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MINUTES of March 10, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Atwell, Andrew (Andy) Bateman, Gretchen Behimer, Jacki Block, Jara Bonner, Joe Ellison, Patty Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Laura Perez, Tony Rees

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Greg Varner

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Zoe Fiscus-Doss, Alicia Fine, Barb Isemann, Laura Stith

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

STAFF EXCUSED: Denny Moell

1. Call to Order: The March 10, 2025, Board of Directors' meeting was conducted in person at 7:00 pm at the Board office at 2337 Clermont Center Drive Batavia, Ohio 45103. Chairperson Andy Bateman welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the March 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting with the addition of Action Item #4 - Amendments to FY25 Contracts with Child Focus, Clermont County Sheriff's Office, Miami Township Fire and Police Departments, Milford Police Department, and Milford Community Fire Department for Department of Justice Grant Funding for Quick Response Teams and the Handle with Care Program, and Action Item #5 -- Agreement with Kleinfelder for the Crisis Receiving Center. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Gretchen Behimer).
3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Liz Atwell).
4. Training: Hope Community Center-Zoe Fiscus-Doss: Hope Community Center (HCC) Executive Director Zoe Fiscus-Doss gave a presentation on HCC's operations. HCC is a peer-run organization that provides illness management, support groups, creative expression, wellness programming, and socialization for individuals in mental health and addiction recovery. Highlights of Zoe's presentation included the evidence-based efficacy of peer-run organizations, HCC's programming, pictures of clients enjoying activities such as wellness and creative expression, program outcomes, past and present funding, revenue projections, and information on the "Clubhouse Model".

HCC serves an average of 12.6 individuals daily and has increased staff from two (2) to four (4). HCC has changed from a Tuesday-Thursday to a Monday-Friday program. The Board's funding history to HCC is as follows:

- FY20 \$261,112
- FY21 \$187,636
- FY22 \$183,272
- FY23 \$60,376
- FY24 \$60,376
- FY25 \$60,000

In FY25, HCC received funding from OMHAS in the amount of \$130,000 for expansion and \$250,000 to implement the "Clubhouse Model". In addition, in FY25, HCC received funding in the amount of \$40,000 from OneOhio for transportation. By the end of FY25, HCC plans to use the Clubhouse Implementation Grant from OMHAS for hiring additional staff and building an infrastructure for Medicaid billing for the services provided at HCC. However, HCC will experience a gap in funding due to a delay in Medicaid revenue collection.

5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said her report stands.

Associate Director Denny Moell's report stands.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith said that her report stands. Marcie also reminded Board members of the upcoming mental health event on May 3, 2025, "Revving Up for Mental Health". She invited members to participate in the event by attending, volunteering, and/or sharing the event with friends, family, and on social media. Lastly, Marcie advised the Board that she was unable to apply for the \$10,000 American Modern grant for kids' activities at the event as it is only available to 501(C)(3) non-profit organizations. However, she plans to apply for the funding with the Kiwanis Club who will host the kids' activities at the event.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met at 6:30pm on March 10, 2025. Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block summarized the information from that evening's Committee meeting. Jacki said that the Committee had reviewed and approved the budget and funding updates of the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25), specifically, the Profit and Loss Statement and the Financial Projections through SFY 2029.

Jacki also said the Committee discussed the FY26 Mini Grant Program budget. Jackie said that the mini grant program is an excellent way to promote positive mental health and addiction prevention activities to better serve Clermont County residents. The mini grant program allows access to tax levy dollars for community-based entities to meet localized needs, which in turn increases name recognition for the Board. The Finance Committee recommended to the full Board approval of the FY26 mini grant budget of \$30,000.

In addition, the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the FY26 Sliding Fee Scale. The Board uses a sliding fee scale for billing services based on income. The new sliding fee scale will take effect July 1, 2025 and will be set at 138% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- B. Program Committee: Program Committee Chair Liz Atwell summarized the Committee meetings with Child Focus on February 20, 2025 and with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) and Hope Community Center (HCC) on February 27, 2025. The meetings were to discuss Child Focus' School Based Mental Health Services and FY26 agency funding requests to the Board. Liz said that Child Focus requested two changes to School Based Mental Health (SBMH) Services: 1) to delay billing of parents/guardians until school year 2026-2027 and 2) to change the way the Board provides funding from "fee for service" to "grant based". At the meeting with Child Focus, Child Focus staff provided the Committee with a history of reasons for the SBMH redesign. Regarding the billing of parents/guardians, Child Focus expressed many concerns including the image it portrays around levy time; the difficulty with collecting balances; case management services not being billable to insurance; parents not being able to afford the services and withdrawing kids from services; and too much change occurring at one time. Pamela Lindeman also informed the Committee that Child Focus does not have the staffing to take on the increase in billing with a fee for service billing model and therefore believes a "grant based" funding model would work best for billing the Board for services.

Liz said that Child Focus agreed to the following conditions should the Board approve grant-based funding:

- This will be a pilot for one year.
- The Board will fund positions, not services.
- The Board will fund a portion of those positions, Child Focus will fund the portion of the positions that will be reimbursed by Medicaid, and the schools will fund a portion of the positions.
- Reconciliation will occur at the end of the fiscal year, and Child Focus will reimburse the Board for overage if needed. The specific portion still needs to be determined.
- Child Focus will not bill the Board for vacant positions.
- Child Focus will develop a report to track the status of positions and report to the Board any changes.
- Child Focus will continue to report data on service units delivered by school-based staff.
- Child Focus will develop a strong plan to evaluate how the pilot works to address the issues of concern (staff retention, stakeholder satisfaction, access to services, more students in services)
- Child Focus will meet with the Board monthly to review progress and meet with the schools and the Board on a quarterly basis.

Liz said that the Program Committee considered the Gillette Model, the model the Board uses for budgeting, when discussing Child Focus' requests. Clinical services (therapy and case management) for SBMH are ranked on the Gillette Model at level 3 "High Risk" and prevention and consultation are ranked at level 5 "important needs".

The Program Committee and the Finance Committee supported the SFY 2026 Pilot of the new school-based model and grant-based funding and recommended approval to the full Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the aforementioned SBMH model and to allow Child Focus to receive grant-based funding as opposed to fee for service-based funding. (Motion-Gretchen Behimer, second-Joy Lytle).

Liz Atwell said that at the GCB meeting with the Program Committee, GCB requested \$463,306 in additional funding for FY26 to make up for the cut of federal SOS funding and to sustain the peer support team and supervisor. The full Board will discuss GCB's FY26 funding at the Retreat on April 26, 2025.

Liz informed the Board members that at the HCC meeting with the Program Committee, HCC requested \$374,637 to cover HCC's FY26 gap in funding mentioned during HCC's presentation earlier in the agenda. The full Board will discuss HCC's FY26 funding at the Retreat on April 26, 2025.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. Crisis Receiving Center: Lee Ann Watson said OMHAS conducted a site-visit of the Board's office building for the Crisis Receiving Center project. OMHAS is providing the Board with a \$1 million Capital Grant for the renovation of the building. The Board has also received \$1.3 million from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the project. The project's architect, Kleinfelder, will be bidding out the renovation job in early May-June, and renovation is expected to start in August-September of 2025 with an anticipated completion date of March 2026.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: NAMI SW Ohio's report stands.

Barbara Iseman of On Our Way Home (OOWH) said the ribbon cutting to celebrate OOWH's accreditation from OMHAS for their Peer Wellness Center as a Community Behavioral Health Provider was a success with over sixty attendees. OOWH is now working towards its Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation. OOWH also adopted a lot in New Richmond and transformed it into a Butterfly Wellness Garden. The initiative was aimed at community outreach and combatting neighborhood stigma.

Laura Stith of Child Focus said her report stands. Laura added that Child Focus' Crisis Response Team is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Laura said 2025 has been the highest response year ever. Prior to 2025, the highest number of crisis responses was twelve for the whole year. In 2025, the Team has already had eighteen.

Heather Cokl of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) said her report stands. Heather added that she and Kelsey Smothers, Coordinator of the Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County, have been working on a grant application to SAMHSA for the expansion of substance use prevention services. Kelsey is serving as a panelist at the upcoming Prevention Specialist Conference in May. Heather also reminded everyone that March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Lastly, Heather invited all attendees to register for GCB's charity dinner, Champions of Hope. This year the Champion of Hope winner is Judge Anita Bechmann.

Zoe Fiscus-Doss of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands.

9. New Business:

A. Action Items

1. Addendum to the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) Purchase of Services (POS) Contract for Additional Addiction Treatment Program (ATP) Funding: The Board received additional ATP funding in the amount of \$15,000 for FY25 from OMHAS. GCB/CRC is the mental health and addiction services provider that the Board contracts with for these recovery support services. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY25 GCB/CRC POS contract for additional ATP funding in the amount of \$15,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Tony Rees).
2. Addendum to the FY25 GCB POS Contract for PATH SUD Funding: OMHAS has provided funding in the amount of \$70,030 to Clermont County for the PATH SUD Outreach program that serves homeless individuals with a suspected substance use disorder. This funding shall be passed on to GCB, the agency providing the PATH program services in Clermont County. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY25 GCB POS Contract for additional PATH SUD funding in the amount of \$70,030 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Patty Lawrence).
3. FY26 Mini Grants: Each year, the Board approves a budget for the mini grant program to offer Clermont County organizations an opportunity to apply for funding for programs and activities that promote positive mental health and addiction prevention. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 mini grant budget in the amount of \$30,000 and to authorize Board staff to publicly announce the funding opportunity. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Liz Atwell).
4. Amendments to FY25 Contracts with Child Focus, Clermont County Sheriff's Office, Miami Township Fire and Police Departments, Milford Police Department, and Milford Community Fire Department for Department of Justice Grant Funding for Quick Response Teams and the Handle with Care Program: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Amendments to the FY25 contracts with Child Focus for Handle with Care, Clermont County Sheriff's Office, Miami Township Fire and Police Departments, Milford Police Department, and Milford Community Fire


Department for Department of Justice Grant Funding for Quick Response Teams and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendments on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jara Bonner, second-Gretchen Behimer).

5. Agreement with Kleinfelder, the Board's architectural firm for the Crisis Receiving Center: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the agreement with Kleinfelder for the Crisis Receiving Center and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Jara Bonner).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Annual Conflict of Interest: The Board and staff are required to sign an annual Conflict of Interest Statement stating whether there is a potential conflict of interest with serving as a member of the Board or working for the Board. All Board members and staff received the document with a request to sign and return it to Board staff for filing.
 2. Annual Retreat, April 26, 2025 Planning: Board staff said the 2025 Board Retreat will be on April 26, 2025 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The Retreat will be held at Clingman Park at 2156 US Highway 50 Batavia, Ohio 45103. Continental breakfast, snacks, drinks, and lunch will be provided. The agenda will include a discussion on FY26 Board funding, review and updates on the Gillette Model, a discussion on Board member succession, review of best practices/Strategic Plan, discussion on the Crisis Receiving Center project, and review of the Board accomplishments. Board members were encouraged to submit additional agenda items for the Retreat.
 3. Levy Committee Update: Lee Ann Watson said she met with Commissioner Claire Corcoran regarding the Board's levy request of a replacement with an increase. Claire said she will discuss the matter with the rest of the BCC and the County Administrator. Lee Ann has not received any feedback as of yet. Lee Ann has also been meeting with the Levy Consultant twice a month. Marcie Keith has been working on levy interviews. Andy Bateman would like for Lee Ann to request a spot on the BCC's schedule as soon as possible to discuss the matter and would like to get the BCC's answer before the Retreat. Lee Ann said it would be helpful if the Levy Consultant and a Board member were to go before the BCC along with Lee Ann to state the Board's basis for the request of a replacement with an increase. Lee Ann said she will let the Board know when she schedules the meeting with the County so at least one of them can join her.
10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the March 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.
 11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the March 10, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Tony Rees, second-Jara Bonner).


Andrew Bateman, Chairperson


Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director