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MINUTES of May 9, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Rebecca Cochran, Kelley Costello, Richard Costello, Patricia Lawrence, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jenifer Binder, Barbara Bird, Laura Esslinger, John Kelly, Erica Koe-Krompecher

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Chaney

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Lydia Egan, Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Emily Neal, Laura Stith

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

1. The May 9, 2022 Board of Directors meeting was conducted virtually, via Zoom, in adherence with the emergency legislation signed by Governor DeWine on February 17, 2022 that allows temporary authority for public bodies to meet by means of teleconference or video conference. Chairperson Patricia Lawrence welcomed the attendees and the meeting proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the May 9, 2022 Board meeting with the addition of Action Item 2. OMHAS Agreement and Assurances. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Greg Varner).
4. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Regarding the Clermont Addiction and Recovery Partnership (CARP: formerly the Opiate Task Force), Karen stated that an in-person event to kick off the new name and brand was held on April 22. Over forty people attended the event. Lee Ann Watson provided the group with a history and accomplishments of the Opiate Task Force. Attendees also reviewed the new CARP strategic plan and the new CARP logo. Heather Cokl from Clermont Recovery Center provided an update on the current drug trends, including that of mismarked fentanyl tablets, and the reasoning behind moving away from focusing on a specific drug and instead focusing on addiction in general. Commissioner Painter spoke about ideas for the future direction of CARP; specifically, the need to begin to focus on quality-of-life issues such as housing and diversion to treatment.

Karen Scherra also mentioned that she has been serving on the OMHAS Community Plan Committee meeting. The group has been asked to submit comments to OMHAS on the new Community Plan guidelines. The reporting sections of the Community Plan have been expanded and include sections utilizing Medicaid data and outcomes. Karen provided feedback regarding the section that requires data from Medicaid, reminding OMHAS that Boards do not currently have access to Medicaid data. Karen also provided feedback about the need to include a section on the impact of the workforce shortage on the behavioral health system. The committee hopes to have the plan guidelines completed by the end of summer and sent to the Boards. The due date for the plan is still under discussion.

Karen Scherra informed the Board members that she attended two Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) presentations in April. On April 25, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health (GCB) presented its annual report to the Board of County Commissioners, including CASC outcome data. The second presentation, held on April 28, was an in-person tour of CASC by the County Prosecutor's Office and Public Defender's Office. The presentation went well, with attendees asking a number of questions, and referrals to CASC are increasing, hopefully as a result of the presentation.

Karen Scherra stated that during the week of April 25-28, Lee Ann Watson hosted the 14th Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training at Child Focus' Training Center. Twenty-five (25) officers from nine (9) departments attended the training. This was the first training in 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lee Ann shared that many of the officers in attendance were newly sworn officers and very receptive to the training. Lee Ann also said that about 93% of Clermont County's Law Enforcement Officers are CIT-trained, as well as many Corrections Officers and Probation Officers.

Regarding Federal Activities/Legislation, Karen Scherra drew attention to the sections on the 988 Implementation, alcohol related usage and death spikes during the pandemic, and drug overdose deaths reaching another record high.

Karen Scherra stated that an extremely important section of her report was related to Medicaid changes expected this summer. Karen said that according to a new national report, hundreds of thousands of Ohioans may lose Medicaid coverage this summer when the federal government's COVID-19 emergency declaration ends. Around 3.3 million Ohioans were enrolled in Medicaid this fiscal year as of February, an increase from around 2.8 million in 2020. Under the emergency declaration, Ohio and other states were unable to take people off Medicaid, even if they became ineligible. A new Commonwealth Fund report estimates that as many as 400,000 Ohioans could lose their coverage at the conclusion of the public health emergency. Although some of the "go live" dates have been delayed, Ohio Medicaid's Next Generation plan rollout is underway, with current members now able to select a new plan. Karen said it will be critical to keep those who lose their Medicaid enrolled in treatment services. Informational materials have been developed to get the word out about the most important thing enrollees can do to prepare – update their contact information.

Karen Scherra also mentioned that on April 28, the Family and Children First (FCF) Review Team for suicide prevention school funds met to review the applications submitted to FCF for FY2023 funding. Only three applications were received, and all three were approved by the Committee. Since the amount requested was less than the amount set aside, the Committee decided to fund a proposal for a suicide prevention program from a school that submitted a request for Mini Grant funding from the Board. The Board and FCF have been working together to fund school-based suicide prevention programs for several years.

Karen closed by thanking Patricia Lawrence, Jenifer Binder, and John Kelly for attending the GCB annual fundraiser banquet on April 29 where Karen was given the Champion of Hope award. Karen said her family, Board staff, and Judge Shriver were also in attendance and sat as a group during the event.

5. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block delivered a summary of the Finance Committee meeting that occurred prior to the Board meeting. Regarding the SFY 2021 SOR funding, Jacki stated that OMHAS notified Boards there is carryover funding available to be spent by September 29, 2022. Clermont is eligible to apply for up to \$325,445.63 in funding. Boards are frustrated with the large amount of funding, short timeline, client reporting requirements, and program restrictions. The funding cannot be used to supplant current projects and there is no guarantee of future funding to support new programs. Some Boards are declining the funds. Board staff have a meeting with GCB to discuss uses for the funding.

Jacki Block also mentioned that as requested at the Board retreat, a comprehensive report was presented to the Finance Committee by Board staff detailing all Board-funded contracts, programs, funding amounts, and time frames. The Committee plans to review the “contract master” in more depth at a later date after the Board members have an opportunity to review the spreadsheet and provide feedback.

Jacki closed by giving a re-cap of the Board’s SFY 2022 profit and loss statement. Jacki said that as of April 27, the Board has received 91.1% of its budgeted total income and has utilized 67.7% of its total expenditures.

6. Action Items: The first action item was the Addendum to the FY 2022-2023 Child Focus POS Contract for DOJ Grant Funds for Handle with Care. As previously shared with the Board members, the Board received federal funding for the Quick Response Team (QRT) program. Grand funding was provided to support the implementation of a Handle with Care (HWC) program operated by Child Focus (CF). During QRT runs, the team began noticing that many of the individuals who had survived an overdose had children. After discussion with the QRT partners, it was decided that some intervention was needed to assist children that may have experienced trauma as a result of a loved one’s addiction. The national HWC model involves first responders confidentially notifying a child’s school of a recent traumatic event which allows schools to recognize when the child might need more support. The HWC initiative will partner with local school districts and law enforcement to develop a standardized confidential referral form for law enforcement to use to notify schools that youth have recently encountered a traumatic event. If a law enforcement officer encounters a child on the scene, the officer will determine where the child attends school and will electronically send the referral to the identified person at the respective school. Only the child’s name will be provided on the referral

form with instructions to “Handle with Care.” No specifics of the traumatic event will be included.

Susan Graham stated that before the COVID-19 pandemic, CFI had a HWC Coordinator in place who had conducted some trainings with the schools to lay the groundwork for the program. However, during the pandemic, the Coordinator was not permitted to conduct trainings in the schools and there have since been internal job changes at CFI. Child Focus is in the process of hiring a new staff member for the role of the HWC Coordinator. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY 2022-2023 Child Focus POS Contract for DOJ Grant Funds for Handle with Care as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Rebecca Cochran).

The second action item was the OMHAS Agreement and Assurances. Annually, each Board is required by the OMHAS to sign an Agreement and Assurances document and to provide required information as noted in the Agreement and Assurances by set dates. The Agreement and Assurances and additional documentation are required for state and federal grants and to meet other state statutory requirements. The signed Assurances also must be entered into the state’s billing system so that the Board can receive its allocations for FY 2023. This year, in accordance with the State of Ohio’s response to Russia’s war on the Country of Ukraine, OMHAS added an affirmation page that Boards are prohibited from purchasing services from Russian institutions or companies. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2023 OMHAS Agreement and Assurances and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Andy Bateman).

7. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Board Search Committee Report. Patricia Lawrence mentioned that the search for a new Executive Director is moving along, and second interviews are being scheduled. Greg Varner has compiled a check list for contacting the applicant’s references.

The second discussion item was the Review of PATH Project Data. As requested at the Retreat, Lee Ann Watson presented a graph detailing the PATH program data outcomes. The PATH program was implemented to provide outreach and connection to mental health services to homeless individuals in Clermont County. Lee Ann mentioned that the program is managed by GCB and that she meets with the PATH staff quarterly to review outcomes. Lee Ann said the outreach person heading up the program is from Clermont County and is very familiar with the locations of the homeless camps. Lee Ann said he is doing an outstanding job. The PATH team continues to exceed their three state outcomes. Data outcome is tracked on connection with homeless individuals, enrollment in treatment and engagement in treatment.

FY21 Final Data (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)	Target goal	Actual
Contacts with homeless individuals in community	68	54
Enroll in behavioral health services	39	51
Connect/engage with behavioral health services	26	37

FY22 1st Quarter Data (July 1, 2021-October 31, 2021)	Target goal	Actual
Contacts with homeless individuals in community	65	15

Enroll in behavioral health services	38	15
Connect/engage with behavioral health services	24	6

The third discussion item was SOR 3.0 and Carryover Funds. The SFY21 SOR carryover funding was discussed earlier in the Agenda during the Finance Committee report. Regarding SOR 3.0 funding, Karen Scherra added that this was a discussion at the Retreat in April. The main concern is that there will be a gap between the end of SOR 2.0 and the beginning of SOR 3.0 and the Board will need to address sustaining the programs and services that are currently being funded by SOR 2.0. Karen also said that she attends a quarterly SOR regional meeting, and the last update was that it may be a while before the start date of SOR 3.0 funding is announced. Karen said that the Board members will need to discuss the issue of sustainability for the SOR projects as well as other grant funded projects.

The fourth discussion item was the ORC 340 Updates and Lawsuit Update. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that Representative D.J. Swearingen has introduced House Bill 523 to amend sections of ORC 340 that pertain to mental health and recovery boards' authorities, responsibilities, accountabilities, and size. Recently the hearings to discuss Swearingen's proposed bill have been delayed. In addition, lawsuits between the Lucas County Board and a provider agency and the Delaware-Morrow County Board and a provider agency have surfaced. Lucas County is being sued again in federal court for alleged violations to its Provider Agency's 1st, 4th, and 14th amendment rights. The Lucas County Board of Directors is being sued, and the Executive Director is being sued as the Executive Director and as a private citizen. Additionally, the provider agency of the Delaware/Morrow Board is now unsure of the tentative settlement that had been reached and are not finalizing a settlement until they see how the suit in Lucas County is resolved. The lawsuits mainly deal with contractual obligations. Karen said advocacy for Swearingen's bill may need to be put on hold until the lawsuits in the other counties are settled.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) stated that her report stands. Alicia added that GCB is applying for a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) expansion grant which would begin October 1, 2022. While the new grant requires enhancements and improvements to the Clinic's current services, the grant funding is less than the current grant. Alicia said it will be a challenge to increase services with less funding and GCB's goal is to focus on programmatic sustainability.

Heather Cokl of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) gave a recap on CRC. Heather reiterated how well the CASC presentations discussed earlier were received by the participants. Heather also said CRC is in the process of working with Lee Ann Watson to create a "thank you" video for First Responders in recognition of National Corrections Officers Week, National Fire/EMS Week, and National Law Enforcement Week. CRC also received its "Seven Challenges" program fidelity review last week. Heather said the final report was "glowing." CRC has teamed up with Public Health and will hold a prevention awareness event at the Eastgate Walmart as a kick-off for Recovery Month in September. The event will include presentations by Union Township Fire/EMS, prevention and overdose awareness activities, peer support, and Narcan distribution.

Laura Stith of Child Focus said the next couple of months will be extremely busy for Child Focus regarding OhioRISE, the 988 implementation, changes to MRSS, and many other things including a new health record system being installed. Laura said they have had the same health record system since the 1990's. The new record system will be state of the art and will hopefully launch July 1st. Laura said Child Focus is also looking to hire nine (9) new employees immediately to provide OhioRISE services. Laura was also very excited to announce that after 10 years of planning, the Little Fork Child Advocacy Center will have its own physical setting at Mercy Clermont. The center will provide forensic and medical exams, as well as mental health aftercare provided by CFI.

Karen Scherra also commented on the plans for the MRSS program under OhioRISE guidelines and how weak the new structure is. Karen said the Board needs to plan for sustaining MRSS should the OhioRISE program experience problems after the implementation on July 1st.

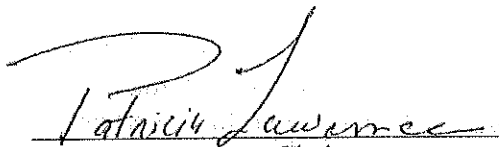
Lee Ann Watson said that she and Anne Wise have been discussing the implementation of 988 with county partners. Lee Ann said many knew very little about it.

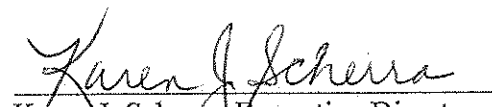
Emily Neal of the National Alliance of Mental Illness of Southwest Ohio (NAMI SW Ohio) said that she empathized with CFI as NAMI recently underwent a new software implementation as well. Emily said that the new system has improved the reporting of outcome data. Emily also mentioned that NAMI's peer support groups are both in-person at Clermont Mercy and by zoom weekly. Attendance has been good. The Family-to-Family class ended on May 2. NAMI also held a Family and Friends group session on zoom in February and April with eleven in attendance. NAMI held its "In Our Own Voice" presentation at the Clermont CIT training class in April. Emily closed by announcing NAMI will hold its annual charity walk "NAMI Walks Your Way Southwest Ohio" in-person for the first time in two years on May 14, 2022 at Sawyer Point in Cincinnati. Emily said the event will have food trucks, music, and much more.

Karen Scherra said Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) was unable to attend that evening's meeting. Karen said she and Amy plan to meet soon to discuss HCC's transition as Amy moves on to her new job and OhioRISE is implemented. Child Focus is in the process of hiring Peer Support Partners for the MRSS program.

Jacki Block reminded the Board she is unable to attend the Board meeting on June 13. Andy Bateman said that is not a good date for him either. Karen Scherra said she would get with Board staff to see if setting an alternative date for the June 2022 meeting is feasible.

9. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the May 9, 2022 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Jacki Block).


Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director