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MINUTES of January 8, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Liz Atwell, Andy Bateman, Jen Binder, Jacki Block, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Patricia Lawrence, Laura Perez, Greg Varner, Susan Vilardo

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jara Bonner, Joy Lytle, Tony Rees

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey (joined via Zoom)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Commissioner Claire Corcoran, Zoe Doss, Alicia Fine, Katie Harper, Barbara Isemann, Pamela Lindeman, Christine Miles

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

1. Call to Order: The January 8, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person at 7:00 pm at the Board office at 2337 Clermont Center Drive Batavia, Ohio 45103. Chairperson Patricia Lawrence welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. All Board members and staff introduced themselves as Commissioner Claire Corcoran was in attendance.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the January 8, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Committee Reports 1. b. "CY24 County Appropriations" and Action Item 4. "Amendment to the FY24 POS Contract with GCB for PATH SUD Outreach Funding in the amount of \$66,226". (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Susan Vilardo).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Liz Atwell).
4. Board of County Commissioners-Changes to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 340 Board Composition, Commissioner Claire Corcoran: Commissioner Corcoran attended the Board meeting to hear feedback from the Board of Directors regarding Board membership related to recent changes in ORC Chapter 340 Board composition rules. With the changes to ORC 340, governing Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Boards are now permitted to have either nine, twelve, fourteen, fifteen, or eighteen members, with two-thirds of the members being County appointments. The Board members advised Commissioner Corcoran that the matter had been discussed multiple times and that the Board of Directors would prefer

to switch from a fourteen-member governing Board to a twelve-member governing Board. The Clermont Board of Directors currently has five Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) appointments, seven Board of County Commissioners (BCC) appointments, and two vacancies. If the BCC resolves to grant the Board of Directors' request to decrease to twelve-members, the Board will not need to fill the two current vacancies. However, when terms expire, the Board will eventually need to be comprised of four OMHAS appointments and eight BCC appointments. After some discussion, Commissioner Corcoran stated that she would recommend a Resolution to the full BCC for the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board's governing Board to decrease its membership to twelve members. Commissioner Corcoran asked Executive Director Lee Ann Watson to set up a time to present a Resolution to the full BCC at a work session.

5. Training-Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC)-Quick Response Team (QRT)/Outreach: GCB/CRC Peer Outreach Team Leader Christine Miles presented on behalf of the Peer Outreach Team. The Peer Outreach Team consists of individuals with lived experience who are mobilized in the community to provide outreach to individuals with a substance use disorder with the goal of engaging the individuals in treatment. The team provides "boots on the ground" outreach services that are designed to meet the client where they are in their recovery journey and assist them with services such as connection to comprehensive behavioral health treatment and support services, connection to community resources such as food pantry services, housing referrals, and medical treatment. The team also provides community advocacy and Narcan training and distribution. When asked what the greatest challenge for the team was, Christine said housing is a huge barrier. Once a client is referred to the team, the Peers attempt to keep in contact with the client on a weekly basis even if they choose not to enroll in services.
6. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands. Lee Ann highlighted the New Housing Ohio (NHO) section of her report. Associate Director Denny Moell said the Monroe Township zoning hearing was held on December 5th to review New Housing Ohio's (NHO) request for a zoning change from agricultural to multi-family residential on a property being considered for the building location of a supportive permanent housing development for twenty-four units for adults with mental illness. Denny said he and staff from GCB attended the meeting as well as staff from NHO. While the Zoning Board did not say "no" to the zoning changes for the property, the Zoning Board will be putting together a list of concerns and questions that must be addressed before the decision will be made.

Associate Director Denny Moell said his report stands. Denny added that Jail medical has implemented a Narcan take home program, with the support of the Board and GCB, for inmates who have been enrolled in a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) protocol at the Jail or have been on a detox protocol at any point during incarceration. After receiving Narcan usage training by Jail medical staff, qualifying inmates will be provided with a take home Narcan kit in a "go bag" along with information on community social services and treatment/recovery resources upon their reentry into the community. These identified inmates will also be registered to access products in the Board's Harm Reduction Dispensing Machine so that they may have ready access to harm reduction supplies, if needed, in the future.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith said her report stands. Marcie added that the Board will soon be hearing more about upcoming community outreach and training events that are being planned such as “Mental Wellbeing Through Your Life Span/QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Suicide Prevention Training” and a Suicide Prevention Summit.

7. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jackie Block summarized the information from that evening’s Committee meeting. Jacki and Erica Pursley explained that the contract provider agencies have requested flexibility in the use of approved line-item amounts in their purchase of service (POS) contracts to account for increased needs and to assure availability of services. Some of the line-item amounts are based on grant funding and some line items are currently capped. The agencies are asking for 10% flexibility between line-items within their total POS contract amounts. After discussion, the Board decided that they want the agencies to do a mid-year review and provide further information before any decisions regarding flexibility in contract spending are made.

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Annual Appropriation Resolution #183-23 in Regular Session on December 13, 2023. The Board’s CY 2024 appropriation by the BCC totaled \$9,175,449. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Board’s County appropriations in the amount of \$9,175,449. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Laura Perez).

8. Unfinished Business:

A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Crisis Funding Update: In early December, the Warren/Clinton Board submitted a Letter of Intent to purchase property in Clinton County, using ARPA I funding, for use as a short-term mental health residential facility. The seller countered on the offer twice, raising the selling price each time. The original offer was at the asking price. In addition, the Warren/Clinton Board Director recently met with the Clinton County Commissioners who expressed concerns about the location of the facility. As such, the offer on the building in Clinton County has been withdrawn. The Southwest Collaborative will be looking at other locations for the facility.

B. Crisis Receiving Center Update: The Community Action Committee of Pike County, the lead applicant for the Appalachian Community Grant Program that includes our Crisis Receiving Center project, submitted the grant application on December 7th. The Board should be notified by March if we were awarded the grant funding. The Board is also currently waiting to receive the signed agreement back from TBD Solutions, the consultant hired to develop an operational and sustainability plan for the Crisis Receiving Center.

9. Agency Directors’ Reports: Heather Cokl of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) said her report stands.

Zoe Doss, the new Director of Hope Community Center (HCC), said her report stands. Zoe added that HCC saw an increase in attendance at the Center in December with a total of one-hundred eighty-two attendees. HCC offers a variety of formal and informal classes including coping skills, art, self-esteem, cooking, self-image education, and case management groups. HCC has

five new members from Moscow and now has three Clermont Transportation Connection buses providing client transportation to and from the Center.

Pamela Lindeman of Child Focus said her report stands. Pamela added that Child Focus' December Giving Tree program served two-hundred and eleven families, which included six-hundred twenty-two children, and raised \$137,000 in donations which equals around \$600 per family served. Child Focus has also applied for a \$550,000 capital improvement grant from the Clermont County Port Authority for updates on their building. Staff at Child Focus were informed that their grant application is in the top four out of twenty-six applicants. Child Focus is also involved in three state initiatives aimed at increasing the behavioral health workforce in Ohio. Pamela also added that she was elected to sit on the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Council, the State association for provider agencies. Pamela further added that Child Focus hosted the State of Ohio's 988 Suicide Hotline Call Center Meeting on November 30.

Katie Harper of NAMI SW Ohio said her report stands. Katie added that NAMI recently gave an "Ending the Silence" presentation at the Grant Career Center in Bethel. NAMI also has a new support group, NAMI Connections, that will meet monthly on Wednesdays at the library in Goshen.

10. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. 120-Day Notice for the FY2025 Purchase of Service (POS) Contract with Child Focus: The Board is statutorily required to provide 120-day notices to their contract mental health and addiction services providers to inform them of any potential changes to the next year's contract, including contract terms and allocation. This year, the Board added an additional clause to the notice that states the agencies "shall also provide written notice at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the expiration of the contract if changes are proposed to the contract and/or delivery of contract services." A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the 120-Day Notice for the FY2025 POS Contract with Child Focus as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the notice on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Susan Vilardo).
2. 120-Day Notice for the FY2025 POS Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the 120-Day Notice for the FY2025 POS Contract with GCB/CRC as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the notice on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
3. 120-Day Notice for the FY2025 POS Contract with Hope Community Center (HCC): A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the 120-Day Notice for the FY2025 POS Contract with HCC as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the notice on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second- Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).
4. Amendment to the FY24 POS Contract with GCB for PATH SUD Outreach Funding in the amount of \$66,226: OMHAS has provided funding for FFY24 in the amount of \$66,226 to Clermont County for the PATH program that serves homeless individuals with a suspected behavioral health disorder. The funding will be utilized to support the salary of the staff person for the PATH team that works exclusively with homeless

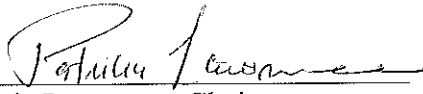
individuals with a suspected substance use disorder. This funding shall be passed on to GCB, the agency providing the PATH program services in Clermont County. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Amendment to the FY24 POS Contract with GCB for PATH SUD Outreach Funding in the amount of \$66,226 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Susan Vilardo).

B. Discussion Items:

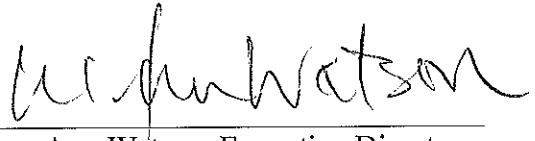
1. MHRB Levy Year: Lee Ann Watson stated that the Board's levy will be on the November 2025 ballot as a correction to the previously stated November 2024 ballot.
 2. Board Member and Board Meeting Evaluation Forms: Lee Ann Watson informed the Board members that one of the required elements of Ohio Revised Code 340 is that the Board of Directors annually evaluate its own process and performance to ensure continuity of governance capabilities. Lee Ann stated that staff will be emailing the Board Member Self Evaluation and Board Meeting Evaluation forms to the Board members to complete and send back.
 3. Culture of Quality Certification: Lee Ann Watson stated that the Culture of Quality program was developed by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) to improve the quality of the statutorily mandated functions of County Boards administering local alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services for Ohioans. The Culture of Quality certification is designed to promote community confidence and Boards' public support through increased accountability. The Culture of Quality certification brings consistency to the local Board system through self-regulation while preserving flexibility for Boards to be responsive to the needs of their respective constituencies. Lee Ann said the Clermont Board staff are currently in the process of preparing for the Culture of Quality Certification review by OACBHA. In preparation for the review, staff will be bringing updated versions of Policies and Procedures and Board Bylaws to the Board for approval. The Board of Directors requested that the new documents first be reviewed by the Executive Committee before being reviewed by the full Board at the Retreat in early spring for final review.
11. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements and no comments from public attendees at the January 8, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting.
12. Executive Session-Personnel Matter-Executive Director Salary Action: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session. (Motion-Susan Vilardo, second-Jen Binder). Liz Atwell-yea, Andy Bateman-yea, Jacki Block-yea, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson-yea, Patricia Lawrence-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Greg Varner-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:55pm.
- A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Jen Binder, second-Greg Varner). Liz Atwell-yea, Andy Bateman-yea, Jacki Block-yea, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson-yea, Patty Lawrence-yea, Laura Perez-yea, Susan Vilardo-yea. The Board moved back into Regular Session at 9:04pm.

The Board discussed the matter of the Executive Director's salary action for CY2024. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve a three percent (3%) merit salary increase for Executive Director Lee Ann Watson for CY2024. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Andy Bateman).

13. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the January 8, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).



Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson



Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director