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MINUTES of September 13, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Kelley Costello, Richard Costello, Laura Esslinger, John Kelly, Patricia Lawrence, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Erica Koe-Krompecher

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Bailey

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Brian Dixon

GUESTS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Lakshmi Ananta, Skye Duncan, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Meeta Khatri, Pamela Lindeman, Emily Neal, Laura Stith, Taylor Weaver

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 welcomed the attendees. Patricia asked newly appointed Board member, Richard Costello, to introduce himself, and he provided the Board members with information about himself. Executive Director Karen Scherra mentioned that she is interviewing six candidates for the four additional seats that are open on the Board of Directors. Karen asked guest Brian Dixon to introduce himself as well, as he plans to apply for Board membership. In addition, there were several new attendees, including public attendees. Due to the number of new attendees, Patricia had each attendee introduce him/herself and the meeting proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the September 13, 2021 Board meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Andy Bateman).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Laura Esslinger).
4. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. On July 13, Karen participated in the OACBHA Competency Restoration Committee that is working to develop a training on Senate Bill 2 which has changed some of the rules regarding competency restoration and the use of probate court. Judges will be invited to participate in the training that is scheduled in October.

Regarding the Opiate Task Force (OTF), Karen Scherra said the OTF Marketing Subcommittee met on July 22nd to narrow down the choices for a new name for the Task Force. The Marketing members voted on two names to present to the OTF membership at the August meeting. Karen asked Lee Ann Watson to expand on the subject. Lee Ann said the OTF has been discussing a name change for about three years in order to better capture the idea that the OTF is now addressing addiction verses misuse of a single drug. The new name will be “Clermont County Addiction and Recovery Partnership” (CARP). Along with the new name, an entire rebranding and new website are to follow.

Regarding OMHAS related activities, Karen Scherra said she spent a lot of time in July attending meetings related to OhioRISE. The implementation date has been moved from January 1, 2022, to July 1, 2022. In addition, Karen said on August 25, 2021, it was announced that all the planned Managed Care Medicaid changes that were targeted for implementation on January 1, 2022, have also been delayed to July 1, 2022. The delay will allow Medicaid to spend more time determining how the new programs will operate.

OMHAS also recently released information regarding their new initiative aimed at multi-system adults (MSA). According to OMHAS data, Clermont had 18 multi-system adults and will receive \$30,509.38.

Karen Scherra also stated that SOR 2.0 Year 1 ends on September 30, 2021. There will be no carry-over of funds. However, SOR 2.0 Year 2 funding has been approved, which funds several Clermont programs including the CASC program.

Regarding criminal justice related activities, Karen Scherra mentioned that the CIT training scheduled for September 20-23, 2021 was canceled. Lee Ann Watson explained that she had contacted the Chiefs, and in light of the rise in COVID-19 cases, they decided to postpone the class until November 2021 or February 2022.

Karen Scherra reported that the Criminal Justice grant from OMHAS (called Transformation Transfer Initiative or TTI) that allowed for expansion of the Linkage project at the jail, is in its eighth month of operation. The grant provided funding to add a Housing Coordinator to the project who assists homeless individuals with SPMI (serious and persistent mental illness) who are released from jail. To date, the grant project has engaged with 10 individuals, and 7 have been placed in appropriate/needed housing. Only one of the 10 individuals returned to jail during the time frame.

Karen Scherra also mentioned the 20th Annual Suicide Prevention Candlelight Vigil. It was held on September 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Post 450 in Milford. The Vigil honored those who have been lost to suicide in Clermont during the last year. Karen said Fox 19 News covered the event. Brett Milam of the Clermont Sun was the guest speaker and candidly discussed his own struggles with depression and thoughts of suicide. Karen added that Brett plans to join the Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Karen Scherra stated that her final term on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) ended June 30th, but the WIB members voted for Karen to remain on the Board through the transition to another Director. The Board approved a policy for emeritus board members and passed a motion to recommend to the Clermont County Commissioners to appoint her to an emeritus term of one year on the WIB. Karen was also recognized at the meeting for her nine years of service on the Board, and she received an award which was presented to her by Commissioner Painter.

Karen Scherra provided the Board members with updates on State and Federal Legislation. On Wednesday, July 14, three Democratic senators introduced draft legislation that would decriminalize marijuana at the federal level. In addition, for the first time, Ohio lawmakers will have a bill before them to legalize recreational marijuana cultivation and sales.

Karen Scherra also stated that as of August 10th, 794,806 Ohioans received their primary source of health coverage through Ohio's Medicaid expansion. On that same day, the Centers for Medicare, and Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a letter to the Ohio Department of Medicaid notifying them that their previously approved 1115 Community Engagement (work requirements) waiver was withdrawn, as the Biden Administration has a different focus on this type of requirements than the previous administration that actively encouraged states to seek work requirements in their Medicaid programs. Karen said she expects the state to appeal.

Karen Scherra closed by mentioning the OACBHA one-pagers and the articles attached to her report. The one-pagers were titled: "Breaking Down Stigma Associated with Addiction"; "Volunteer Leaders Guiding Local Planning and Decision-Making"; "Building Capacity to Enhance Behavioral Health Equity"; and "Practicing Self-Care to Foster Resilience". The articles were titled: " 'Trash Can' Drug Can Bring Hidden Dangers"; "State Pushes Back Revamped Medicaid Care System to July"; "Ohio Set to Reach \$808 Million Opioid Settlement After More Counties, Cities Sign On"; "Ohio's Emergency Telemedicine COVID-19 Rules Will Expire. What Happens Next?"; "Conscience Clause Increases Barriers to Mental Health Care for LGBTQ Youth, Advocates Say"; and "Quick Response Teams Help Recovering Drug Users Find Stability". Karen asked Lee Ann Watson to comment on the final article.

Lee Ann Watson explained that the article reported on Senator Rob Portman's recent visit with the Clermont County Sheriff's Office's Quick Response Team (QRT). The QRT, which is staffed by GCB, provides outreach to County residents that have either recently survived an overdose or received a drug related charge in hopes of connecting them to needed treatment and support. The Senator, QRT staff (Sheriff Deputies and GCB Recovery Coaches) leadership from the Sheriff's Office and GCB, and Lee Ann Watson met at the Sheriff's Office to discuss the evolution of QRT and how federal funding was used to support QRTs throughout the County. Lee Ann said Senator Portman was able to ride along with the QRT team to meet with a former client to hear her success story. Heather Cokl of GCB said the visit with Senator Portman went very well. In hearing about how well the QRT operates and meeting a someone who completed the addiction recovery program, Heather said Senator Portman was given the opportunity to see how federal funding is working locally.

5. Finance Committee: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block presented on the agenda items discussed at the Finance Committee. The first item Jacki discussed was the FY2021 Year End/Financial Projections. Projections show that Child Focus and Clermont Recovery Center underspent their POS contracts. Jacki said the Finance Committee will consider this when discussing the decision to recommend the Board increase its reserves from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Jacki advised that the Program Committee will be meeting soon with agencies and requested that a discussion on increasing the Board's reserves occur after that meeting.

Jacki Block also discussed the SFY2021 Agency Reconciliation. Jacki said draft reconciliation reports were sent to the agencies last week. As soon as the reports are finalized, and the agencies

agree with disbursed funds, final numbers will be presented to the Finance Committee and then to the full Board.

Jacki Block also discussed the SFY 2022 Additional IT and Cybersecurity Expenses. Jacki stated that the need for additional cyber security has increased in the last few years due to ransomware, malware, and other cyber-based attacks. Jacki said Board staff received a 16-page questionnaire from the Board's insurance provider regarding cyber security. It took the entire month of August and extensive work with the Board's IT consultant to update Board security protocols and to be compliant with the new requirements. Board staff were required to purchase additional security programs, advanced email security, a SEIM system, an IDrive for encrypted cloud backup, and multiple authentications for users. This is going to add additional operating expenses in SFY22 and going forward. Board staff accounted for those additional expenses when calculating the FY 2022 projection. The Board's insurance policy renews in April of every year, and it is not clear at this time if the insurance costs will rise as a result of the cyber security concerns.

And lastly, Jacki Block discussed the SFY 2022 State Budget Update. Jacki said funding is approximately \$220,000 less than SFY21. The decrease is in the OMHAS crisis funding allocation. There are also "holes" in SFY 2022 funding in both mental health and addiction. Karen Scherra said it will be discussed in further detail later in the agenda.

6. Action Items: The first action item was the Resolution for OMHAS Capital Funds for a Child Focus Project. Child Focus is currently in the process of requesting Capital Funds from OMHAS for expansion of one of their buildings, specifically additional therapy offices at the Carter Center for Educational Excellence. Karen Scherra explained that Child Focus must submit various forms and information to OMHAS, such as the application and site identification and a simple 3-year operating budget outline of anticipated income and expenses for this project.

OMHAS also needs to have two (2) resolutions: one from the Child Focus Board, which authorizes two individuals from their organization to sign all project documents (application, contract, 30-year forgivable mortgage, and note), and the other resolution from the Clermont Mental Health and Recovery Board supporting this project and agreeing to monitor the programs and operations at the facility to assure that Child Focus is compliant with all rules and regulations. Karen Scherra presented this resolution at the meeting. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Resolution for OMHAS Capital Funds for a Child Focus Project as presented, and to authorize the Executive Director to submit the resolution to OMHAS on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Greg Varner).

The second action item was the FY 2022 MOUs for the Quick Response Teams (QRTs). The Board has been involved in supporting Quick Response Teams (QRT) throughout the County since 2015. These teams involve a partnership between first responders, police and/or fire/EMS, and treatment providers. The team identifies individuals who have survived an overdose and/or have been arrested for drug related charges and attempts weekly face to face outreach with those individuals to engage them in treatment. These QRTs are primarily funded through grants, with the Board supplementing funding for the two (2) Recovery Coaches who are attached to the teams.

The Clermont County Sheriff's (CCSO) QRT was initially funded by the Attorney General's office for a period of 18 months beginning in October 2017. The grant funding ended on June 30, 2019. Due to the success of the QRT, Board staff reached out to Interact for Health to request funding to continue the teams. Interact for Health agreed to provide funding at the same level as the Attorney General's grant. Around the same time, the Milford/Miami Township QRT (MMART) began, and funding was also obtained from Interact for Health. Due to COVID-19, MMART and CCSO's QRTs were not able to run face to face. As a result, Interact for Health permitted the extension of the grant funding beyond the original grant end date. As such, the Board needed to revise the MOUs in place with the CCSO and Milford/Miami Township to reflect the extension of the grant time frame. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2022 MOUs with the Clermont County Sheriff's Office and Milford/Miami Township for QRT services and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOUs on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-John Kelly).

The third and final action item was the FY 2022 MOU with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board for PATH Funds. OMHAS has again provided funds for the PATH program that serves homeless individuals with a suspected mental illness. The funds go to the Hamilton County Board, which then passes on the funds to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral (GCB), the agency providing the PATH program services in both counties. Our Board must enter an MOU with the Hamilton County Board and provide match funds for the program in the amount of \$11,624. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2022 MOU with the Hamilton County Board for PATH funds and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Richard Costello). On a sidenote, Lee Ann Watson added that the program has expanded since it began and is meeting its goals of connecting homeless individuals to treatment and housing

7. Discussion Items: The first discussion item under the topic of State Budget FY22 Allocations, pertained to Multi-System Adult Funds. As briefly mentioned in the Executive Director's report, Karen Scherra stated that OMHAS recently released information regarding their new initiative aimed at multi-system adults (MSA). The statewide MSA project has \$11 million allocated for a two-year period. The allocation that each Board will receive is based on 2020 Medicaid data of the number of adults with SPMI in each County who have had four (4) or more psychiatric hospitalizations in a year period. According to OMHAS data, Clermont had 18 multi-system adults and will receive \$30,509.38. The program will provide up to \$4,000 for adults with a significant mental illness who are involved in multiple systems, such as criminal justice, Developmental Disabilities, aging, and veterans' services, and have had four or more hospitalizations in the past year. The funding can be used for recovery supports such as transportation, identification documents, emergency basic needs, guardianship fees, housing, employment, or psychiatric home health needs. Many boards asked for the names of individuals identified and OMHAS stated that the information they have is only aggregate data. Boards also expressed concern about how these individuals will be identified. In Clermont, GCB has access to hospital admissions and will be in a good place to identify these adults. Clermont's MSA plan was submitted to OMHAS on September 10, 2021.

The next discussion item under State Budget FY22 Allocations, pertained to Outpatient Competency Restoration Program Funds. According to Karen Scherra, several months ago SB2

became law and changed some of the rules related to outpatient competency restoration and community probate. The bill intended to increase outpatient competency treatment to decrease the number of competency restoration admissions to the state hospitals. OMHAS is allocating funding for these outpatient restorations by region, and Clermont County is included with Brown, Adams, Hamilton, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties. Hamilton County will receive the region's allotment in the amount of \$66,000 for FY22. Karen said the guidelines are very vague on how this program will operate.

The second discussion item was the MRSS/OhioRISE Update. In late August, the Ohio Department of Medicaid announced that the implementation date for OhioRISE has been delayed from January 1, 2022 to July 1, 2022. Karen Scherra said she is relieved by the delay as many of the proposed rules are not easily achievable by providers and the billable rates for OhioRISE services are too low. The rates may not cover the actual costs of the services and Child Focus staff has stated that they may not be able to participate in OhioRISE once it goes live without additional funding. Karen said there have been four new committees created to further develop the implementation of OhioRISE and several Clermont County representatives are members of those committees. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that funding for Clermont's Mobile Response Stabilization Service (MRSS) ends on September 30, 2021. Carryover dollars were expected to cover the cost of the MRSS program through January 1, 2022, when OhioRISE was set to take over. However, with the change in the OhioRISE implementation date, there may be a gap in funding for the program. Karen stated that the MRSS programs at Child Focus and Hope Community Center are crucial for the Board to maintain if OMHAS does not continue the funding until the new implementation date of OhioRISE. Board fiscal staff added that those expenses were factored into FY22 financial projections in case the Board has to fill in the gap.

The third discussion item was Preparing for COVID Restrictions. Karen Scherra shared that COVID-19 cases in Clermont County are reaching high levels again. With the increase in COVID-19 cases, Karen stated that tele-health services may need to replace in-person services in many instances. Pamela Lindeman said her staff at Child Focus are very concerned about clients not being vaccinated, but her staff has settled into a "wait and see what happens" attitude. Heather Cokl of GCB echoed the same concerns. The system will need to be prepared to switch to full tele-health services if COVID-19 continues to spike in the County and restrictions are imposed.

The fourth discussion item was the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC). Karen Scherra stated that there was a recent issue with a CASC client that created concerns with Municipal Court and Municipal Court Probation. The Municipal Court Judge involved in the case stated that if the issue is not resolved to his satisfaction, the Court will no longer refer individuals to the CASC program. State Opioid Response (SOR) dollars currently fund the CASC program. Karen said the Court will need to decide what its commitment to the CASC program is so that if it is to be discontinued, it can be properly phased out and the funding can be reallocated to other programs. The CASC program has been a great success, but as the Court has had many issues with it, it is possible that it has just "run its course" as stated by a probation officer.

The fifth and final discussion item was the Overdose Strike Force. Karen Scherra said that Clermont is one of 23 counties to be targeted by the newly developed state level Overdose Strike Force as a result of the rise in overdose deaths in the county. The Overdose Strike Force involves state departments such as OMHAS, Recovery Ohio, and the Department of Health and is being put into place to reverse the rising rates in overdose deaths in Ohio. Karen said Boards have not yet received details on what to expect, and she will update the Board members when she receives more information.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura added that she expects tele-health to make a comeback and reiterated that staffing is down at Child Focus. Laura also said that Child Focus is holding its annual Encourage the Heart dinner on October 14. The event will include awards, a presentation, and a silent auction. Anyone interested in attending can register on the Child Focus website.

In addition, Laura said the Crisis Response Team is in the process of training new members. Laura clarified that the Crisis Response Team is responsible for helping communities in crisis and currently has 80 volunteer members. In contrast, the Mobile Crisis Team aids individuals in crisis. Laura stated that 20% of the mobile crisis runs have occurred during the expanded hours (after 10 pm). Laura also mentioned that there has been an increase in mobile crisis runs as well as crisis hotline calls. In July 2020, the Hotline received 270 calls compared to 358 calls in July of 2021; a 33% increase. The crisis hotline is also now receiving calls from the national crisis hotline, but that alone does not account for the increase in call volume. Laura closed by saying that Child Focus is creating a video for national recovery month and will present it to the Board members once completed.

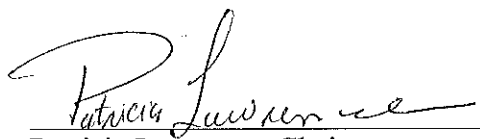
Emily Neal of NAMI SW Ohio said her report stands. Emily added that the support groups that had gone back to in-person are now back to virtual due to the rise in COVID-19 cases. The virtual groups are experiencing great attendance. Emily said individuals can register on-line for groups and classes. Emily closed by saying that NAMI had recently completed 16 small-group "Ending the Silence" presentations at West Clermont Schools.

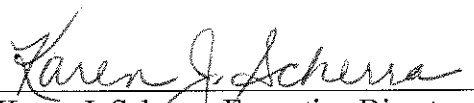
Amy Foley of Hope Community Center said her report stands. Amy added that she had hired a new Peer Support Partner (PSP) who started last Monday. The new PSP will job shadow other PSPs throughout September and is starting trauma training next month. Amy also said that in August the Army Resilience Trainer conducted a resilience training for first responders in both Clermont and Brown Counties.

Heather Cokl of Clermont Recovery Center (CRC, a division of GCB) said her report stands. Heather shared that GCB is experiencing staffing issues and that there has been a rise in positive COVID-19 cases among staff. However, GCB is still primarily doing in-person client visits. They are "triaging" at the front door making sure all visitors are masked. Heather stated that GCB's new electronic health record system is now fully operational. Heather added that there has been an increase in communications from Mercy Clermont to coordinate linkage to mental health and addiction services for patients in advance of their discharge.

Heather also reminded everyone that September is National Recovery Month and to visit GCB's website for more information. In observance of Overdose Awareness Day, GCB held a Naloxone distribution event on August 28 at Eastgate Walmart. Heather added that the prevention services team at CRC have been busy with prevention programming in the community. The Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County has a new Director and is currently focusing on marketing and rebranding. Heather closed by saying that GCB has had several school districts reach out to GCB to get connected to services.

9. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no comments from the public attendees at the meeting.
10. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the September 13, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Laura Esslinger).


Patricia Lawrence, Chairperson


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director