Clermont County
MENTAL HEALTH
& RECOVERY BOARD

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MINUTES of September 8, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth (Liz) Atwell, Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, Joe Ellison, Patty Lawrence, Joy Lytle, Laura Perez (Zoom)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Gretchen Behimer, Jara Bonner, Tony Rees

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Raymond Bailey, Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Jeff Higgins, Kale Stewart

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

1. Call to Order: The September 8, 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. Vice-Chairperson Liz Atwell welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order.

   Prospective Board member Jeff Higgins was in attendance. Jeff and the other attendees gave brief introductions and the meeting proceeded.

2. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the September 8, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Patty Lawrence).

3. Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

4. Training: NONE

5. Executive Director and Staff Reports: Executive Director Lee Ann Watson said that Child Focus Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pamela Lindeman retired on September 1, 2025. Susan Graham of Child Focus was named the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Lee Ann also added that she and Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith are currently working toward getting their Prevention Certification.

   Associate Director Denny Moell said that Board staff partnered with the Clermont County Sheriff's Office, Recovery Ohio, and Ohio Department of Public Safety to sponsor the first Clermont BRIDGE (Bridging Recovery & Interdiction Data Gathering Enforcement) Day event. The event was held at Eastgate Walmart and was a big success with over seventy attendees. The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Law Enforcement Initiatives developed the

BRIDGE program which combines the resources of law enforcement and substance use treatment in a coordinated effort focusing on reduction of supply and demand of illicit substances while simultaneously prioritizing Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment for those who qualify. The event featured a vast array of community resource partners from more than twenty local community organizations including Clermont County Public Health, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB), Child Focus, Cincinnati VA Medical Center, On Our Way Home, Clermont YWCA, Mercy Health Clermont Hospital, HealthSource of Ohio, Brightview Health, Safe Harbor of Hope, and numerous others. The event was covered by WCPO Channel 9, who conducted multiple onsite interviews and featured the event in evening news coverage and on their website.

Community Engagement Manager Marcie Keith said that the annual Suicide Remembrance Candlelight Vigil is being held on Thursday, September 11 at 5:30pm at Sycamore Park in Batavia. The Revving Up for Mental Health car show and wellness event will also be held the same week. It will take place on Saturday, September 13 from 10:00am to 3:00pm and will be held in the parking lot of Scene 75 Entertainment Complex in Milford.

6. Committee Reports:
   A. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met prior to the Board of Directors' meeting on September 8, 2025 at 6:00pm. Finance Committee Chair Patty Lawrence and Board staff summarized that evening's meeting.

   Review of Financials: The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) and SFY26 Profit and Loss Statements through September 1, 2025. The Committee also reviewed and approved the Board's SFY26 updated budget. The presented budget included an annual income of $7,254,802 and annual expenses of $7,942,709.

   Active Parenting Group: Domestic Relations Court Judge Mary Lynne Birck approached Board staff with a request for FY26 funding not to exceed $14,000 to pay for the Active Parenting Group program at the Court. The program provides co-parenting skills, and last year, the program supported sixty-two families. The funding would be for FY26 only as the Court looks to secure other funding sources. The Finance Committee recommended approval of this funding to the Board of Directors. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve Board funding in the amount not to exceed $14,000 for the Active Parenting Group at Domestic Relations Court for FY26. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

   Warren County Adam/Amanda Residential Facility Operating Cost: The Clermont Board has been assigned three (3) beds at the new residential facility. The Board has already contributed to the match dollars for the facility in the amount of $89,200. In addition, at the July meeting, the Committee approved a per-diem rate of $219 per bed. The per-diem rate has been updated to $298.64 per bed. Clermont's three beds will total $244,586 for the remaining two hundred seventy-three days in SFY26 minus any Medicaid reimbursement. The cost in SFY27 for three hundred sixty-five days will be $327,011 minus any Medicaid reimbursement. This will fill a gap in Clermont's system of care. The Finance Committee supported the annual per-diem rate for the Adam/Amanda Center and recommended approval to the full Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve Clermont's per-diem rate of $298.64 per bed at the new Warren County Adam/Amanda residential facility. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joy Lytle).

The Warren/Clinton Board contributed additional match dollars to the Adam/Amanda residential facility project. The Collaborative originally planned to pay back the Warren/Clinton Board through the per diem, but it has been determined that this was not the best option due to the cost of the per diem. The additional match for the Clermont Board could be as much as the original match amount of $89,200. The Collaborative is not yet sure of the actual amount and will know more after the furniture and other capital expenses are finalized. The Finance Committee tabled a decision on providing Warren/Clinton Board the additional match amount until an exact amount and a budget is received.

Levy Budget: The estimated 2025 Levy Campaign Budget is currently $93,595. This includes a professional targeted marketing campaign, as well as mailings, signs, and travel expenses. The amount also included the use of a Levy Consultant for several months. The marketing campaign line item is $20,000 for a levy website landing page, development of marketing materials, video interviews, advertisements on television streaming channels and social media. The marketing company is providing weekly updates on the number of views on each area.

B. Levy Committee: The Levy Committee last met on August 11, 2025. The Committee discussed the levy campaign budget and finalized the levy slogan, "Vote for Mental Health, No New Taxes". Lee Ann Watson said that the Board has ended the contract with Levy Consultant Jens Sutmoller, as previously decided, due to the levy being a renewal only and not an increase. Lee Ann has also been seeking formal community partner endorsements for the Board's levy.

7. Unfinished Business: Crisis Receiving Center: Lee Ann Watson said that GCB and Board staff have been meeting with the Center's architect, Kleinfelder, on a weekly basis. Board staff submitted the final approval of the architectural drawings on August 18th. The Board applied for a building permit on August 13th. The project is slated to go out for bid in September 2025. The Board's $1 million capital plan was approved by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) on August 8th.

   Levy Planning: Lee Ann Watson shared that the Board has received some negative feedback from a Clermont County resident regarding the levy and its impact on property taxes. Board members highlighted the importance of communicating that communities can suffer when levies do not pass and funding gets cut. Lee Ann has also met with some hesitation from community partners when requesting a formal endorsement of the Board's levy. Board staff said that they are finalizing an "elevator speech" for Board members to use when advocating for support of the levy. Board staff will also share the levy campaign advertising tool kit with the Board for use on social media and other advertising outlets.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center's (GCB/CRC) report stands. Alicia Fine added that GCB has applied for several recent

funding opportunities including SOS 4.2 from OMHAS for prevention services and a SAMHSA grant for the Drug-Free Coalition. GCB's mobile behavioral health unit, funded by Interact for Health, launched on August 18, 2025, and is accepting walk-up appointments in the community. GCB also recently participated in an OMHAS site visit for the PATH homeless outreach program. The Board's Associate Director, Denny Moell, was present at the visit, and it went very well. In addition, Alicia said GCB's Behavioral Health Urgent Care was featured on the local news. Lastly, GCB hosted Franklin County at the Clermont County Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC). Franklin County is getting ready to launch their own CASC program, and they are using Clermont's as a model.

On Our Way Home: Kale Stewart said that On Our Way Home (OOWH) hosted an Overdose Awareness Day event with funding passed through the Board from OMHAS and Project Dawn. The event, entitled *A Time to Remember, a Time to Act,* was held at OOWH's Butterfly Park in New Richmond. The event featured guest speakers sharing empowering stories related to overdose awareness. There was also a powerful display of three-thousand, six hundred thirty-nine purple flags planted in the grass representing the number of overdose deaths in Ohio in 2024. Approximately fifty people attended the event.

Child Focus's report stands. Susan Graham added that the statewide Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) program is now live in Ohio. Susan reminded the Board that Clermont County has had its own successful MRSS program run by Child Focus for many years. Susan also said that the School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) redesign model is going well, and the Board will receive a full update as scheduled at the November 2025 Board meeting. In addition, Susan said that since she has filled the role of the new CEO at Child Focus, her previous position has been filled internally, and that person will be announced soon. Lastly, Susan invited all attendees to register for Child Focus's annual fundraising event, Encourage the Heart-Rockin' on the River at the Little Miami Brewing Company Event Center on October 9th.

Hope Community Center's report stands.

NAMI of Southwest Ohio's report stands.

9. New Business:
   A. Action Items
      1. Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Agreement with Talbert House as the Provider for the Warren County Adam/Amanda Short Term Residential Facility: The Board has been assigned three (3) beds at the Center and must pay the services provider, Talbert House, a per diem rate of $298.96 per bed. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 Agreement with Talbert House as presented and to allow the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Patty Lawrence).

      2. FY26 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with On Our Way Home (OOWH) for Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) SOS grant funding for the Overdose Awareness Day event "A Time to Remember, a Time to Act": A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 MOU with OOWH for SOS

OMHAS funding in the amount of $3,539.51 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Joe Ellison).

3. FY26 MOU with On Our Way Home for Project Dawn Funding for Overdose Awareness Day Activities: The Board also received funding from Project Dawn for the OD Awareness Day event "A Time to Remember, a Time to Act". A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with On Our Way Home for Project Dawn funding in the amount of $4,250 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Patty Lawrence).

4. Addendum to the FY26 Purchase of Services (POS) Contract with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB/CRC) for Addiction Treatment Program (ATP) funding from OMHAS: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for ATP funding from OMHAS in the amount of $44,980 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joy Lytle).

5. Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for Access to Wellness (ATW) Carryover Funding: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for ATW Carryover Funding in the amount of $27,195 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joy Lytle).

6. Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for PATH Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Outreach Client Supplies Funding from OMHAS: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for PATH SUD Outreach Client Supplies Funding from OMHAS in the amount of $9,374.35 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joy Lytle, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

7. Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for PATH Housing Assistance Funding from OMHAS: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for PATH Housing Assistance Funding from OMHAS in the amount of $10,000 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joy Lytle).

8. Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for a Peer Recovery Coach Position at Family Recovery Court (Juvenile Court): The Clermont County Juvenile Court has agreed to fund the part-time GCB/CRC Peer Recovery Coach position that is assigned to the Family Recovery Court. The amount of funding is $26,569 from September 29, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The Board will contract with Juvenile Court for

the funding for the Peer Recovery Coach. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Addendum to the FY26 POS Contract with GCB/CRC for a Peer Recovery Coach Position at Family Recovery Court in the amount of $26,569 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Addendum on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second- Joe Ellison).

9. FY 2026 MOUs with Family Recovery Court (Juvenile Court) and OVI Court (Municipal Court) for Specialized Docket Funds: OMHAS provides Specialized Docket subsidy funds to Boards as part of their fiscal year allocation. In turn, Boards are to provide those funds in the amount determined by OMHAS to the courts with certified specialty dockets. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2026 MOUs with Family Recovery Court and OVI Court for Specialized Docket Funds ($50,000 for OVI Court and $25,000 for Family Recovery Court) as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOUs on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Joe Ellison, second-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson).

10. FY26 MOU with OVI Court (Municipal Court) for ATP funding from OMHAS: OMHAS recently provided pass through Addiction Treatment Program (ATP) funding to the Board for Municipal Court. The ATP funding is used to support administrative expenses of the courts. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 MOU with OVI Court for ATP funding from OMHAS in the amount of $2,510 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joe Ellison).

11. FY26 MOU with Family Recovery Court (Juvenile Court) for ATP funding from OMHAS: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY26 MOU with Family Recovery Court for ATP funding from OMHAS in the amount of $2,510 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Patty Lawrence).

12. FY26 MOU with Family Recovery Court (Juvenile Court) for a Peer Recovery Coach Position assigned to the Court: The Clermont County Juvenile Court has agreed to fund the part-time GCB/CRC Peer Recovery Coach position that is assigned to the Family Recovery Court. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with Family Recovery Court for the Peer Recovery Coach Position in the amount of $26,569 as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joe Ellison).

B. Discussion Items:

1. Board Member Headshots and Bios on Website: Board members decided against adding individual headshots and bios to the Board's website. Instead, Board members agreed to have a short paragraph added to the Board member web page which describes the Board as a whole, including the different fields of expertise represented by the Board roster.

2. Possible Cancellation of December 2025 Board Meeting: Board members agreed to cancel the December 2025 Board meeting.

10. Announcements/Comments from Public Attendees: There were no announcements or comments from public attendees at the September 8, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the September 8, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting. (Motion-Rebecca Cochran-Kasson, second-Joy Lytle).

GBehimer

Gretchen Behimer, Chairperson

Lee Ann Watson, Executive Director