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MINUTES of October 13, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Gretchen Behimer, Jara Bonner, Joe Ellison, Jeff Higgins, Patty Lawrence (Zoom), Laura Perez, Tony Rees

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joy Lytle

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Jen Dorschug, Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Beth McManus, Nathan O'Der

STAFF PRESENT: Marcie Keith, Cindy Knoblauch, Denny Moell, Erica Pursley, Lee Ann Watson

1. Call to Order: The October 13, 2025, Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person and virtually at 7:00 pm from the Board office at 2337 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, Ohio, 45103. Chairperson Gretchen Behimer welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order.
In attendance was prospective Board member Nathan O'Der. Nathan gave a brief introduction. The Board members and staff also introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the October 13, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Discussion Item 4, "Indigenous Peoples' Day". (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Laura Perez).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Liz Atwell).
4. Oath of Office: Jeffrey (Jeff) Higgins of Cincinnati (Pierce Township), Ohio was sworn in as a member of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board of Directors by Notary, Cynthia Knoblauch.
5. Training: NONE
6. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said that her report stands.

Associate Director Denny Moell gave a brief update on the status of the Board funded mental health family care home, A Perfect Stay. A Perfect Stay family care home, located in Union Township, continues to make progress towards occupancy. Union Township Zoning has given

approval for the property to be utilized as a group home. Next steps include the home being certified for occupancy and the completion of a fire and safety inspection. Once these steps are completed, the plan is to begin discussion with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) regarding occupancy for the home.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith summarized the outcomes of the Board's Revving Up for Mental Health car show and wellness event that took place on September 13, 2025. Marcie said seventeen cars were on display for the event, and overall, the event went well. It included vendor booths, a food truck, and lots of great giveaways. The event made over \$500 in revenue. Marcie also received a lot of positive feedback from the event's patrons and participants.

7. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee meeting of October 13, 2025 was cancelled.

B. Levy Committee: The Levy Committee met on September 10, September 24, and October 8, 2025. Levy Committee Co-Chair Laura Perez gave a brief update on those meetings. Laura said that most of the levy signs, including ninety large signs, have been placed strategically throughout Clermont County. The digital marketing campaign is in full swing, and data shows that the "vote yes for mental health" message has been seen by over 100,000 viewers. The Board also has promotional t-shirts and buttons available at no cost. Board staff would like as many people as possible to help cover the polling locations on election day to advocate for the Board's levy. The Board will provide t-shirts, buttons, and informational handouts to those who work the polls on the Board's behalf.

In addition, Jeff Higgins will be attending the Clermont County Republican Central Committee meeting on October 15 to ask for the party's endorsement for the Board's mental health levy on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

Lee Ann Watson graciously thanked everyone for all their hard work and effort surrounding the levy campaign, and specifically thanked the Board members, Provider Agency staff, and Board staff who participated in placing the levy signs.

8. Unfinished Business: Crisis Receiving Center Update: Lee Ann Watson stated that Board staff learned in mid-September that the building permit for the Center was denied for various reasons. The requested information has been resubmitted. Provided that the Board gives it formal approval later in the agenda, the project will go out for competitive bid in early November.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Susan Graham of Child Focus said that her report stands. Susan added that Child Focus has hired a new program leader for Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS).

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center's (GCB/CRC) report stands. Jen Dorschug mentioned that GCB has added "Primary Care" to its list of available services and has already received positive feedback. Jen also said that the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) in Clermont has hit its ten (10) year anniversary. In

addition, Jen announced that GCB was recently voted “Best Nonprofit” in the categories of “Best Addictions/Substance Use Disorder Support Group” and “Best Mental Health Related Support Group” by *Cincinnati Magazine*.

Alicia Fine added that GCB/CRC has had a change in leadership. Cassidy Lekan will be coming to Clermont County from GCB’s Hamilton County location. Heather Cokl will be transitioning from Clermont County to GCB’s location in Warren County.

Hope Community Center’s report stands.

NAMI of SW Ohio’s report stands.

10. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Addendum to the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Purchase of Services (POS) Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) for Problem Gambling Funding: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 GCB/CRC POS Addendum for Problem Gambling funding from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH formerly OMHAS) in the amount of \$39,204 as presented and to allow the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).
2. Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) Surplus Funding: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 GCB/CRC POS Addendum for IDAT Surplus Funding from Clermont County Municipal Court in the amount of \$100,000 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Laura Perez).
3. Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for Enhancing the System of Care for Youth and Families Grant Funding: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve FY26 GCB/CRC POS Addendum for Enhancing the System of Care for Youth and Families grant funding from DBH for youth prevention services in the amount of \$250,000 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Liz Atwell).
4. FY25 and FY26 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (HCMHRSB) for the Clermont County PATH Program for Homeless Individuals: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY25 and FY26 MOUs with HCMHRSB for the Clermont County PATH Program for Homeless Individuals as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOUs on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Tony Rees).
5. Southwest Ohio Collaborative Operational MOU for the Transitional Living of Southwest Ohio (TLSO) Community Crisis Facility: A motion was made, and

unanimously approved, to approve the SW Ohio Collaborative Operational MOU for the TLSO Community Crisis Facility as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Liz Atwell).

6. Updated West Clermont School District FY26 School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Services MOU: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the updated West Clermont School District FY26 SBMH Services MOU as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jeff Higgins, second-Jara Bonner).
7. Authorization for the Official Opening of the Competitive Bidding Process for the Construction of the Crisis Receiving Center: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to authorize the Executive Director and Project Architect, Kleinfelder, to open the competitive bidding process for the construction of the Crisis Receiving Center. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jara Bonner).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Strategic Plan Update: Board staff reviewed the FY24-FY26 Strategic plan with Board members. Board staff have completed or are actively working on all staff-related strategic goals. The areas that still need work are Board of Director related and focus on Board member succession planning. Board members offered several ideas to tackle this task:
 - Board recruitment toolkit
 - Adoption of a formal “best practices” and a written succession plan
 - Add Board Succession Planning as a discussion item on each month’s Board meeting agenda
 - Start a recruitment list with possible candidates and professions needed
 - Early Board Officer elections
 - Board Officer job shadowing
 - Utilize the website “Board Source”-Liz Atwell offered use of her subscription
 - Create a Board Succession Plan Committee that meets quarterly

Board staff will add this topic as a discussion item to discuss again at the November 10, 2025 Board of Directors’ meeting.

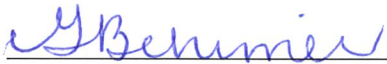
2. Volunteering for Levy Activities: As briefly discussed earlier in the agenda, Board staff are asking for help to promote the Board’s November levy through social media and social networking, wearing levy t-shirts and buttons, working the polls on election day, and helping place levy signs. Board staff will again send out the sign-up link for volunteering at the polls.
3. Board of Directors’ Bio: At the September 8, 2025 Board meeting, Board members were asked if they would like to have headshots and individual bios added to the Board’s website. Board members instead opted for a brief group bio and no headshots. Board staff

created a bio for the Board's review and presented it for approval. The Board approved the bio and Board staff will add it to the Board member page on the Board's website.

4. Indigenous Peoples' Day: Lee Ann Watson stated that many County departments, as well as other Government offices, are closed on Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day. This federal holiday occurs annually on the second Monday in October and therefore always falls on the Board's October meeting date. Because of all of the closures, that day is usually very slow for Board staff. Board staff requested to close the office on Indigenous Peoples' Day each year and either cancel each October meeting or move the October meeting to the third Monday of the month. Board members decided to table the topic until the November 10, 2025 meeting.
11. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: Joe Ellison said that he was amazed and impressed with how many of the Board's levy signs were placed throughout Clermont County with the help of Board members, Provider Agency staff, and Board staff.

Tony Rees said that the new Children's Hospital is set to open in Union Township, Clermont County on November 3, 2025 and will have an outpatient mental health component. Tony has been involved with the opening of Children's in his capacity as Chief of Union Township Police Department (UTPD). Children's Hospital requested a meeting with UTPD regarding police response time in the event the need for law enforcement occurred at the location. Tony offered to connect Board Director Lee Ann Watson with Stephanie Shive, Director of Mental Health Operations at Children's Hospital. There were no further announcements or comments from public attendees at the October 13, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.

12. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the October 13, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Tony Rees).


Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson


Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director