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MINUTES of October 11, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Kelley Costello, Richard Costello, John Kelly, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jacki Block (Joined by Zoom), Laura Esslinger, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patricia Lawrence

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Brian Dixon

GUESTS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Jenifer Binder, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Pamela Lindeman, Emily Neal, Jeff O'Neil, Laura Stith

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

1. The meeting was conducted in person with the opportunity for guests to join by Zoom. Chairperson Patricia Lawrence was excused from the meeting and Vice-Chairperson Andy Bateman filled in as Chair in her absence. Andy welcomed the attendees and asked each attendee to introduce him/herself. One prospective Board member, Jenifer Binder, attended the meeting via Zoom, and another, Brian Dixon, attended the meeting in person.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the October 11, 2021 Board meeting with the addition of item III. B. 2. Program Committee. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Kelley Costello).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-John Kelly).
4. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Karen said the Board currently has five openings for Board of Director positions following the appointment of Richard Costello by the County Commissioners. Karen has interviewed five applicants and has submitted two names to the County Commissioners (Brian Dixon and Barbara Bird) and three names to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (Jenifer Binder, Rebecca Cochran, and Marcia Schutte) for approval. However, Marcia Schutte has since withdrawn her application. Karen stated that she has a couple of potential leads to fill that remaining spot.

Karen Scherra also mentioned the judicial training, developed by a committee of Southwest Ohio Boards, OMHAS stakeholders, Summit Behavioral Health, and other agencies, to address the rise in forensic cases at Summit. The committee originally scheduled three in-person trainings in October to accommodate the judges from the different counties in Southwest Ohio. However, a week before the first training, only a few judges had registered for the training. The Committee decided to hold just one training on October 5th in Greene County with both in-person and virtual options. Only eight judges in total participated, but the training went very well, and all the speakers did an excellent job including Clermont County Judge Haddad. The virtual portion of the training was recorded to be used for future judicial trainings.

Karen Scherra also stated that she spent a lot of time in September and October attending meetings related to OhioRISE, as the focus shifts to implementation of the program scheduled to start on July 1, 2022. She attended the overall Advisory Council meeting on September 14th and the first meeting of the System of Care (SOC)/Care Management Entity (CME) Committee, of which she is a member. At the SOC/CME Committee meeting, Karen said she learned about the requirements to be a CME and how they will operate in collaboration with Aetna, the managed care company selected to oversee OhioRISE. Catchment areas were developed with a CME to be selected for each area. Clermont County is in a catchment area with eastern Hamilton County, Adams, Brown, Scioto, and Lawrence counties. The estimated annual assignments of youth for OhioRISE were shared for each county; for Clermont, it's 2,600.

Karen stated that she continues to participate in ENGAGE Team and Board Representatives meetings, which includes a monthly local MRSS meeting led by CFI staff. The Northwest and Southwest Boards that participate in ENGAGE met on September 23rd to focus on issues with the requirements for OhioRISE. The team developed a plan to document the status of current programs, what is expected by OhioRISE rules, and the gap between those two points that are barriers to implementation. Karen said Cathy Krieg of Child Focus Worked with her to document a detailed listing of those gaps. The final version of the OhioRISE requirements are expected from OMHAS by the end of October. Karen stated that the Board will be asked to approve a contract to continue funding for ENGAGE for the next three months while the Board waits to hear about ongoing funding from OMHAS for sustaining the ENGAGE program from January through June 2022.

Regarding criminal justice related activities, Karen Scherra said that on September 28th, she and staff from Municipal Court Probation, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB), and the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) met to discuss the issue regarding the probation violation of a CASC client and the subsequent court hearings about the case. The case had been resolved in court the day before, but the group took the opportunity to talk through what caused issues between the court and GCB and discussed ways to avoid similar problems in the future. Karen said she is still interested in having a discussion with the judges about the program, but nothing is planned yet.

Karen Scherra informed the Board members that she is also serving on the ad hoc screening/hiring committee to find an Executive Director for the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The committee has had several meetings to review the job description, develop interview questions for the applicants, and review the qualifications of applicants. WIB Board members who work in employment services have taken the lead and handled the initial

screening of applicants. There are two candidates who emerged as the top contenders. One was interviewed on October 7th and the other one will be interviewed on October 12th.

Karen Scherra added that in September, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded a five-year grant to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing to operate a national center for technical assistance for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) grantees. The National Council will be given \$3 million every year for five years which will help the organization continue to strengthen operations and delivery of mental health and substance use services at CCBHCs. The grant will allow the Technical Assistance Center to work with more than 400 CCBHCs to strengthen their operations and improve the delivery of care for any person who comes through their doors. Clermont currently has a CCBHC operated by GCB. Karen stated that she believes that CCBHCs will be the future direction for community mental health agencies. She also stated that she believes that additional funding will be available for CCBHCs in the future.

In regard to Ohio activities/legislation, Karen Scherra stated that in October, OACBHA has focused on advocating for a bill to allow for virtual board meetings. Language for virtual Board meetings has been drafted, based on the advice received from Senators. The next step is finding a bill that is moving to tie it into.

Karen Scherra shared that on October 1, she and GCB staff met with several people associated with the non-profit On Our Way Home (OOWH). OOWH is dedicated to opening recovery houses for both men and women in Clermont County. The Board and GCB have been collaborating with OOWH for a couple of years, and the entity is now getting closer to opening a recovery house. OOWH has agreed to follow the rules and protocols that have been established for the two recovery houses owned and operated by GCB. The Board has some funding for this project in grants (e.g., SOR 2.0) but there may be additional funding requests from OOWH, which will be discussed with the Program Committee, after Board staff have met with them to determine their projected requests.

In closing, Karen Scherra mentioned the OACBHA “one-pagers” and the articles attached to her report. The articles were titled: “Provider Closure”; “How Can I Be a Champion of Recovery?”; “Study: Black Children Twice as Likely to Die by Suicide”; “17% of Adults in US Are Drinking Too Much”; “Recognizing Mental Health Warning Signs Can Save Lives”; “One Cure for Gun Violence: Better Mental Health Care”; “Pharmacies Face First Opioid Trial”; “UC Health and Cincinnati Police Launch Ohio’s First Telehealth Mobile Crisis Response Program”; and “Ohio’s 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline & Crisis Implementation Planning”.

5. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block, who joined the meeting via Zoom, presented her report to the full Board. The first item Jacki discussed was the SFY2021 Reconciliation. Jacki said the SFY 2021 reconciliation is complete with the following figures:

GCB: over-earned by \$78.16.

Clermont Recovery Center (CRC, a division of GCB): under-earned by \$212,928.84.

Child Focus: under-earned by \$446,097.17 which is a correction to the previously reported \$598,924.17 due to a COVID grant that was received by Child Focus.

Hope Community Center: under earned by \$12,442.92.

This brings the net under-earned amount on the purchase of service contracts to \$671,390.77. Jacki said the reason for the large underspent balance was the decreased provision of services due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Jacki Block also discussed the SFY2021 Year End Financial Projection. Jacki stated that Board staff shared the year-end financial projection with the Finance Committee, which highlighted annual revenues vs. expenses. The FY2021 revenues exceeded expenses by \$852,431. The required reserves were set at \$800,000 for the year.

And lastly, Jacki Block discussed the Board's Free Reserves. Due to the under earning for FY21, the Board's year-end free reserve balance is currently \$2,044,020. Jacki reminded the Board members that the current policy for required reserves is \$800,000. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members of the necessity of the required reserves, which are available to cover costs when state/federal funding is not received in a timely manner. With the current increased balance of the free reserves, the Finance Committee recommended that the Board members vote to revise the current policy for the required reserves to increase the amount from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. The Board was in favor of the policy change. Karen Scherra said she will bring the official policy change to the Board at the November 2021 Board meeting for official adoption. After approval of the policy change, \$200,000 from the free reserves will be transferred to the required reserves.

6. Program Committee: Program Committee Chairperson Andy Bateman shared a recap of the recent Program Committee meeting that was held on October 5th via Zoom. Andy stated that the Committee held the initial meeting with Board members only, to get a sense of the funding priorities to expect from subsequent discussions with the provider agencies. The Committee discussed grant funding that will be ending, funding urgencies, and other proposed funding priorities for treatment services. Andy informed the Board members that some of the high funding priorities discussed were suicide prevention, additional counseling available to individuals without a severe and persistent mental illness (the "general population"), recovery housing, and crisis hotline/mobile crisis. The Committee will also be meeting with each of the provider agencies separately to discuss programmatic needs. Board staff reminded the Board, specifically Program Committee members, of the tentative meeting schedule with the provider agencies. The meeting with GCB will be November 15th at 6:00 pm., the meeting with Child Focus will be November 30th at 6:00 pm, and the meeting with Hope Community Center will be December 8th at 6:00 pm, and all the meetings will be held virtually. The Board will then vote on their recommendations for funding priorities at the December Board meeting.

7. Action Items: The first action item was the MOU with the Butler County Educational Service Center for the ENGAGE Grant Funds. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that the OMHAS funding for ENGAGE, which supports MRSS at Child Focus and the Parent Peer Support staff at Hope Community Center (HCC), ended September 29th. OMHAS asked the participating Board areas how much funding was needed to sustain MRSS after September 29th. However, the funding Clermont received from OMHAS to sustain MRSS was only \$43,600, which may not cover the total cost of the program. Karen stated that the gap in funding will need to be addressed at a later date. In order to continue the participation in the ENGAGE grant project and allow for the flow of no cost extension funds to the Board for the period 10/1/21-12/31/21, the Board must enter into an MOU with the Butler County Educational Service

Center. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with the Butler County Educational Service Center for the ENGAGE grant funds for the period 9/30/21-12/31/21 and to authorize the Executive Director to submit the resolution to OMHAS on behalf of the Board. (Motion-John Kelly, Second-Richard Costello).

The second action item was the Addendum to the Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) FY 2022 POS Contract: CTP Funds and SOR 2.0 Year 2 Funds. Karen Scherra stated that the Board has been awarded carryover funds by OMHAS for the Community Transition Program (CTP) and has received notification of the awarding of SOR 2.0 Year 2 grant funds. The CTP provides support to individuals with a behavioral health disorder as they transition from prison to the community. The CTP carryover funding is being allocated to GCB, as they will be carrying out the activities for the CTP programing in FY 2022 as in previous years.

According to Karen Scherra, funding from SOR 2.0 Year 2 supports Recovery Coaches at GCB/CRC and the cost for the women's CASC program and some services for the men. The SOR grant period crosses two (2) fiscal years (10/1/21-9/30/22), so the Addendum will mirror that federal fiscal year and the Board will fund GCB through to the end of the grant period. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the GCB FY 2022 and 2023 POS contract for the CTP Funds and for the SOR 2.0 Year 2 Funds and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-John Kelly).

The third and final action item was the CY 2022 MOU with the Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) and the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCDD) for shared funding of services for children under the care or custody of Children's Protective Services (CPS). Karen Scherra shared that the Board has a longstanding collaboration in place with many of the child-serving agencies in the County. These collaborations involve joint planning for services and sometimes involve shared funding for specific children. When a child is in the custody of CPS and needs residential treatment, DJFS pays for the room and board cost of the placement. These children who are under custody of CPS/DJFS typically have Medicaid, which pays for the services, with the match covered by the State. However, there are occasions when a child does not have Medicaid or requires residential treatment or some other specialized service that is not covered by Medicaid. For these instances, the various agencies agree to share the expenses. The Board covers the mental health and/or alcohol/drug treatment services, only if the child is not Medicaid eligible or has unique needs, and the other agencies cover the residential placement and any associated or special cost.

Technically, DJFS cannot participate in these funding arrangements unless there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place that lays out the potential sharing of costs and the fiscal responsibilities of each agency. This MOU has been in place for many years and is the same as in previous years. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU for CY 2022 with DJFS and CCDD as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Kelley Costello).

8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) Open Beds Program. Karen Scherra informed the Board that in

an attempt to replicate the “Bed Board” in Franklin County, OMHAS has signed a contract with a company that provides a daily tracking system for available inpatient hospital beds. The program is called “Open Beds”. The concept of Open Beds has now expanded to include information on access to community-based treatment services and is open for public use, primarily in Northern Ohio. OMHAS is highly encouraging ADAMHS Boards to sign contracts with the company managing Open Beds in order to assure that information regarding local community-based treatment access is added to the Open Beds system. However, local Boards are apprehensive to sign the contracts, since the expectations and operations of the Open Beds system are still unclear. Karen said that OACBHA plans to talk with OMHAS and the Ohio Council to get more information. Until more information is obtained, Karen will not sign the contract.

The second discussion item was the MRSS/OhioRISE Update. Karen Scherra stated that the Ohio Department of Medicaid’s next generation initiative, OhioRISE, is scheduled to go live on July 1, 2022. As mentioned during the Executive Director’s report, the Boards are concerned that there will be significant gaps between the current operational components of MRSS programs and what is expected by OhioRISE rules and rates. Karen informed the Board members that a consultant for OMHAS suggested that instead of continuing to focus on trying to change the rules and the rates, the Boards should go at it from a different angle. The new approach is to list all the attributes of the current programming components concurrent with a list of OhioRISE attributes and illustrate the gaps and barriers between the two in a presentation to OMHAS. The group working on the presentation, which includes Karen and Cathy Krieg from Child Focus, have drafted the presentation. Karen added that one of the major gaps is that MRSS is available to everyone, whereas OhioRISE programs are only available to youth covered under Medicaid. Pamela Lindeman and Laura Stith from Child Focus further added that the current workforce shortage of qualified mental health professionals will also create difficulties for implementation of OhioRISE.

The third and final discussion item was the OMHAS Crisis Plan and Implementation of 988. Karen Scherra mentioned that a summary of Ohio’s 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline and crisis implementation plan was attached to her Executive Director’s report. Karen said that the summary includes a list of prominent issues and priorities for the new national hotline which is being put into place with the intent of improving Ohioans’ ability to quickly connect with community behavioral health treatment and social service resources during crisis. The summary also listed organizations involved in the 988 Planning Committee. Child Focus is involved in the Committee. Karen said that there will eventually be a specific state-level crisis plan that Boards will be expected to follow. Karen stated that Clermont is in good shape with regard to crisis services, since there is a Crisis Hotline and Mobile Crisis Team, but a major gap in the crisis continuum is a crisis stabilization center.

9. Agency Directors’ Reports: Jeff O’Neil of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB)/Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of GCB said his report stands. Jeff added that GCB is seeing the effects of the behavioral health workforce shortage/crisis. Jeff said GCB’s Hamilton County location lost three employees last week to Amazon. Jeff said the workforce shortage is nationwide and he has heard that it may be 18-24 months before it eases up. Jeff said that another concerning issue is the small amount of funding for individuals with

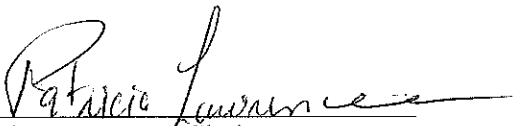
severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) in the state budget. Jeff discussed the recent OMHAS multisystem adult project, which is aimed at decreasing barriers for individuals with SPMI who have had multiple hospitalizations and added that the amount of funding directed to this program is not near enough to meet the needs of individuals with high needs. Karen Scherra added that the Clermont Board only received \$36,000.

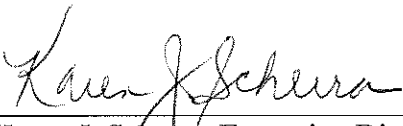
Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura added that Child Focus is also experiencing the workforce shortage and because of it, CFI staff are often covering more than one job. Laura also announced that Child Focus' annual Encourage the Heart Dinner is taking place on October 14th. Child Focus also recently received a \$3.5 million SAMSHA grant that was distributed to community mental health centers nationwide to assist with the workforce shortage. Laura also reported that the Crisis Response Team was called out to Goshen Schools due to the death of a teacher. Fifteen team members responded, and 150 students were served. The Crisis Response Team was also put on alert for a recent murder-suicide in Batavia but received no call. Karen Scherra pointed out that Child Focus' attached report stated that a new referral process was implemented for school-based services. Schools are now emailing referrals directly to a central Child Focus mailbox instead of giving a hardcopy to school-based staff. Laura said this new process will greatly increase the efficiency of getting a client connected to services.

Emily Neal of NAMI SW Ohio said her report stands. Emily added that NAMI has been very busy with its virtual presentations and classes. Attendance has been high, and Emily said NAMI is pleased to have the opportunity to offer its support groups on a virtual platform. A Family-to-Family class will start on October 20th, and the last 2021 Hope for Recovery class will be held in November. Emily also announced that NAMI held a training in September on Mental Health and Racism. NAMI also gave sixteen simultaneous Ending the Silence presentations at West Clermont and served 285 students. Karen Scherra asked Emily about the departure of Heather Smith, Director of NAMI SW Ohio. Emily said Ms. Smith is no longer working at NAMI and that Katie Harper is now Acting Director.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy added that HCC is also experiencing workforce shortage issues. Amy said she currently has one staff member out on long term sick leave, one out with COVID-19, and one having performance issues. HCC is down three of five Peer Support Partners but has two part-timers. All service obligations are being met. Amy added that GCB interns will be hosting day classes at HCC and clients' transportation to classes will be Medicaid billable. Amy closed by saying HCC's evening classes (NA, AA, and Smart Recovery) are all now in-person and attendance is picking up.

10. Comments from Public Attendees: Brian Dixon thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the meeting and Andy Bateman wished Brian well with his Board member application which was recently submitted to the Board of County Commissioners.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the October 11, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-John Kelly, second-Richard Costello).


Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director