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MINUTES of May 10, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Laura Esslinger, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patty Lawrence, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jacki Block, Carrie Brown

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Pamela Lindeman, 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 May 10, 2021 Board meeting with the addition of Finance Committee item F. - Additional Child Focus Funding Requests; Item C. Action Items - OMHAS Agreement and Assurances; changing Discussion Items from item C. to item D.; and adding Discussion Item D.4. - Officer Elections. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Andy Bateman).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 Board of Directors’ meeting. (Motion-John Kelly, second-Greg Varner).
4. Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Regarding Opioids/Drug Issues, Karen reported that there is currently an Ohio House Bill that will mandate the creation of Overdose Fatality Review Boards in each County. The Board would operate in a manner that is similar to the Child Fatality Review Boards.

On April 20th, Karen Scherra attended the monthly state-level Drug Trends meeting. This committee has been meeting for some time, and it was recently suggested that Board Directors might benefit from access to all the information and data shared at these meetings. The data that was shared substantiated the news about the use of methamphetamine mixed with fentanyl in Clermont County. Karen said she learned that Clermont’s usage of this drug mix is the 2nd highest in the state.

Under Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) Related Activities, Karen Scherra mentioned that a meeting was held on April 16 with OMHAS staff and the 23 Board areas with the highest rates of opioid overdose fatalities by zip code. Clermont was included due to the numbers for the 45103 zip code area (Batavia). OMHAS is using federal dollars to purchase naloxone to be distributed to individuals in the targeted areas. Clermont County will receive 228 naloxone kits which will be sent to several of the Board's partner agencies, as well as 50 kits to use as the Board determines. Those 50 kits will likely be directed toward the Felicity area. Associate Director Lee Ann Watson is working on getting the kits distributed to the agencies by the end of the month.

Karen Scherra also mentioned she participated in a meeting on April 19th about the SOR 2.0 Harm Reduction project involving four of the Southwest Collaborative Boards. The funding Clermont is receiving will be directed to Public Health, which operates the Syringe Exchange program in Clermont. All the projects seem to be doing well despite the pandemic, although numbers are down. Clermont Public Health has switched from using Hamilton County's van syringe exchange program to utilizing space at Mercy Hospital Clermont.

Karen Scherra also highlighted that she and Lee Ann Watson met with OMHAS staff on April 21 to discuss the new criminal justice grant that will expand the Linkage project. The grant will provide funding for a part time position to work on housing for homeless Linkage clients and will also provide funding for stipends for temporary shelter.

Regarding Criminal Justice Related Activities, Karen Scherra said the monthly Stakeholders CASC meeting was held on April 20th. Referrals continue to increase, and staffing is fully in place. Some of the meeting was focused on the presentation to the Commissioners which occurred the following day (4/21). Alicia Fine from Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) did the presentation, along with Heather Cokl, also from GCB, and Jaime Lutson from Municipal Court Probation. Karen also participated in case there were any questions that she would be better able to answer. Commissioner Batchler recently toured CASC on April 13th. Karen, GCB staff, and CASC staff accompanied Commissioner Batchler on her tour to ensure all her questions could be answered. Karen said Commissioner Batchler seemed very impressed with what the program is accomplishing. Karen also mentioned that she would send a copy of the CASC presentation to any interested Board member upon request.

Karen Scherra participated in the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) on April 20th. The meeting focused on approving grant submissions from Municipal and Common Pleas Courts. After that meeting, Common Pleas Court Judge Brock, the Chair of the CJCC, decided to get the CJCC back to its quarterly meeting schedule, which was suspended last March due to the pandemic. That will be a positive move, as the Council involves all the key stakeholders and should provide a forum to talk about implementing a crisis stabilization center once again in the county. The quarterly meetings will resume in June 2021.

Karen Scherra also mentioned the update on the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Karen said Lee Ann Watson has been working with consultant Lori Saylor on deliverables related to the CIT grant. The CIT training for 911 dispatchers will occur on May 11th and May 13th. Two Advanced CIT courses, a requirement of the CIT model, have been scheduled. The first of the

two advanced trainings occurred on April 22, and 23 officers attended from 6 different jurisdictions. Lee Ann Watson added that the advanced CIT trainings are being held at the Miami Township Civic Center. CIT trainings are offered to people who work as first responders: 911 dispatchers, law enforcement, and Fire & EMS. Lee Ann also said that May marks the 10-year anniversary of the CIT program in Clermont County. Lee Ann said the CIT grant allowed for the development of videos and ads pertaining to CIT. These marketing materials will be run on social media and distributed throughout the County.

Regarding Federal Activities/Legislation, Karen Scherra stated that the CDC and SAMHSA have announced that federal funding may now be used to purchase rapid fentanyl test strips to help curb the dramatic spike in drug overdose deaths largely driven by the use of strong synthetic opioids, including illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Karen also mentioned the Excellence in Recovery Housing Act (H.R. 2376), which aims to help states improve and expand access to recovery housing. Recovery housing refers to safe, healthy, alcohol and drug-free living environments that support individuals in recovery from addiction. Another legislation Karen highlighted was the Promoting Effective and Empowering Recovery Services (PEERS) in Medicare Act of 2021 (H.R. 2767). This legislation would expand access to mental health care by clarifying that peer support specialist services can be reimbursed by Medicare.

Under Ohio Activities/Legislation, Karen Scherra mentioned two bills recently signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine.

- Senate Bill 2, sponsored by Sen. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green), regards requirements for competency evaluations and mental health treatment in criminal cases, and enters Ohio into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).
- Senate Bill 57, sponsored by Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) and Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood), authorizes a property tax exemption for permanent supportive housing properties for individuals with either a mental health disability or substance abuse disorder.

5. Finance Committee: Chairperson Jacki Block was unable to attend the May 10, 2021 Finance Committee meeting. Therefore, Patty Lawrence chaired the meeting and reported to the full Board on items discussed at the Finance Committee meeting of May 10, 2021. Patty reported that the Board has received approximately 81% of its budgeted FY21 income of \$8.7 million and has expended approximately \$5 million, or 57% of budgeted expenses.

Regarding equipment for hybrid Board meetings, Patty Lawrence recommended, on behalf of the Finance Committee, that the Board approve \$1,500 to purchase electronic equipment that will allow for hybrid (a combination of in-person and virtual) Board meetings. The equipment is called the “Meeting Owl” from Owl Labs. It is a 360-degree speaker, microphone, and camera combination that will enable meeting some attendees to continue to remotely participate in Board meetings once the meetings are once again held in person. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve \$1,500 for hybrid meeting equipment. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Erica Koe-Krompecher).

Patty Lawrence also updated the Board on the FY 2022 OMHAS allocation guidelines. OMHAS recently released a spreadsheet outlining amounts and specific funding sources for each recipient Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, including Clermont. Some of the

guidelines have yet to be determined as the State budget will not be finalized until the end of June. Patty said there is \$3.1 million earmarked for special projects that would decrease the overall allocation to boards. The Finance Committee is optimistic that funding will be comparable to last fiscal year. Plus, OMHAS is expecting to receive block grant funding that will be disbursed to the Boards.

Regarding the FY 2022 OMHAS 040 Budget, Patty Lawrence reported that the draft 040 is due to the state by May 21, 2021. The annual 040 report documents all the Board's financial activity by funding source. The final 040 is due in January.

Patty Lawrence also reported on the CY 2022 County Budget. The County requires the Board to submit a draft budget for the upcoming calendar year to allow for financial planning. The draft is due May 21, 2021. The final CY 2022 budget will be due in November and will require the Board's approval.

Patty Lawrence also provided an ENGAGE grant funding update. Patty said the ENGAGE grant is currently being used to fund Clermont's MRSS program. That grant ends September 30, 2021. OMHAS has announced it will continue to fund those programs until the OhioRISE program funding goes into effect sometime in January 2022. Once OhioRISE takes over, MRSS services will be Medicaid billable.

Lastly, Patty Lawrence discussed Child Focus' Funding Request. During the Child Focus Program Committee meeting, the agency reported billing losses that occurred in their school-based mental health program as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the required quarantine. With the closing of the schools, school-based mental health staff were not able to see their clients in-person. During that time period, the school-based mental health staff spent many hours of what would usually be mental health service-related billable time trying to locate and/or engage clients. Many of the clients could not be located or engaged, and therefore services could not be provided, and billed, resulting in a loss of revenue for Child Focus. Child Focus did not lay off any staff, but instead covered the loss of revenue. Child Focus is requesting that the Board pay out its original allotted school-based service funding to cover those absorbed costs. There was approximately \$287,000 that was unbillable due to these circumstances. Patty informed the Board members that the Finance Committee recommended tabling a decision until Chairperson Jack Block could review the request.

6. Program Committee: Program Committee Chair Andy Bateman reported to the full Board on presentations/meetings held in April with the provider agencies. Andy first reported on the Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)/Clermont Recovery Center (CRC; a division of GCB) presentation from April 26th. According to GCB, 80-85% of their clients have active Medicaid. GCB also reported steady referrals to mental health care management, and an increase in caseload sizes, and increased referrals for counseling services. GCB's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) is receiving 300 calls per month through its triage line. GCB's special services such as the ACT Team, TIP, Jail Linkage, and Forensic Team are seeing an increased number of clients. At CRC, the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program has 590 clients, the highest number of enrollees ever. GCB/CRC did not request any additional funding, but Andy reminded the Board members that there are a few

grant funded projects where grant funding will be ending soon. Once those grants end, the subject of additional funding requests may need to be revisited. The Program Committee will meet again in the Fall to discuss these grant-funded programs.

Andy Bateman also reported on the Child Focus presentation from April 29th. Child Focus' delivery of school-based mental health services was a big challenge during this fiscal year. Due to COVID-19, Child Focus was not able to bill an estimated \$287,800 in school-based mental health services since schools were required to close. Child Focus had expenditures for the program since it did not lay off staff. Child Focus is hoping to provide additional services over the summer to decrease the amount that was underspent in their contract with the Board. Andy also reported that the number of calls to the Crisis Hotline and runs by the Mobile Crisis Team continue to increase. Child Focus is anticipating an increase in call volume when the Crisis Hotline begins the affiliation with the National Lifeline. Child Focus is unsure of what impact OhioRISE will have on its services and funding. Andy also stated that CFI is requesting additional funding for FY 2022 for school-based services.

Andy closed by saying the Program Committee will be meeting with Hope Community Center on May 17th and the Committee will meet after that meeting to discuss the agency funding requests. Andy also expressed his gratitude for the agencies and Board staff for scheduling the meetings/presentations.

7. Action Items: The first and only action item was the OMHAS Agreement and Assurances. This is an agreement with OMHAS which is approved by the Board annually. The agreement outlines the requirements and responsibilities of OMHAS and the Board in accepting awards or sub-awards from OMHAS. The agreement is the same as last year with a few minor changes. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the OMHAS Agreement and Assurances and to allow the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Dorothy Glancy).
8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the FY 2022-2023 State Budget Update. Karen Scherra said that at the beginning of the budget negotiation phase, OACBHA was optimistic about receiving an additional \$15 million in state funding for behavioral health services, as well as six changes in statutory language in HB 110. However, discussions with legislators have not gone as anticipated. Now, OACBHA has decreased the funding request to an additional \$3 million without earmarks and has also reduced the statutory language changes to two instead of six. The first language change relates to Board access to data, mainly pertaining to Medicaid, to improve planning and track outcomes. Ohio Council is fighting this language change. The second language change requested is clarification or removal of the mandated 120-day notice for any changes in contracting with provider agencies. Provider agencies across the state want to keep the 120-day notices.

Karen Scherra said the most critical item facing the behavioral health system is that legislators are discussing reducing the number of Board members on the ADAMHS Boards to 5-9 members instead of the current 14-18 members. Legislators are also discussing giving County Commissioners more control of the appointment of ADAMHS Board members. Currently, Commissioners appoint 60% of the Board members and OMHAS appoints 40%. Legislators

are discussing changing that to 80% of appointments by Commissioners and 20% OMHAS appointments. This all stems from a disagreement at the Erie/Ottawa Board which caused five members to resign and the Erie County Commissioners to request splitting from Ottawa County. In addition, legislators are discussing removing categorical requirements from Board membership, such as “consumer”, “family member”, or “clinician”. Karen added that OACBHA is sending letters to the House and Senate and is participating in testimony against this decision. Many agencies believe the categorical requirements should remain so that the people served by the Boards are represented in Board membership. Karen suggested that the Board members read the article attached to her Executive Director’s report which further discusses this issue. Karen said she plans to reach out to Clermont’s Commissioners and ask for feedback on this issue and what may happen if this legislation passes.

The second discussion item was the MRSS/OhioRISE Update. Karen Scherra said the rules for the OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) program are still being ironed out. As discussed earlier, OhioRISE will sustain the MRSS program in Clermont County starting in January 2022. Some of the current OhioRISE rules are going to be problematic, however. One rule states that MRSS teams must be available 24/7. In Clermont, the Mobile Crisis Team is the 24/7 backup for MRSS, and Karen said that arrangement was working well. However, that method is not technically in the OhioRISE rules. Karen was asked to speak at an OMHAS/OACBHA MRSS RFP discussion and gave a presentation on how Clermont runs its MRSS programming. At the meeting, Karen received a lot of support but was reminded that Clermont is not operating its MRSS program by OhioRISE rules, which will be an issue once OhioRISE takes over. Karen also said that Clermont will have difficulty hiring the workforce to cover the services billable through OhioRISE. The services covered by OhioRISE are expected to be used by 60,000 youths statewide. More discussions with the Finance and Program Committees will be necessary as more details come out.

The third discussion item was the Family and Children First Changes. Karen Scherra said that Family and Children First (FCF) currently provides wraparound services in Clermont County and operates under their administrative agent, the Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS). DJFS reports to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Case Western University wants to contract with Clermont FCF to provide statewide training on wraparound services. However, for that to happen, one of FCF’s employees would be spending a significant portion of their job working for Case Western. The BCC will not allow County employees to do duties outside of their job description. In order to get around that, FCF has asked Pressley Ridge to take on wraparound services. FCF also approached the Board about becoming the administrative agent for FCF. Karen said she does not think it would be prudent for the Board to be the administrative agent at this time since she is retiring within the next year, and after being the administrative agent for 13 years prior to DJFS, that’s a significant undertaking for Board staff. Pamela Lindeman of Child Focus added that the Board being the administrative agent for FCF could also create a conflict of interest with provider agencies. Karen asked the Board members for feedback on the topic. Board members agreed that with Karen leaving, this would not be a good time to take on a big project.

The fourth and final discussion item was Board Officer Elections. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that both Karen Conrad and Dorothy Glancy’s Board membership terms are

expiring June 30, 2021. Therefore, the Board will need to elect a new Chairperson and a new Secretary. As the Chairperson and Secretary, the two newly elected officers would also be members of the Executive Committee. Karen stated that the Board will need to make the new elections at the June Board meeting, and if anyone was interested in those positions, to let Board staff know before then. Karen said there are also many Board members who are eligible for a second term. Those Board members will need to submit second term applications to be re-appointed. As the Board currently only has 11 members, once Dorothy and Karen leave there will be 5 Board positions that must be filled.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura also said she had answers for data requests about Mobile Crisis' expanded hours from the Program Committee at the meeting on April 29th. The Program Committee had requested information on the type of Mobile Crisis responses that were occurring during the expanded hours. Laura "shared her screen" so meeting attendees could see the data report. Laura said 48% of the mobile crisis runs were related to individuals who were suicidal or homicidal; 43% were related to grief, mild depression, or dementia; and 9% were related to behaviors associated with a serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI). During regular hours, 33% of the runs related to suicidal or homicidal behavior; 55% related to grief, mild depression, or dementia; and 12% were related to behaviors associated with SPML. The Program Committee had also asked the percentage of people who were suspected to be under the influence on the calls. Laura said during regular hours it was 21% and during expanded hours it was 17%.

Patty Hassel of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) said her report stands. Patty also thanked everyone who attended GCB's virtual event, "Champions of Hope". Commissioner Painter was honored at the event. Patty said Karen Scherra and Lee Ann Watson were both mentioned during the Commissioner's acceptance speech. Commissioner Painter also referred to GCB and Karen Scherra as the "dream makers" for Clermont County's fight against addiction. The event was recorded, and Board staff will forward that video to Board members.

Heather Cokl of Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of GCB, said her report stands. Heather added that CRC hired a new coordinator for the Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County who is starting on May 11th.

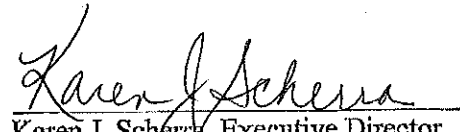
Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said that HCC will reopen the first week of July. The center will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Amy stated that she is still having problems getting CTC transportation coordinated for the clients. Because of this, she is considering having one day a week reserved for people who are within walking distance of the center. Amy also said the two evening sober support groups have resumed in-person meetings. NA meets on Sunday evenings and AA meets on Friday evenings. Amy closed by saying she is aware that the OhioRISE program will impact HCC's services and Peer Support Partners and will be working with Board staff to make any necessary transitions.

Julia Saldanha of NAMI SW Ohio said her report stands. Julia added that NAMI gave a presentation at Milford Schools called the "Relief Society". NAMI also gave an "Ending the

Silence” presentation, which 14 people attended. NAMI’s regular support groups are still being held virtually through Zoom, with good attendance. Julia thanked the Board for its support.

10. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the May 10, 2021 Board of Directors’ meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the May 10, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Andy Bateman).


Karen Conrad, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director