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MINUTES of November 16, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Carrie Brown, Karen Conrad, Laura Esslinger, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patty Lawrence, Geoff Schwerzler, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Kelley Costello

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: Katie Shepherd

ASSOCIATE MEMBER EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Taylor Limbach, Pamela Lindeman, Emily Neal, Jeff O'Neil

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 November 16, 2020 Board meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Dorothy Glancy).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Laura Esslinger, second-Erica Koe-Krompecher).
4. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. With regard to Hospital Updates, Karen shared that OMHAS recently provided funding to the Boards to assist with hospitalization costs for indigent individuals utilizing private community hospitals. However, to date, many of the Boards have not utilized the funding since the funding is only for a two-month period and it has been difficult to coordinate with the local hospitals to set up a contract. Under OACBHA, Karen said the group of OACBHA directors and Ohio Council directors, the "Futures Group", continue to meet every two weeks to educate each other on the areas chosen as most problematic between Boards and providers to develop a better understanding of the issues regarding board/provider contracts and solutions that could be suggested. Jeff O'Neil of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) is also part of the group. The group met earlier in the day. Karen said she and Jeff presented on how they use cost data for decision-making in Clermont County. Karen stated

that she believes Clermont County provides a good example of how Boards and providers can work together to plan collectively for the system.

Karen asked Associate Director Lee Ann Watson to present highlights of the Opioids/Drug Issues section of her report. Lee Ann said during the month of October, she has been working to implement the newly awarded Interact for Health "Targeted Naloxone Outreach" grant. The grant will provide funding for 615 Naloxone kits which will be distributed throughout the County. Two communities were targeted as needing outreach due to their high overdose rate: Union Township and Felicity. Both Union Township and Felicity Fire/EMS Departments have agreed to distribute Naloxone kits from the Fire/EMS squads to individuals who have survived an overdose and/or their families. Clermont Recovery Center's (CRC's) outreach team will also be setting up a time to do outreach in these two areas to provide Naloxone kits. Additional Naloxone kits will be provided to sober support groups in the County, the syringe exchange, CRC's Project Dawn, MAT clients at CRC, and individuals being released from jail/prison who connect with CRC for treatment.

Lee Ann said on a related note, she has also been working with Felicity Fire/EMS to develop a plan for CRC, GCB, and Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) to utilize space to provide services in the new Felicity fire station. Karen Scherra and Lee Ann Watson have been working with CRC to develop ideas of how to provide services in Felicity utilizing SOR 2.0 grant funding. This project has been an ongoing discussion with the Felicity Fire Chief, and Lee Ann said all involved are very excited to see it finally happening.

Under OMHAS Related Activities, on November 9th Karen Scherra was contacted by OMHAS to see if Clermont County was interested in partnering with the State to apply for federal grant funds to expand or enhance the Jail Linkage program. The grant provides up to \$150,000 for the time period 1/1/21-8/31/21. Karen said Clermont and two other Boards were contacted about the opportunity, as the three had been identified as the boards with the best Linkage programs. Karen said Clermont and Hancock Counties had decided to apply, which, if awarded, the counties would then each receive \$75,000. Karen said the grant submissions are due by December 1 and awards will be announced sometime later in December.

Karen added that the Linkage Program Committee met for its monthly meeting on October 13. There continues to be issues with space, due to COVID and decreased ability to use contact visitation rooms. As a result, GCB is not able to see as many of their clients who are in jail. The Department of Job and Family Services is also not completing Medicaid applications, which is resulting in some difficulties with referrals to residential treatment or community substance use treatment outside the publicly funded system.

Under Suicide Prevention, Lee Ann Watson presented some of the highlights. Lee Ann said the Suicide Prevention Coalition met on October 1st and reviewed the results of the Community Readiness Assessment. The Coalition's readiness rating was 3.94, indicating that the community has a vague awareness of the Coalition's work and a vague awareness of the issue of suicide. The results indicate a strong need for implementing a strategy to bring more awareness to suicide prevention and the Coalition's efforts in Clermont County. In October, Lee Ann Watson, on behalf of the Suicide Prevention Coalition, applied for two grants from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF). The first grant is a continuation of the grant that

ended in September and will provide funding to assist with an awareness campaign. The second grant was to receive technical support from OSPF to begin the strategic planning process. Mary Wolff, Director of the Drug Free Coalition, and Lee Ann Watson worked with Ohio University to develop a video explaining the Suicide Prevention Coalition and its work. The video will be utilized to market the Coalition. Before moving on, Board Chair Karen Conrad asked Lee Ann if the Community Readiness Assessment was performed on adults or youth, as she thinks that the county's youth are very much aware of suicide prevention efforts. Lee Ann agreed that youth do seem to have more awareness of suicide prevention, and that the Coalition in the past has heavily focused on youth prevention. In the past couple of years, the high-risk groups have shifted, and middle-aged men and older adults (over 65) are now a high-risk group for suicide.

Under COVID-19 Related Activities, Karen Scherra informed the Board members that since Governor DeWine has requested that each County have a local COVID Task Force, Clermont County's EMA calls will go back to weekly, and that group will serve as the local Task Force. Commissioner Painter asked Health Commissioner Julianne Nesbit and Karen to take a lead in the group. Karen said she is very pleased that the Commissioner sees the importance of addressing mental health needs along with physical health needs during the pandemic.

Under Federal Activities/Legislation, Karen Scherra said the COVID-19 emergency declaration has been extended to January 2021. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar recently renewed the public health emergency declaration, effective October 23, 2020 through January 20, 2021. This declaration will allow the continuation of certain Medicaid and Medicare provisions as well as telehealth and funding flexibilities.

Karen also said The Affordable Care Act's (ACA) future continues to be uncertain, as the law's constitutionality will once again be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court in *California v. Texas* (known as *Texas v. U.S.* in lower courts). Oral arguments began on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. This ongoing litigation challenges the ACA's minimum essential coverage provision (known as the individual mandate) and raises questions about the entire law's survival.

Karen mentioned that during the first week of October, the House of Representatives passed the bipartisan bill, H.R. 5572, the Family Support Services for Addiction Act. The legislation would create a \$25 million grant program over five years to help national and local non-profit organizations provide services for families impacted by addiction.

The Community-Based Response Act creates a new Community-Based Emergency and Non-Emergency Response Grant Program through the Department of Health and Human Services to establish programs to provide an additional option beyond law enforcement for community-based emergency response. The bill will promote an additional option for a community-based response in emergency situations, allowing for the dispatch of professionals trained in mental and behavioral health or crisis response instead of law enforcement.

Finally, Karen briefly mentioned the budget gap in Ohio Medicaid funding. Karen said Medicaid enrollments have increased amid the pandemic and recession, and declining state revenue and a projected budget shortfall will challenge the \$23 billion budget of the federal-state program. The surge in Medicaid caseloads during the coronavirus pandemic has topped three (3) million in 2020, which is a 9% increase from last year.

5. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chair Jacki Block reported to the Board on items discussed at the prior Finance Committee meeting. Jacki reported that the Board is on track with revenues and expenditures for FY2021.

Jacki also reported that state allocations from OMHAS are expected to be lower than last year, but the Board has still not received all of its allocation. While it appears that there will be a decrease in OMHAS funding, the Board has grants and other funding opportunities that are being explored. Jacki said the OMHAS allocations are the Board's base funding and she wanted to make sure the Board members was aware in case of a possible reduction in overall revenue for FY 2021. Jackie said that some of the funding will be replaced by the SOR 2.0 Grant which will be discussed later in the agenda.

6. Action Items: The first and only action item was the Addendum to FY2021 POS Contract with GCB for Interact for Health Grant Funds for Naloxone and Education. The Board has been awarded a 12-month grant for \$46,425 from Interact for Health, a local foundation, to distribute naloxone and educational materials in Clermont County. The grant runs from 10/1/20-9/30/21. The funding is being allocated to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) as they will be carrying out the activities required by the grant. This grant period crosses two (2) fiscal years, but Board staff will be providing all the funds in FY2021 and then monitoring expenses and activities through to the end of the grant period. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY2021 POS Contract with GCB for Interact for Health grant funds for naloxone and education and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-John Kelly).
7. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Levy Campaign Wrap Up. Karen Scherra said the Board won its renewal levy on the November ballot by over 10% more than the highest percentage from all past levy campaigns. Karen thanked Board members Patty Lawrence and Andy Bateman, as well as the other members of the Levy Committee, for their efforts with the levy campaign. Karen also thanked the provider agencies and their staff for distributing signs and materials, helping with levy presentations, and volunteering at polling locations. Karen added that the campaign went well considering the late start and having two other levies on the ballot. The 65% in support of the levy shows that the Board has increased its community support, which is encouraging for future levies.

Karen advised the Board that since the Levy Facebook campaign did not go as expected due to strict Facebook rules, the Board has a credit at the advertising agency. Karen said the credit will be spent on a "thank you Clermont County" ad campaign. Board staff added that the entire levy campaign cost around \$29,125, with \$10,000 of that coming from agency donations.

Patty Lawrence also thanked everyone for their campaign efforts and said she is developing a spreadsheet to compare the differences in numbers between the 2015 increase levy and the 2020 renewal levy. Patty suggested the 2020 levy may owe some of its success to the fact that it was a presidential levy and voter numbers were very high. Patty also mentioned the possibility of going for a new levy in the next presidential election instead of waiting the five years for the current levy to expire. Karen explained that there are rules about timing for levies and we would not be able to be on the ballot in four years with our current levy. Andy Bateman added that he

agreed that much of the work for getting community support was done in 2015 and it carried over to the 2020 levy. Andy said now is the time to continue efforts in promoting how important the Board's work is in the community. He encouraged everyone to discuss it with friends, family, and co-workers. Andy said he was happy to hear that a "thank you" campaign was in the making.

Karen Scherra added that there were some articles attached to the Board mailing. One was an article about the passing of the levy. Karen said she received a call from the Clermont Sun at 10pm on the night of the election asking her for comments, as the editor was already sure the levy was going to pass. Karen usually does not receive the call until final numbers are in. Before moving on, Karen also mentioned the other articles attached to the Board mailing. One article reported that May was the deadliest month in Ohio for overdoses. There was also an article about the rise in teen suicide. Karen said that only shows the work that still needs to be done in Clermont County and the levy passing was a crucial pathway to those continued efforts, especially during a pandemic.

The second discussion item was the SOR 2.0 Grant Funding Submission. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members of the SOR 1.0 funding, which was utilized to fund the women's CASC program, Recovery Housing and Peer Recovery Coaches. Karen explained that the SOR 2.0 Grant funding available for Boards ranges from \$500,000 to \$3.5 million. Karen said Board Staff and GCB are working as a team to develop an implementable and sustainable plan. The team plans to apply for approximately \$1.1 million to expand the CASC program, continue other projects funded by SOR 1.0, and add some new programs. The team has decided not to apply for the maximum amount, as the expansion of programs would be unsustainable after the grant period ends. The grant submission is due November 20th.

Karen asked Alicia Fine from GCB to expand on the plan for SOR 2.0 funds. Alicia explained that efforts to expand the county's CASC program, which is overseen by GCB, include increasing on-site nursing services to include physical health assessments in addition to mental health, and psychiatric services. Increased nursing services will also be added to the opioid treatment program and the new GCB clinic. Alicia said the SOR 2.0 Grant plan also includes increasing services offered by the Peer Recovery Team, expanding services available at the recovery houses, the services that will be offered at the Felicity firehouse project, and expanding the jail linkage program.

Karen Scherra added that after the SOR 2.0 grant period ends, there is no guarantee that the Board will be able to continue funding all the expanded services under the grant. Karen has made both GCB and County administration aware of that. The grant has broadened the number of individuals who can be reached and helped. The funding also gives GCB the opportunity to explore new endeavors, such as the Felicity Firehouse project.

Karen Scherra stated that OMHAS is suggesting that Boards utilize SOR 2.0 funding to contract with additional agencies. Many of the Boards have pushed back on that idea as they do not see a need and are satisfied with the progress and scope of work being offered by their current contracted agencies. There are no other non-profit substance use disorder treatment providers in Clermont County, and Karen said she has concerns with contracting with for-profit agencies. Karen said, however, there is the potential that a contract will develop with a new non-profit that will be starting some recovery housing.

The third discussion item was the Board Officer Nominations. Karen Scherra said the Board Officer election will be held at the December 14th Board meeting and Officer terms will start in January. The current officers are Karen Conrad as Board Chairperson, Andy Bateman as Vice-Chairperson, Jacki Block as Treasurer, and Dorothy Glancy as Secretary. Karen advised the Board to contact her with any officer nominations.

The fourth discussion item was the Christmas Donations. Karen Scherra said that Board staff, as well as a former Board member, usually contribute to the Christmas donation programs at CFI and Child Protective Services. Pamela Lindeman of CFI told the Board about CFI's "Giving Tree" program. The program helped 700 people last year by collecting donations of items such as toys, hygiene items, and basic needs (blankets, socks, etc.). CFI is hosting the Giving Tree Program again this year despite some fundraising efforts being hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. CFI also participates in Facebook's "Giving Tuesday" program which is a match program and CFI's match provides free agency services.

Jeff O'Neil said GCB is doing some similar things. GCB is currently collecting items to provide holiday meal care packages to those in need. The care packages consist of Kroger cards, food, and basic needs. Jeff said the program runs from Thanksgiving through Christmas this year and is extending to Clermont County this year as well.

8. Agency Directors Reports: Pamela Lindeman of Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) said her report stands. Pamela added that CFI continues to provide hybrid services with about 40% being held via telehealth. Clients have the option of remote or face-to-face services. Pamela said more staff will transition to working remotely through Thanksgiving. School-based staff will follow the schedule of the school district in which they work. Pamela also said that CFI is holding its "re-branding" event at the Carter Center on November 19th from 11:30am-12:30pm. It will be a small event that will follow social distancing guidelines and will provide a boxed lunch. Pamela announced that the Mobile Crisis Team staffed by CFI was nominated for "Non-Profit of the Year" by Chief Mills. The awards program will take place sometime in December. Susan Graham of CFI said the Outreach Team is providing services to Felicity through its school system and would also like to be involved in the Felicity Firehouse program mentioned earlier in the meeting. Susan also said the "Handle with Care" program that was started before the pandemic is again back in motion. The program is a trauma-informed program where schools are made aware if a student has experienced a traumatic event where law enforcement had to be called. The program gives schools a heads up in case a student who acts out has experienced trauma. The program is already implemented at some area schools such as Goshen and Milford and will be going live soon at other schools.

Emily Neal of NAMI said her report stands. Emily added that NAMI is continuing a fully virtual support group schedule. Emily said attendance has been good and the groups are held weekly on Sunday evenings. Emily also said NAMI's Family Support group has not had such good attendance since going virtual. The Family to Family and Peer to Peer groups are steady. Emily said this weekend, NAMI is holding a Hope for Recovery class. NAMI is also doing virtual school presentations. NAMI has presented on Mental Health and COVID and will be presenting on Mental Health and Racism in December.

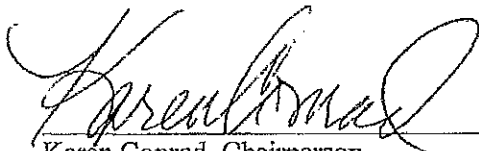
Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) said her report stands. Alicia added that GCB is managing client services with care amid the COVID pandemic. GCB

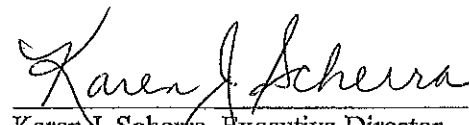
is using information and experience from the past several months to cope with the surge in COVID-19 cases. They are currently providing on-site "Zoom rooms" for clients who need access to remote services but do not have that access at home. Alicia said GCB's Care Management team is operating at about 50% face-to-face and the ACT team is 75% face-to-face services. Alicia said that GCB is doing what is necessary to make sure clients receive the care they need. Alicia said the new health clinic has 89 enrollees and is doing well. Nurses are on-site conducting physical health, mental health, and addiction assessments. Jeff O'Neil of GCB thanked Board staff as well as Child Focus, Inc. for their participation in GCB's drive-thru wellness event. Jeff said the event hosted about 80 cars and provided Naloxone training and free flu shots.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy added that HCC is now reopened and operating on Tuesdays. Amy said social distancing guidelines are being followed and everyone attending is required to wear a mask. Amy said the CTC busing service is also operating, which means clients have available transportation to HCC. Amy said as the surge in COVID-19 cases continues, HCC will most likely emulate schedules of area schools. Amy said HCC's Sober Support groups are meeting via Zoom Communications. HCC's parent peers are meeting remotely and face-to-face based on family needs. Amy said all COVID related protocols are being followed.

Before wrapping up, Karen Scherra announced that Board staff will be receiving PPE supplies from state funding. Karen is expecting 38,000 masks and 96 canisters of disinfectant wipes. The PPE items will be available to agencies once picked up by Board staff.

9. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the November 16, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting.
10. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the November 16, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Carrie Brown, second-John Kelly).


Karen Conrad, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director