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MINUTES of October 12, 2020

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carrie Brown, Kelley Costello, John Kelly

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: Katie Shepherd

ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESENT: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Jeff O'Neil, 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 October 12, 2020 Board meeting with the addition of Action Item #3, the MOU with Butler County Educational Service Center for Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), and Action Item #4, the Addition of New Health Officers at Child Focus, Inc.. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Dorothy Glancy).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Laura Esslinger).
4. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Under Hospital Update/Utilization, Karen pointed out that the number of state hospital forensic admissions for Clermont County in the month of September was still high.

Karen also mentioned the one-page educational piece attached to her report. The OACBHA flyer titled "Deaths of Despair: A Misunderstood Phenomenon" discusses deaths by suicide, drug poisoning, or alcohol abuse, collectively known as "deaths of despair", and how they stem from complex factors in individuals' lives.

Karen said she participated in the monthly Stakeholders meeting for the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC), which involves GCB/CRC, Municipal Court Probation, County Administration, and herself. One of the Municipal Court Magistrates joined the September call, which allowed the Magistrate to learn more about the overall program as well as provide the CASC stakeholders with her insights. The number of participants in CASC hit an all-time high during September, demonstrating the continued need for the program. Karen added that the county recently distributed a press release and had an article in the county newsletter discussing how the CASC program has helped so many on the road to recovery. Karen also said that Spectrum News will be doing a story on CASC involving her and a former CASC participant/CRC client and it will include a section on supporting the Mental Health and Recovery Board levy.

On September 30th, Karen participated in a Zoom meeting celebrating five (5) years of the Stepping Up Initiative. The Initiative is designed to help local communities implement programs to keep individuals with mental illness out of the jails, when appropriate, and divert them to needed treatment. Clermont was an early participant in the program when the County Commissioners voted to join in September 2015. There are plans for an expanded focus for Stepping Up nationwide in the coming months.

Karen also mentioned that Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government and avoid a shutdown. The measure did not contain any controversial funding programs or stimulus proposals under consideration in different legislation. Congress will need to authorize another CR before December 11, 2020.

Under Ohio Activities/Legislation, Karen said the State Controlling Board approved OMHAS' request for \$10 million for COVID Mental Health relief. The requested \$10 million will fund contracting and community disbursements to support response efforts in three primary areas: visibility and access for services; psychiatric inpatient and crisis care; and supports and capacity building for child welfare, first responders, suicide prevention and support for students and staff in primary, secondary and higher education.

Karen also said the Ohio Department of Health reported drug overdoses killed more Ohioans in May than in any month in at least 14 years, a potential side effect of the coronavirus pandemic that leaders feared could flare up again before things get back to "normal".

Lastly, Karen discussed changes with Ohio Medicaid. The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has released its Request for Application (RFA) for its Managed Care Organization (MCO) procurement, representing a major milestone in advancing the state's Medicaid program. This procurement will become the next generation of Ohio's Medicaid Managed Care Program, prioritizing the individual as the focus of care, optimizing real-time data with advanced, personalized care methods and value-added incentives that go beyond the status quo to deliver Ohio the best value in quality health care. ODM has issued an RFA to solicit responses from managed care organizations to assess their ability to fulfill the requirements of the new Medicaid Provider Agreement. The state invited privately operated managed-care organizations to submit applications for new managed care contracts by Nov. 20. Karen said a particularly

promising part of the RFA states, “*The MCO must collaborate and coordinate with local Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards to identify and address behavioral health service gaps and needs (e.g., mental health services, addiction services, and recovery supports).*” Coordination with managed care has been an issue for boards and it has now been recognized and addressed by ODM.

5. Appointment of Program Committee Chair: After consideration of the two Board members who expressed interest in the Program Committee Chairperson opening, Andy Bateman and Kelley Costello, Board Chairperson, Karen Conrad appointed Andy Bateman as the Program Committee Chairperson. Andy accepted the appointment and will take the place of Carole Cottrill who resigned from the Board in July 2020.
6. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chair Jacki Block reported on items discussed at the prior Finance Committee meeting. Jacki stated that the Board had been reimbursed by the County in the amount of \$4,206 for COVID related expenses. The money comes from the County’s portion of the Federal CARES Act Grant.

Jacki also reported a reimbursement of \$6,637 from the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation. The reimbursement is from rebates and dividends from 2017 and 2018.

Jacki informed the Board that it will not need to cover the CASC program for the months of October and November as previously thought. In September, the Board had agreed to cover the program at the current funding source, since the State Opioid Response Grant (SOR 1.0 Grant), was ending September 30 and the SOR 2.0 Grant was not scheduled to begin until December 1st. However, OMHAS is providing 60 days of funding as part of a no-cost extension of the SOR1.0 grant. Jacki said the savings to the Board is approximately \$60,000.

Jacki reminded the Board that in September, it had agreed to reimburse Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) for FY 2020 unpaid claims up to \$57,000. After further calculations in the GOSH billing system, it was found that the unpaid claims totaled \$77,371. Jacki said the Finance Committee recommends covering the additional \$20,371. Jacki reminded the Board members that the funding is available since the Board does not have to cover the gap in grant funding for CASC. Jacki said a review of GCB funding (and the other agencies) will be conducted in January 2021. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the reimbursement to GCB for the additional \$20,371 for FY20 unpaid claims. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Andy Bateman).

7. Action Items: The first action item was the agreement with Interact for Health for the Naloxone and Education Grant. Associate Director Lee Ann Watson said the Board was 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. There are three (3) objectives for the grant:
 - Purchase and distribute naloxone (615) kits and treatment recovery resources (615 resources) to persons most at risk of overdose;
 - Build awareness of naloxone and community resources to people at risk of overdose;
 - and

- Monitor opportunities to continue distribution after the grant ends.

Lee Ann said the outreach team will target Felicity and certain hotels in Union Township as these are known high-risk areas/locations. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the agreement with Interact for Health for the Naloxone and Education Grant and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Erica Koe-Krompecher).

The second action item was the agreements with Mercy Hospital Clermont and Beckett Springs for Inpatient Psychiatric Services for the period 10/1/20-12/31/20. Throughout Ohio, COVID-19 has decreased the capacity and access of OMHAS' Regional Psychiatric Hospitals, such as Summit Behavioral Health. As such, OMHAS has authorized funding for local boards to reimburse the cost of inpatient hospitalization of indigent, civil clients at local hospitals.

The funding period is 10/1/20-12/31/20 and the funds can be used at any inpatient psychiatric hospital in Ohio that holds an OMHAS license and is in good standing with the Department. The client must meet the definition of indigent, namely the verified absence of enrollment in Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance. The cost of the services must be in accordance with the OMHAS established structure, specifically a \$750 per diem for up to seven (7) days. In addition, if the client requires inpatient services beyond the 7-day limit, OMHAS will conduct a clinical case review with the Board to determine further eligibility, with a focus on safety and stabilization.

The amount of funding for each Board area was based on its historic utilization for indigent civil clients at the state hospital. Clermont County was awarded an allocation of \$15,750, the minimum amount provided. Interestingly, seven (7) of the 10 boards with the smallest awards are in the Southwest Collaborative, with the remaining Southwest Board, Hamilton, only receiving a few thousand dollars more. This distribution method reflects the fact that the Southwest Collaborative Boards have little access to the state hospital, Summit Behavioral Health, and could probably benefit the most from additional funds for private hospitals yet received the lowest amounts. These allocations are funded through the state's CARES funds that must be spent by the end of the calendar year. OMHAS does not know if any additional funds will be available in CY2021.

Karen said she was provided with a template for the agreements with local hospitals by OMHAS. The drafts of the agreements with Mercy Hospital Clermont and Beckett Springs, the two local hospitals that Clermont would want to utilize for any client who needs hospitalization that is not available at Summit, were made available to the Board members. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the agreements with Mercy Hospital Clermont and Beckett Springs for Inpatient Psychiatric Services for the period 10/1/20-12/31/20 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOUs on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Greg Varner).

The third action item was the SFY2021 MOU with Butler County Educational Service Center for mobile response and stabilization services. The MOU would be effective from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. The specific purpose of this MOU is to provide a working framework and funding mechanism to continue the local operational development and implementation of MRSS within Clermont County.

The desired outcome of this grant is to provide effective mobile crisis response to children/youth experiencing behavioral health episodes and their families to prevent unnecessary progression into more intensive and costlier forms of care, help stabilize families and ensure continuity of care from mobile response to follow-up services and supports, and help to prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement of children and youth. The Board will provide programmatic and fiscal oversight of the MRSS program and Parent Peer Support. This will be the final year for the grant and the amount of the reimbursement will be \$157,381. The funding supports the mobile crisis staff and Parent Support Partners (PSPs). A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the SFY2021 MOU with Butler County Educational Service Center for mobile response and stabilization services (MRSS) and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Erica Koe-Krompecher, second-Dorothy Glancy).

The fourth action item was the FY2021 Health Officer Designations. It is necessary for the Board to officially approve the designation of Health Officers each fiscal year. Health Officers are responsible for approving admission of Clermont County residents to the state hospital and admission of clients to local hospitals for psychiatric inpatient services. The Board approved Health Officers for FY2021 at a previous Board meeting, but there are some additional individuals from Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) who need to be designated as Health Officers. An appointment automatically terminates if the staff member leaves the agency. The agency staff being added as Health Officers meet all necessary credentials for appointment and have received the required training. The resumes of the new individuals being added were available for review. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2021 Health Officer Designations for CFI as presented. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Laura Esslinger).

8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the levy. Karen Scherra said the levy campaign is moving along and election day is just three weeks away. 33,000 levy informational cards, or mailers, have gone out and another 17,000 are going out soon. The mailers are targeting absentee voters and key precincts such as Union Township and Miami Township. A company by the name of "Think Patented" is handling the production and mailing of the mailers, as well as the social media aspect of the levy campaign.

Lee Ann Watson stated that UC Clermont Digital Media students directed, filmed, and edited videos of key community partners, Board members, agency Directors and clients in order to promote the importance of levy funding. There are sixteen videos in total and a new video is posted on the Board's Facebook page each business day.

Lee Ann said that there are currently 75 large levy signs up and we are still trying to locate locations for the additional twenty-five (25) large signs. The small levy signs are scheduled to be delivered on Wednesday, October 14th.

Karen Scherra said there are still shifts available to promote the levy at the Board of Elections or at the polling locations on November 3rd. The shifts are two hours long and volunteers are asked to hold up a small sign and encourage voters to support the levy. Andy Bateman asked if there were some polling locations that would take priority coverage. Karen Scherra said there were priority polling locations and that she would review the list of polling locations and mark the ones that take priority.

Karen suggested that Board members or other local people involved in the behavioral health system in Clermont send letters to the editors of the local newspapers supporting the levy.

Karen also advised the Board that both CFI and GCB gave considerable donations to the Board for its levy campaign.

The second discussion item was the Futures Group-OACBHA and Ohio Council. Karen Scherra explained that the Futures Group is the group that was formed after lawsuits were filed against several Boards by provider agencies. The group consists of six (6) Board Directors and six (6) provider agency Directors, along with the director and key staff person from OACBHA and the Ohio Council. Karen Scherra and Jeff O'Neil of GCB are both part of the group.

The Futures Group is meeting every other week through the end of 2020. The group compares concerns on both the agency side and the Board side. Both sides are educating each other on roles and responsibilities. The goal is to proactively resolve conflicts before they result in lawsuits and to potentially provide information and education to both boards and agencies about ways to develop working relationships that positively influence the contracting process. Jeff O'Neil added that the group meetings are a good effort, and he feels they will improve Board/Provider relationships as a whole. He said he and Karen already represent a good Board/Provider relationship.

The third discussion item was the SOR 2.0 funding. The new request for proposals (RFP) has not yet been released for SOR 2.0. Board staff applied for a 60-day extension for the SOR 1.0 Local Project and a 12 month no-cost extension for the SOR High Risk Families grant. The Board requested \$224,058 for SOR High Risk families funding for FY21. The request is \$4,480 less than SFY20 due to not needing the start-up equipment line item. Originally, boards were going to be allocated \$55 million in SOR 2.0 dollars for SFY21, but this has been reduced to \$50 million. OMHAS will be allocating \$5 million to contract with other community partners that do not have contracts with Boards. Since the announcement from OMHAS, Karen has been contacted by many agencies including an agency from California wanting to contract for services. This is problematic because the Board does not currently contract with for-profit agencies. There is a meeting on Wednesday with OMHAS to discuss SOR 2.0.

The fourth discussion item was the November Board meeting. Karen Scherra reminded the Board that the November meeting was moved to November 16th. Board staff will send a reminder when it gets closer.

9. Agency Directors Reports: Laura Stith of Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) said her report stands but was not included in the Board mailing. The report will be in next month's mailing. Laura said there have been three overnight Mobile Crisis runs since the program went to 24/7 availability. The Law Enforcement agencies are very pleased with the Mobile Crisis expansion. Karen Scherra added that when she was giving a levy presentation at the Milford City Council meeting, the Milford Police Chief went on record stating how critical the relationship with the Board and its providers is because of programs like Mobile Crisis. The Police Chief said he fully supports the Board's levy.

Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) as well as Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of GCB, said her report stands. Alicia added that GCB is holding a wellness event on October 21st at the Amelia location from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. The event will have a dual purpose of providing wellness information and supporting the Board's levy. The event is a drive-thru wellness fair and there will be "swag bags", free flu shots, and

naloxone administration training. GCB's new health clinic will be there as well. Board staff will send Board members the flyer for the event.

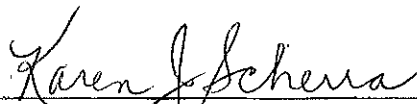
Alicia added that both the Amelia and Batavia locations are seeing a consistent influx of client enrollment. The Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program is at an all-time high of 549 participants. The growing volume illustrates the continued need for agency services.

Julia Saldanha of NAMI said her report stands. Julia added that NAMI is continuing its Zoom classes. NAMI has also reached out to area schools in hopes to resume the "Ending the Silence" program. Karen Scherra added that the Director of NAMI SW Ohio, Heather Smith, connected her with a reporter from Spectrum News to do a piece on the Board's levy and reasons to vote "yes".

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy added the center is slowly reopening and it is going well. Amy also said that HCC has hired a second Peer Support Specialist and that specialist will be involved in MRSS and the Resilience Grant. Amy said all of HCC's peers are attending a two-day training program.

10. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the October 12, 2020 Board of Director's meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the October 12, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Greg Varner).


Karen Conrad, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director