also said that GCB is very excited about the alcohol misuse grants that Karen Scherra had mentioned earlier in the meeting. Alicia said GCB is looking forward to connecting with Clermont County Municipal Court to begin discussions on this project.

Alicia said GCB is working with Realworks, a non-profit organization that brings together technologists and addiction services providers. There are two pilot programs for 2022. One is focused on GCB's workforce retainability and uses apps to collect and analyze data from employees. The two apps are called "Calm" and "Head Space." The other pilot program focuses on GCB's SUD population and will explore infusing virtual reality environments in therapeutic addiction treatment sessions.

As a final note, Alicia was happy to announce that one of GCB's Recovery House clients recently purchased his own home and is doing extremely well in his recovery.

Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura thanked the Board for its funding decision at the December meeting related to workforce issues at CFI. Laura also thanked all those who donated to Child Focus' Giving Tree holiday program.

Unfortunately, Laura made a sad announcement about a Project Director at Child Focus whose husband (the CFO at Senior Services) passed away very suddenly. Laura said the agency has pulled together and divided up her job responsibilities to give her time to grieve.


Laura also reported on the Crisis Response Team. So far this year, the team has made three responses and all three were at schools due to COVID related deaths. One death was the parent of a student and the other two were school staff.

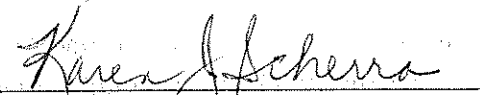
Laura also recounted a success story involving the Clermont and Brown Crisis Hotline. A very distraught woman called the Crisis Hotline but denied active suicide ideation. The Hotline Responder did a lethality assessment and felt it necessary to call 911 and have deputies dispatched. The caller had mentioned she was headed for East Fork Lake and the deputies were able to get a ping from the caller's cell phone. The caller began to scream into the phone to the Hotline Responder that she could not swim. The woman had driven into the lake. Deputies arrived on scene in time to rescue the woman and transport her to a hospital.

Katie Harper of NAMI Southwest Ohio said her report stands. Katie introduced herself as the new Executive Director of NAMI Southwest Ohio. Katie said NAMI's class registration continues to be high. NAMI's Hope for Recovery class will be restructuring in February. Katie also said that NAMI has some classes switching back to in-person but is still offering virtual attendance to those who wish to participate remotely.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy added that HCC's Peer Support Partners' (PSPs) referrals have increased, and each PSP is serving ten or more families. Amy also said that a grant from GCB paid for trauma trainings for the PSPs. Becky Mosteller has taken over as lead at HCC since Amy has decreased her hours at HCC. HCC has expanded its hours, and is now open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. On Mondays, the center is open for art, games, and movies. Amy said she is working at HCC two days a week as opposed to the one day a week she had originally planned.

10. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the January Board of Directors meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the January 10, 2022 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Jenifer Binder, second-Rebecca Cochran).


Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director