



2337 Clermont Center Drive • Batavia, Ohio 45103  
telephone 513.732.5400 • fax 513.732.5414 • TTY 800.750.0750  
website www.ccmhrb.com • Crisis Hotline 513.528.SAVE (7283)

### **MINUTES of March 14, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andy Bateman, Jenifer Binder, Barbara Bird, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran, Kelley Costello, Richard Costello, John Kelly, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patricia Lawrence, Greg Varner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Laura Esslinger

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Chaney

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Raymond Bailey

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Judge Mary Lynn Birck, Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Katie Harper, Pamela Lindeman, Jeff O'Neil, Brooke Singleton, Laura Stith

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

1. The March 14, 2022 Board of Directors meeting was conducted virtually, via Zoom, in adherence to the emergency legislation signed by the Governor on February 17, 2022 that allows temporary authority for public bodies to meet by means of teleconference or video conference. Executive Director Karen Scherra announced that Jara Bonner was officially appointed to the Board of Directors for the Clermont Mental Health and Recovery Board by the County Commissioners on March 9, 2022. Chairperson Patricia Lawrence welcomed the attendees and the meeting proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the March 14, 2022 Board meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Erica Koe-Krompecher, second-Barbara Bird).
4. Judge Mary Lynne Birck: Judge Birck expressed her gratitude to the Board for its involvement in the development of the Court Liaison program at Domestic Relations Court which was implemented to provide much-needed support and resource connection to litigants and their families. Judge Birck realized early in her term that families needed support due to the stressful nature of divorce. In June of 2021, Judge Birck met with Karen Scherra and staff from Child Focus (CFI) to discuss the idea of an on-site Court Liaison. Soon after, Susan Grabowski, a former Supervisor for Children's Protective Services, was hired to fill the role. Ms. Grabowski

is employed by CFI but has an office at the Court. The position meets with the litigants to determine their needs and connects them to services in the community. If children need connection to services at CFI, the Court Liaison completes an intake. Judge Birck stated that no other County is doing a similar program and that her colleagues consider it a “model program.”

5. Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Karen provided the Board members with information on OACBHA yearly dues. Karen attended an OACBHA meetings on February 28<sup>th</sup>, where there was discussion and agreement to raise the amount of the yearly dues based on a new dues formula. As such, Clermont’s dues will increase slightly primarily due to its growth in population.

Karen also mentioned the kickoff event for the Clermont Addiction and Recovery Partnership (CARP). CARP, formerly known as the Opiate Task Force (OTF), will be having an open house event to highlight its new name, logo, and website page. Lee Ann Watson, the Co-chair, will also present information on past accomplishments of the OTF and the strategic plan for CARP for the next three years. Lee Ann said the event is being held at the Engineer’s Office on April 22 at 2:00 pm. Light refreshments and door prizes will be offered. Lee Ann invited the Board members and stated that Board staff would send them the event flyer.

Karen Scherra highlighted the new research efforts for an innovative approach to treating cocaine addiction. Dr. Andrew Norman, a health researcher at the University of Cincinnati, believes that cocaine’s interactions with the brain have long been misunderstood. In lab studies, his team has shown that cocaine is addictive because of its impact on the part of the brain linked to repetitive behavior, not its impact on the pleasure centers of the brain, like many other illicit substances.

Karen Scherra stated that she recently participated in a Capital Funds discussion with Art Willis at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OHMAS) related to the request for these funds from On Our Way Home (OOWH) for recovery housing in Clermont County. Karen and Mr. Willis are in the process of working with OOWH to make sure they provide the documentation and meet qualifications for the funds. Karen said they will all meet on March 16 to further discuss the details.

Karen Scherra also stated that on March 8, she and Lee Ann Watson participated in a virtual “site visit” with Liz Poprocki, the OMHAS staff person overseeing the Multi-System Adult (MSA) funding. Karen provided a summary of the meeting and informed the Board members that Clermont has not yet spent any of its allocation, primarily because few clients met the criteria. Originally clients had to have been hospitalized at least four (4) times in the past year to qualify. Because of the current situations at the state hospital and the local hospital, Clermont has a small number of people who receive multiple inpatient psychiatric services. Recognizing that many Counties were unable to utilize the funding, OMHAS recently changed the requirements and reduced the number of hospitalizations from four (4) to two (2) and increased the allotted dollar amount per person from a total of \$4,000 to \$8,000. During the meeting, Karen and Lee Ann explained that many clients have had multiple trips to the emergency room for mental health symptoms but have not been admitted to the hospital. Since these clients are often not stabilized, they would benefit from the MSA funding to provide needed community support. Karen asked if OMHAS would be willing to approve, on a case-by-case basis, the use of this funding for clients who had multiple emergency room stays. Liz asked that Karen and

Lee Ann submit a letter detailing their request, and that she would discuss the request with OMHAS leadership.

Karen Scherra also mentioned President Biden's State of the Union Address. In his recent address, President Biden outlined a "Unity Agenda," which includes efforts to beat the opioid epidemic and address mental illness, including a National Mental Health Strategy, to be part of the next budget proposal. Karen said she was very pleased to hear the President's detailed plan for addressing the mental health and addiction issues facing the nation.

In closing, Karen Scherra shared that she learned from Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services' (GCB) CEO Jeff O'Neil that she was chosen as this year's recipient of GCB's Champion of Hope award. Karen will receive her reward at the annual event on April 29. Karen said she is very honored to receive this recognition and invited Board members to attend the event along with Board staff. Board staff will send out event details to the Board members. Jeff O'Neil added that the Champion of Hope event also serves as a fundraiser, an advocacy platform, and an opportunity for GCB to communicate GCB's commitment to the community. Jeff also said that the GCB nominating committee unanimously chose Karen as the reward recipient.

6. Finance Committee: Greg Varner presented on behalf of the Finance Committee and gave a recap of the discussion from that evening's Finance Committee meeting. Greg informed the Board members that Erica Pursley, Board Fiscal Officer, shared the SFY2022 Profit and Loss Statement spreadsheet through March 9, 2022. YTD revenues totaled \$5,664,199.76 compared to a budgeted \$8,815,856.66. YTD expenses totaled \$4,924,661.94 compared to a budgeted \$9,170,385.86. Greg also provided an update on the SFY2022 POS contract utilization. All the Provider Agencies have utilized at least 50% of their POS contracted budgets. Greg advised the Board the SFY2021 040 Actuals Report and the SAEI Report, reports required annually by the state, had been submitted by Board staff to OMHAS. CFI and GCB have submitted their SFY2021 Agency Audit Reports with no findings. In closing, Greg reminded the Board that in December, the Board approved additional funding for the agencies for workforce and retention. Those funds have been disbursed. CFI received \$175,988.50 and GCB received \$175,000.
7. Action Items: The only action item was the Rescheduling of the April 2022 Board Meeting. The Board's annual Retreat is being held on April 23 at the Carter Center. Karen Scherra recommended rescheduling the April 2022 Board meeting from April 11 to immediately before the Board Retreat on April 23. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the rescheduling of the April 11, 2022 Board of Directors meeting to April 23, 2022 preceding the annual Retreat. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Jenifer Binder).
8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Board Search Committee Report. Patty Lawrence reported that the Search Committee had received several applications for the Executive Director position. Patty stated that the Committee received nine resumes that met the minimum job requirements and 15 resumes that did not. The deadline to submit applications for the position was March 11. Patty further reported that the Committee has scheduled meetings with Hope Community Center (HCC), CFI, GCB, and Board staff to discuss desired expectations of the new Executive Director. The Committee will meet with CFI and HCC by Zoom on 3/21 and with GCB and Board staff by Zoom on 3/28. Once those meetings are complete, the Committee will begin to schedule interviews with the job applicants.

The second discussion item was the Board Retreat Planning. Karen Scherra said she does not expect the Board's funding to change much in the next fiscal year since we will be year two of a two-year state budget, and the focus of the State Administration and Legislator is the upcoming elections. Karen plans to set up meetings prior to the Retreat between the Providers and the Program Committee to discuss service needs and funding requests. In addition, there are several grants that are ending which will leave some funding gaps for services and may require direct Board funding to sustain. Two major examples are GCB's CCBHC grant which funds the expanded hours of Mobile Crisis, and the over \$1,000,000 SOR 2.0 grant which funds the CASC program. Karen stated that she believes those two projects are priorities. Karen also suggested the Board may want to do a recap of the last two retreats for the benefit of the new Board members. Andy Bateman said he would like to keep the recap very brief and spend more time on the Board's funding strategies. Patty Lawrence said she would also like to spend some of the retreat getting to know each other, as many of the Board members are new to role. Greg Varner said he would like an updated spreadsheet of the Board's funding sources and distribution, similar to the one presented at last year's retreat by Board staff.

The third discussion item was Crisis Services. Karen Scherra stated that the implementation of OhioRISE on July 1, 2022 and the 988 national crisis hotline on July 16, 2022 will significantly impact Clermont's Crisis Services which are provided by CFI. These crisis services include the Crisis Hotline, the Mobile Crisis Team, and Mobile Response and Stabilizations Services (MRSS). Karen Scherra further shared that CFI is recovering from the recent and sudden passing of Assistant Director of Special Populations-Crisis Services and Diagnostic Services, Cathy Krieg. Cathy was an invaluable leader of Crisis Services. Cathy was also held in very high regard at the state level for her involvement in several state-run committee related to 988 implementation and the MRSS program. Karen Scherra said she is confident that CFI is prepared to continue Crisis Services smoothly even with this tremendous loss.

Laura Stith of CFI mentioned that Cathy's passing was a great shock, and she will be greatly missed. Cathy's staff have been supporting each other and covering what needs to be accomplished. Laura also said that the Butler County hotline answered the Clermont hotline calls from 5:30-8:30 the day of Cathy's celebration of life so her team could attend. Laura reiterated what Karen said and added that Child Focus is prepared to carry on with uninterrupted client services and will be putting permanent solutions in place to cover all of Cathy's duties.

The fourth discussion item was the Update on OhioRISE. Karen Scherra stated that CFI is on track to begin billing covered services to Aetna by its implementation date of July 1, 2022. Karen reminded the Board members that OhioRISE does not cover non-Medicaid eligible youth for MRSS services, which may require funding from the Board. Karen added that this topic can be discussed at the Board Retreat.

The fifth and final discussion item was the One Ohio Clermont County Task Force. Karen Scherra provided the Board members with information about One Ohio. According to Karen, One Ohio was created to jointly approach the funding Ohio will receive from the settlement of the lawsuits against drug manufacturers and distributors of opioids. One Ohio has outlined a plan

for distribution of the funds from the opioid settlement and will be working on how to apply for funds and how the funds can be used. The funding will be distributed in the following way:

15% stays with the Attorney General's office to cover administrative costs;  
30% will go directly to Ohio counties, townships, cities, and villages to address the immediate needs of the residents; and  
55% will set aside at a statewide foundation that will develop rules for, and oversee, the funding of services in communities/counties.

Counties have been grouped into regions. Clermont County's region includes Warren, Brown, Butler, Hamilton, Clinton, and Clark counties. Each county will be required to start their own task force to make recommendations on how to utilize the funding both locally and regionally. The region is currently tasked with finding a representative to the state board. Each County can put forth a candidate, and then the regional group will vote on who the representative will be. Joyce Campbell, a judge from Butler County, has submitted her name to be the southwest region's representative. Karen Scherra plans to also submit her name. Karen said the funding will be spread across 18 years and she hopes it will provide a means for continuing CASC or funding a crisis stabilization center for Clermont.

The Clermont County task force is led by Commissioner David Painter and includes other community members. Karen Scherra said she would like to see more people involved from the mental health and addiction system, such as our provider agency GCB and Board members. The task force meets once a month, and its next meeting is March 31, 2022.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Jeff O'Neil of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) expressed his condolences to CFI for the loss of Cathy Krieg. Jeff said workforce retention and loss is almost "all-consuming" for GCB. In response to workforce issues, GCB will be reviewing its current fee schedule and possibly making some increases. GCB's fee schedule has been flat for many years. Jeff also stated that the second of phase of Managed Medicaid is beginning on July 1, 2022. Jeff stated that there will again be many changes for the system, including several new managed care companies and a new claims system. Jeff also shared that the state is very behind on credentialing clinical staff to bill Medicaid and Medicare which is causing a major delay in GCB's ability to bill for Medicaid or Medicare covered services for at least fifty staff.

Karen Scherra added that OMHAS' centralized claims processing system, MACSIS, was eliminated many years ago, requiring Boards to develop their own billing system. Clermont and the vast majority of other Board areas went with the GOSH billing system. However, OMHAS is the only state department without a data system, which has caused issues at the state level, and is now looking into developing a system that might be/include the non-Medicaid claims processing for the boards and agencies. Boards are upset with this direction of OMHAS and are working through OACBHA to at least have some say in the decision-making process.

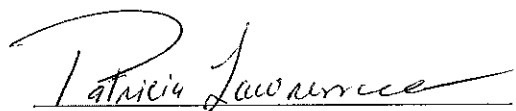
Pamela Lindeman of Child Focus said she appreciates the outpouring of support CFI has received from the community after losing such a vital team member. Pamela said her report stands. Pamela added that CFI is also struggling with workforce retention and loss. Pamela says she


sees no end in sight anytime soon. Even with the statewide behavioral health workforce shortage, OMHAS is still moving forward with OhioRISE and assignment of Community management entities (CMEs) by “catchment areas.” Pamela said Clermont is part of catchment area G. OhioRISE has set ratios for staff and clients based on the level of need of the client. For instance, for intensive clients, one Case Manager can only have ten clients on their caseload . Pamela also informed the Board members that CFI recently received the funding for 988 implementation. The funding was provided to Lifeline entities to hire new staff to meet the needs of the anticipated increased call volume once 988 is live. Child Focus is also reapplying for the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Grant funding opportunity that was recently re-released.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy also expressed her condolences to CFI for the loss of Cathy Krieg. Amy said the Peer Support Partners (PSPs) were also very affected by this loss. Amy added that HCC continues to focus on the transition of the PSPs to provider agencies. In case the transition to provider agencies does not happen, HCC has developed a discharge plan for each client. Amy closed by adding that Becky Mosteller will be taking over for Amy at HCC at the end of June. Becky plans to attend the May CCMHRB meeting.

Katie Harper of NAMI SW Ohio said her reports stands. Katie gave also gave her condolences to CFI for the loss of Cathy Krieg. Katie said NAMI has experienced a similar loss. Katie added that NAMI continues to increase the amount of in-person programming. The Milford Family-to-Family class is very happy to be back in-person. Katie mentioned that the Family and Friends group will replace the Hope for Recovery group for a short period of time, and that NAMI also added two new schools to its “Ending the Silence” presentation schedule. Katie closed by announcing that NAMI will hold its annual charity walk in-person for the first time in two years. “NAMI Walks Your Way Southwest Ohio” takes place on May 14, 2022 at Sawyer Point in Cincinnati.

10. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the March 14, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the March 14, 2022 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Erica Koe-Krompecher, second-Barbara Bird).

  
Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson

  
Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director