



2337 Clermont Center Drive • Batavia, Ohio 45103
TELEPHONE: (513) 732-5400 FAX: (513) 732-5414 TTY: 1-800-750-0750
WEBSITE: www.ccmhrb.com CRISIS HOTLINE: (513) 528-SAVE (7283)

MINUTES of June 14, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Carrie Brown, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Laura Esslinger, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Patty Lawrence, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Erica Koe-Krompecher

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Katie Harper, Patty Hassel, Jeff Kirschner, Pamela Lindeman, Heather Smith, 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 June 14, 2021 Board meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Jacki Block).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Board of Directors’ meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Greg Varner).
4. Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Regarding Opioids/Drug Issues, Karen said she attended the monthly state-level Drug Trends meeting on May 18th. Board Directors are now invited to benefit from access to the information and data shared at these meetings. The data confirmed what we have been hearing about the use of methamphetamine mixed with fentanyl in Clermont County and accounts for the increases seen in overdose fatalities in Clermont County, Ohio, and the nation.

Associate Director Lee Ann Watson collaborated with various community partners during the first two weeks of May to assure that the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) allocated Naloxone kits for high-risk overdose areas were distributed to areas in need. Clermont Recovery Center, Child Focus, Senior Services, Public Health, Clermont Syringe Exchange, Brightview, Milford Treatment Center, Medmark, County Courts, Jail, Healthsource, Child Focus, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB), OSU Extension, UC Health-Milford, and others will receive the doses to distribute to individuals who live in the identified high-risk zip code areas of 45103 and 45244. Lee Ann Watson, Heather Cokl from CRC, and Megan Davish of Public Health met on May 12th to discuss the placement

of the Naloxboxes in high-risk areas. OMHAS provided each Board area experiencing a high level of overdoses with Naloxboxes and funding to purchase more of the boxes, if needed. In Clermont, the Opiate Task Force (OTF) hopes to place the boxes at three (3) hotels in Eastgate that are hot spots for overdoses and at the UC Clermont campus.

In May, Lee Ann Watson received permission from Interact for Health to extend the end date of the grants that fund the Milford/Miami Township Quick Response Team (QRT) and the Sheriff's Office QRT. Due to COVID, both QRTs had to stop face to face outreach twice for a total of approximately five (5) months. Therefore, the end date for both grants will be extended out for a five-month period. Lee Ann Watson is currently working on a federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant to sustain the QRTs after local grant funding ends.

Regarding Criminal Justice Related Activities, Karen Scherra said during the Month of May, many activities occurred in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program. All departments that have participated in CIT throughout the years were recognized by a press release in May, and one that will be done in June. A social media campaign was also started, with the CIT video being posted on the Facebook pages of the Board, the County, the contract treatment provider agencies, and the law enforcement jurisdictions that are major CIT partners. There have been many positive posts on the Board's Facebook related to the CIT program. To honor the law enforcement departments and their officers that have participated in CIT throughout the years, Mobile Crisis Team staff delivered items to each department: a certificate, CIT lapel pin and CIT notebook for each CIT trained officer, and a plaque and CIT mug for the command staff. Lee Ann Watson also wrote a thank you letter to each of the command staff at the different departments. During May, the County 911 Dispatchers were also CIT trained.

Municipal Court Judge Kramig, Chief Probation Officer Joe Ellison, Probation Officer Jaime Lutson, Lee Ann Watson, and Karen Scherra met on May 20th to discuss the Butler County SA/MI Court that all but Karen visited on April 22 to gather information on how mental health courts operate. The follow-up meeting was set to review what was learned and to determine if another specialty court makes sense for Clermont County. Karen Scherra said the group had a long and productive discussion, with the implementation of a mental health court put on hold. The group decided that before the decision to develop a mental health court was finalized, the behavioral health system and the court system needed to work to tighten up communication. Karen said they ended the meeting with a renewed commitment to working collaboratively to determine more effective ways to address the needs of individuals with mental illness who get involved in the criminal justice system. As a first step, Lee Ann will work with Jaime Lutson to involve her in the Linkage project to assure that the court is aware of important information that might be relevant for sentencing.

Regarding the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), Karen Scherra said in the past several weeks, situations have arisen that greatly impact the WIB's operations and staffing. On May 24th and June 1st Karen participated in meetings with the other Vice-Chair, who was in contact with the WIB Chairperson, to develop an accounting of the issues and the plan to address them. On June 10th, the WIB held the first in-person meeting since the winter of 2020. The Board entered Executive Session to address the recent situations and determine a course of action. As a result, the WIB Director was offered a severance package which she accepted. Karen added

that her term as Vice-Chair with the WIB officially ends on June 30, 2021, but she will be given permission to stay on the WIB as an emeritus member to aid in the upcoming transition.

Regarding Federal Activities/Legislation, Karen Scherra said that on May 18th, SAMSHA released state-by-state details about the increased funding for the Mental Health Block Grant and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant included in the American Rescue Plan. Ohio is slated to receive another \$44,517,241 in Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funds and \$52,241,251 in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) funds. These amounts were in addition to the COVID Relief Package increases of \$25,773,140 for MHBG and 60,489,869 for SAPT. This brings Ohio's increase totals to \$70,290,381 in MHBG funding and \$112,731,120 is SAPT funding. Karen stated that it is still not clear how the funding will be allocated to the Boards, but OACBHA has been advocating for the funding to be flexible.

Karen Scherra also mentioned on May 12th, the US Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Health Care held a hearing to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on mental health and substance use services and how to improve such services moving forward. The hearing primarily focused on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) model, with witnesses noting how CCBHCs have increased access to care, particularly through workforce supports and community partnerships. Committee's chairwoman Debbie Stabenow expressed her desire to provide long-term, stable funding for CCBHCs nationwide, and several Senators noted the importance of telehealth and crisis services. Karen Scherra mentioned that the CCBHCs have been getting a lot of attention at the federal level and that she believes CCBHC will be the model for behavioral health care in the future. Karen reminded Board members that GCB received a SAMHSA grant to implement their CCBHC. If implementation of CCBHCs become the federally approved method for delivery of public behavioral health care, the Board will have to seriously consider sustaining our CCMBHC when grant funding ends.

Karen Scherra closed by mentioning the articles attached to her report. The articles were titled, "Bias Alleged in Plan for Overdose Antidote", "Addicted Inmates Find Assistance in Jail", and "Telehealth for Mental Health Likely Here to Stay". There was also a copy of the CCMHRB mini-grant announcement as seen in *The Sun*. In addition, there was an announcement of a local group, Grant Us Hope, being recognized at state level for its efforts for youth suicide prevention known as Hope Squads, as seen in *The Enquirer*. Karen reminded the Board members that several Hope Squads at local schools receive mini-grant funding from the CCMHRB.

5. Program Committee: Program Committee Chairperson Andy Bateman presented a summary of the recent Program Committee meeting to Board members. Andy first reported on the Hope Community Center (HCC) presentation conducted via Zoom on May 17th. Andy stated that HCC's presentation was very informative and provided Committee members with specifics on the services that HCC offers. With several grants that provide funding for peer services ending in the next few months, the possibility that some grants may continue, and the uncertainty of changes that will be required as part of OhioRISE, the budget needs of HCC for FY22 are uncertain. Andy relayed to the Board members that after discussion, the Program Committee and HCC decided it would be best for HCC to contract with the Board for a six-month period rather than a full year, and to recontract in December when funding needs were more definable.

Andy Bateman also presented a summary of the agency funding requests for the FY 2022 POS contracts. Andy informed the Board members that Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) requested to maintain the same funding as last year with an eye toward further discussion on funding needs once several grants end. Child Focus requested additional funding for FY 2021 and 2022. Andy stated that Child Focus had additional funding needs for the current fiscal year because of missed billing opportunities with school-based mental health services. During FY 2021, school-based mental health staff were not able to bill as many services as planned, since schools were virtual during much of the year and many youth were quarantined. The staff were attempting to contact students but were often not able to engage the students or could only engage them for limited periods of time. CFI also requested additional school-based funding for FY2022. The Program Committee recommended that Child Focus provide the Finance Committee and Board members with specific information on the amount of non-billable services they provided. Karen Scherra added that the Program Committee will meet again in September to discuss the impact of grants ending, changes with the ENGAGE grant, and the future of OhioRISE and the effect on agency funding.

6. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block presented her report to the Board members. Jacki gave an update on Child Focus's funding request for FY 2021. Although Child Focus had originally asked for funding to cover the agency's \$287,800 loss in unbillable services in the school-based mental health program, Child Focus withdrew their request. Jacki informed the Board members that Child Focus stated that the agency received COVID relief funds that will cover those losses. Child Focus also stated that additional funding may be needed in FY 2022 to address mental health needs of youth due to the COVID. That request will be reviewed once the Board has its full allocation figures for FY2022.

Jacki Block asked Karen Scherra to provide an update on ENGAGE funding. Karen said the ENGAGE grant is scheduled to end on September 30, 2021. Boards were originally going to have three "pots" of funding to sustain the program. One was carry-over funding, one was a no-cost extension from SAMHSA, and one was funds from OHMAS to assist in the transition from grant funding to OhioRISE funds. Only one "pot" now remains: the no-cost extension. The ENGAGE funding is used to provide MRSS services and peer parent support partner services at HCC. Karen said that the extension will hopefully carry the ENGAGE program through December 2021 and that OhioRISE would then cover the services starting January 1, 2022. However, there are now major issues with OhioRISE which Karen said will be discussed further in the agenda. Karen said regardless of what happens with future funding, the MRSS program is critical to maintain, and the Board will need to find a way to sustain the program.

Jacki Block reported on funding requests for Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)/Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), Child Focus, and Hope Community Center (HCC) Purchase of Service (POS) contracts. These amounts are based on sustaining services at the same level as FY 2021. However, the amounts may change once the Board receives their funding for FY 2022. Those amounts are as follows: GCB-\$1,619,577; CRC-\$2,204,234; Child Focus-\$2,084,145; HCC-\$91, 636 (for 6 months only).

7. Action Items: The first action item was the FY 2022 Health Officers and CCOs. It is necessary for the Board to officially approve the designation of Health Officers and Chief Clinical Officers

(CCO) each fiscal year. Health Officers are responsible for approving admission of Clermont County residents to the state hospital and involuntary admission of clients to local hospitals for psychiatric inpatient services. The resolutions stating the names of the Health Officers for Child Focus, GCB and Mercy Hospital Clermont for FY 2022 were presented. The appointments of Health Officers from GCB, Child Focus and Mercy are for the period 7/01/21 – 6/30/22. The appointment automatically terminates if the staff member leaves the agency.

The Board has historically not had a Chief Clinical Officer on staff or under contract to the Board but has designated an appropriate staff member at GCB as the adult services CCO and at Child Focus as the children's services CCO. Dr. Laura Stith, Child Focus Clinical Director, remains as the designated CCO for children/adolescent services. Dr. Katherine Schmidt, Associate Medical Director, is the GCB psychiatrist designated as the CCO for adult services. The resolution designating the two CCOs was presented.

The staff selected as Health Officers and CCOs meet all necessary credentials for appointment. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2022 Health Officers and Chief Clinical Officers as presented. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Dorothy Glancy).

The second action item was the Addendum to the FY 2021 MOU with Juvenile Court for Specialized Docket Subsidy Funds. Beginning in FY 2019, Specialized Docket Subsidy Funds are now provided to Boards as part of their allocation, and Boards provide those funds in the amount determined by OMHAS to the courts. There are two Specialized Dockets in Clermont County eligible for these Subsidy funds: the OVI Court under Municipal Court and the Family Recovery Court under Juvenile Court. Juvenile Court was recently notified that it would be receiving an additional \$20,000 in Specialized Docket Subsidy Funds for FY 2021 from OMHAS. For the Board to be able to provide those additional funds to Juvenile Court, the Board must enter into an Addendum to the original MOU. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the addendum to the FY 2021 MOU with Juvenile Court for Specialized Docket Subsidy Funds. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Carrie Brown).

The third action item was the FY 2021 and FY 2022 MOUs with Municipal Court for the provision of Peer Services. Municipal Court receives certain grant funds on an annual basis, and in the past, has contracted with the Board for services provided by CRC for offenders on probation to be paid with the grant funds.

Once Medicaid Expansion was implemented, more of the services that these offenders receive were covered by Medicaid, and CRC encountered some difficulties in billing the full amount of the available grant funds. For FY 2016 and 2017, Municipal Court determined that they would use the SFY 2016 grant funds to offset costs that the Board paid for offenders on probation and for assessment costs. Municipal Court Probation determined for FY 2018 and 2019 that they wanted to use grant funds to provide services currently offered to Common Pleas Court referrals at the TASC (Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities) program to their referred clients. For FY 2020, Municipal Court was not interested in continuing to fund the TASC program. It was decided that peer support for a specific caseload of probationers would be the most valuable service, and the Court wanted to use its grant funds to offset the cost of a peer recovery coach to be assigned to work directly with Municipal Court Probation. Due to the delay in the MOU for this fiscal year, Karen got the court to agree to this arrangement for FY

2022 also. Those MOUs were presented. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2021 and FY 2022 MOUs with Municipal Court for the Provision of Peer Services. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Andy Bateman).

The fourth action item was the Election for Chairperson and Secretary. Karen Conrad is the Board's current Chairperson and Dorothy Glancy is the current Secretary. Unfortunately, both Karen and Dorothy will be leaving the Board, as both have completed the maximum two terms for Board members effective June 30, 2021. Karen Scherra advised the Board that Patty Lawrence had agreed to take the position of Board Chairperson and Greg Varner had offered his services as Secretary. The Board was given the opportunity to suggest other nominations from the floor, but no other nominations were made. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to elect Patty Lawrence as Board Chairperson and Greg Varner as Board Secretary effective July 1, 2021. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Jacki Block).

The fifth action item was the Cancellation of the August Board Meeting. Most years, the Board cancels the scheduled August Board meeting due to vacations and issues with meeting quorum. Karen Scherra said she does not think any significant issues will need Board approval in August. With Board approval, after the July 12th meeting, the next meeting would then be September 13, 2021. Cancelling the August Board meeting should not cause any difficulties, as all the required contracts and agreements should be completed and approved at the July meeting. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the cancellation of the Board's regular meeting scheduled for August 9, 2021. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Kelley Costello).

The sixth and final action item was Vacation Plans for the Executive Director. Karen Scherra said in planning for her retirement in 2022, she has been thinking about situations that prepared her to take on the leadership of the Board. One significant advantage she had was being named Acting Director twice when she was Associate Director. Each time, her predecessor, Jim Wasserman, took a long vacation (4 weeks and 6 weeks). Since this occurred in the mid-1990s, Board staff did not have the advantage of cell phones, texts, etc. to stay in communication with the Director. These stints as Acting Director gave Karen an opportunity to oversee Board operations and for the Board of Directors and staff to also view her in that role.

Karen Scherra said that unfortunately, she loses vacation time every year, as she does not take all that she accumulates, and the Board has limits on what can be carried forward. Therefore, Karen is suggesting that she take the month of August off, to allow her time to vacation with her daughter's family and handle some personal affairs that are out of state, as well as to have an opportunity to experience not working. In her absence, the Board can appoint Lee Ann Watson as Acting Director, or she can just assume the duties as Associate Director, since Karen will be able to be reached by various means during her vacation to sign off on her proposed decisions. Having Lee Ann oversee Board operations will allow her to get a better idea of Director duties and allow staff to work with her in a different capacity, which should help inform the decision about the next Executive Director from various viewpoints. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to appoint Lee Ann Watson as Acting Director during Karen Scherra's vacation during August 2021. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Greg Varner).

8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the FY 2022-2023 State Budget Update. Karen Scherra said the Ohio Senate completed work on its version of the state operating budget, HB 110. The House voted not to concur on Senate changes and the budget bill is now with the Conference Committee to work out the differences. Originally OACBHA was optimistic about additional funding and several language changes in the bill. One change was access to data, mainly pertaining to Medicaid, for Boards to improve planning and tracking outcomes. Another change was clarification or removal of the mandated 120-day notices for any changes in contracts with agencies. Karen said none of the language changes are in the bill. On a positive note, the budget bill will not require Boards to reduce membership from the current 14-18 members to 5-9 members. As proposed, the rule will only affect counties with between 70,000-80,000 residents, so most counties will remain at the 14-18 membership. Issues with the 6 OMHAS-appointed members and 8 county-appointed members remain, as do the categorical appointment requirements for consumers, family members and professionals.

The budget bill initially included provisions for allowing public bodies to continue to meet virtually through December 31, 2021. However, the Senate removed that language, meaning virtual meetings may end June 30, 2021. Karen stated that Board staff did purchase the “Owl” to use for hybrid meetings. On a side note, Karen added that the Clermont Board of County Commissioners (BCC) resumed in-person meetings. Karen closed by saying there were other concerns with funding, but she would provide more information at the July Board meeting.

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 plans to implement OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence), a specialized managed care program for youth with complex behavioral health and multi-system needs. However, Karen Scherra said the Ohio State Senate inserted into the budget proposal a “redo” to determine the Medicaid managed care contracts. This could put a halt on the OhioRISE program as the money being saved with the newly chosen managed care companies was to fund OhioRISE, which could put programs such as our MRSS at risk since OhioRISE funding was to be used to sustain programs currently being funded by ENGAGE.

In addition, Karen Scherra said Board Directors and providers have spent countless hours in meetings with Medicaid on OhioRISE rules and rates. Karen said some requirements for OhioRISE funding will be difficult to operationalize. One requirement is that all the services funded by OhioRISE be available 24/7, with the workforce for these services expected to be “on call” at all times. Yet, workers will only get paid for the time they are actually providing services to a client. Another concerning requirement is a capped rate for travel time for service providers at 15 minutes, which is nowhere near the time that some service calls will require.

The final discussion item was the OMHAS Strategic Plan 2021-2024. Karen Scherra said she was very excited to attend the meeting held about the OMHAS Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. Unfortunately, Karen said the plan was not very specific. The four focus areas of the plan were: “Innovation”, “Coordination”, “Collaboration”, and “Culture”. The plan also included priorities that cut across all four focus areas: “Health Equity and Cultural Competency”, “Communication and Collaboration”, “Workforce Development”, and “Data Collection and Analysis”. Karen said she was concerned that the strategic plan did not prioritize service delivery.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Heather Smith, Executive Director of NAMI Southwest Ohio, was the first to speak. Chairperson Karen Conrad informed Heather that she had seen her on Channel 9 News and told Heather she did a great job with the interview. Heather Smith thanked Karen Conrad and proceeded with her agency report. Heather thanked the Board for its strong support of NAMI Southwest Ohio. Heather also introduced NAMI's new Associate Director, Katie Harper. Heather said the plan is for Katie to one day take Heather's place as Executive Director.

Susan Graham of Child Focus said her report stands. Susan added that the Crisis Response Team responded to St. Veronica school on May 28th after the death of a student. Susan said 19 team members responded to the call and provided debriefing and crisis services to approximately 300 individuals.

Susan Graham also announced that Mobile Crisis is launching yet another expansion. Not only is Mobile Crisis available 24/7 in Clermont County, but the team will also now serve Brown County. The number to call for Mobile Crisis is (513)528-SAVE (7283). Karen Scherra added that Child Focus has kept her abreast of all activities pertaining to the expansion and that it will not diminish services in Clermont. Susan closed by announcing the Crisis Hotline was added to the National Lifeline database. This means that any calls from the 513 (Clermont) or 937 (Brown) area codes to the National Lifeline will be routed to the Crisis Hotline at 528-SAVE.

Jeff Kirschner of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) said his report stands. Jeff also thanked the Board and Board staff for their continued support of GCB, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic. Jeff added that GCB's CCBHC is in year two of its two-year grant. CRC is currently in the process of developing an advanced electronic health record (EHR) system that will allow for CRC and GCB to use an integrated clinical health record; currently they are using separate EHRs. Jeff said the CCBHC grant is providing \$300,000 for the EHR, and the upgrade is a required enhancement for the grant. Jeff also proudly reported that GCB was named a "Top Workplace" in Cincinnati for the 12th year in a row, and that only 2 other companies have had 12 consecutive years as a "Top Workplace".

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy added that HCC will no longer provide the peer services for Family and Children First (FCF) Wraparound as of July 1st. Amy said the center will discharge the 8 families currently being served. Karen Scherra added that Pressley Ridge will be providing Wraparound services for FCF. Amy said HCC's Peer Support Partners will now be able to focus more on the MRSS program.

10. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the June 14, 2021, Board of Directors' meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the June 14, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-John Kelly).


Patty Lawrence, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director