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MINUTES of March 14, 2016

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jacqueline Block, Richard Chaney, Karen Conrad, Dorothy Glancy, Wayne Johnson, Lynn Jung, Molly Greer, Angela Liggett, Scott Wheeler
- MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Suzy Carter, Greg Cottrell
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Jim Carter, Amy Foley, Steve Goldsberry, Susan Graham, Sandy Lock, Jeff O'Neil, Laura Stith, Lucas Strakowski, Heather Turner
- STAFF PRESENT:** Melissa Burke, Erica Pursley, Karen Scherra, Lee Ann Watson

1. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the March 14, 2016 meeting. (Motion-Angela Liggett, second-Scott Wheeler).
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2016 meeting. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Angela Liggett).
3. Review Materials/Correspondence: Karen Scherra brought attention to an article in the Miscellaneous folder concerning two awards, presented by the Ohio Newspaper Association, that were awarded to the *Clermont Sun* for publishing a four-part series about heroin in Clermont County. Karen Scherra and Lee Ann Watson, as well as other community partners, were interviewed for the series. Karen also mentioned the CET (Cognitive Enhancement Therapy) training that Lee Ann Watson is hosting later this month at Child Focus, Inc and invited anyone who would be interested in attending.

In reference to the Newspaper folder, Karen noted there are more and more articles about “drugged driving”, as this topic is gaining attention. There are also more articles with personal stories about recovering from addiction and/or an overdose death of a family member. She pointed to several articles concerning the prosecution of drug dealers and noted that we can anticipate seeing future articles about possible changes to the laws involving drug dealers, as areas continue to further clamp down on local illegal drug trafficking. Lastly, Karen brought attention to two full page articles concerning Narcan and the opiate epidemic in our community. The articles were published on the front page of the *Clermont Sun* and the *Community Press*, both local newspapers. She pointed out that these articles mention the Opiate Task Force and the collaboration between the Clermont Sheriff’s Office, the Board,

and Clermont Public Health Department. Karen will be displaying these articles at the state Opiate Conference in May at which we will be presenting (further details below).

4. Karen Scherra presented highlights from her Executive Director's Report. Karen reminded the group of the OACBHA Opiate Conference scheduled for May 2nd and 3rd and mentioned that there will be five (5) presentations involving Clermont County at the conference. Karen will be presenting with a panel including Michelle Lydenberg from Public Health, Marcia Oganowski, who filmed the Recovery is Beautiful video that we revised for our levy campaign, and Beth Bullock, a mother who lost a son to addiction and founded the grassroots advocacy group Brave Choices. Another presentation will include Karen Scherra, Tim Dick from Children's Protective Services, and Judge Jim Shriver from Juvenile Court who will discuss the collaboration between the systems, as well as the Clermont County Family Dependency Drug Court. The first two graduates of the Family Dependency Court will also be part of this presentation. Judge Shriver will also be discussing the Clermont County Family Dependency Drug Court as a member of a panel of judges presenting on dealing with the heroin epidemic. Further, Commissioner Bob Proud will be moderator for a presentation on various alternatives that include CASC, with Municipal Court Probation Officer Jaime Lutson providing the CASC presentation. And finally, our Opiate Task Force will be participating in a Galley Walk for participants, highlighting the accomplishments of our group. Clermont County is getting a lot of attention! Karen mentioned that Board Members Angela Liggett, Suzy Carter, and Jacki Block are attending the conference, along with herself and Lee Ann Watson, plus a number of Opiate Task Force members. Karen stated that if anyone else would like to register for the event, they should contact the board office.

Karen provided an update on OACHBA, stating that there has been a lot of discussion about revising ORC 340 and Chapter 5122 concerning probate/involuntary commitments. These discussions could potentially lead to radical changes in the ORC predicated on the fact that two counties, Franklin and Hamilton, believe that recent changes in the boards' role need to be reflected in the statutes. The change being proposed is that individuals who are probated would no longer be committed to the Board, but to any agency or hospital involved with the involuntary commitment. The proposed language would allow Boards to keep things as they are currently or opt out of the responsibility. Karen has been involved in discussions at the state level with the two counties, and they believe that with all the recent and proposed changes to the Boards' roles, we cannot continue to be involved with or fund services at the current level in the future, and therefore boards should not be responsible for individuals who are not considered clients of our system ("Board Clients"). The Franklin and Hamilton County Boards stated that they have the legislative support to carry a bill for this change. Karen expressed concern that opening up ORC 340 to changes could result in other alterations to the role of boards. The change could also undermine the view of the Board as the behavioral health authority in the county, and negatively impact relationships in the community that Board staff has worked very hard to establish. Karen noted that Franklin and Hamilton Counties are not members of the Board Association and that they plan to proceed with or without Association support. Karen will continue to keep the Board members informed as matters progress.

Karen Scherra advised the group that the deadline for submission of our FY 2017 Community Plan and budget has been pushed back from March 1, 2016 to July 1, 2016, as there continues to be discussion surrounding the continuity of care requirements and reporting. At this time, OMHAS has not provided any further guidance. Karen will continue to keep the Board of Directors apprised.

In reference to marijuana, Karen Scherra stated that there continues to be a lot of discussion surrounding this topic. Ohioans for Medical Marijuana recently released proposed ballot language for their medical marijuana proposal. The proposal would be slated for the election next November. Karen pointed out that the focus of the legislature and other groups is on medical marijuana only.

Karen Scherra also mentioned that on April 6, 2016, Governor Kasich will be holding the State of the State Address and normally these discussions are streamed on the internet. Karen said she will be watching and will provide an update to the Board.

Karen Scherra provided an update on the Federal CARA bill, stating that it passed the Senate and now is now being reviewed by the House. Karen also advised the Board members that several state House Bills have recently passed or are in consideration. Karen will keep the Board members updated on any relevant legislation.

Karen Scherra also stated that since meeting the continuum of care requirements is one of the Board's priorities, she met with Scott Gehring, Executive Director of Sojourner, as well as staff members of GCB about the potential of bringing adult AOD residential services into the county. Karen has also briefly discussed recovery housing with Jim Carter, CFI CEO, as they currently own an apartment building on State Route 125 that could potentially be used for these services. Karen reminded the Board that we have capital funds at the state level which could be used for purchase and/or renovation of a building and stated that she is pursuing the best way to economically meet our County's needs.

As a side note, Karen Scherra gave kudos to Steve Goldsberry for the Lifetime Achievement Award presented to him by the *Business Courier*. Karen attended the awards banquet. Congratulations Steve!

Karen Scherra also advised the Board members that the County has a new project "Meet Your Government Mondays" and asked for the Board to participate, with Karen being filmed answering questions about our role and responsibilities. In addition, Karen was filmed for 30 second additional spots, one segment focusing on the availability of Narcan and the other segment on the Crisis Hotline and the services provided.

In conclusion, Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that this is the last official Board meeting for Wayne Johnson, Board Secretary, as he has reached his maximum term of eight (8) years. She thanked Wayne for his service and dedication to the Board and presented him with an engraved desk clock as a token of our appreciation. Jim Carter from CFI volunteered

that Wayne is a huge advocate for children and has been a very good partner in assuring that youth receive needed behavioral health services. You will be missed, Wayne!

5. Committee Meetings: Scott Wheeler, Treasurer, summarized the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Board Meeting and discussed three proposals from GCB and the policy relating to the Board's reserves. GCB/CRC presented a request regarding the need to realign their FY 2016 allocation. GCB/CRC predicts that they will under spend their FY16 budget by approximately \$200,000 and requested that they be permitted to move that under-earned funding to start other needed services. The request already reflects the approval by the Board at the last meeting to increase the CASC vocational worker to full time through the use of unearned funds.

Steve Goldsberry provided additional details on the GCB/CRC's FY 2016 mid-year revision and further explained the proposal to move several budget line items that are under-spent in areas including day treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, medical/somatic essential services and TASC assessment, in order to put additional funding in TASC individual and group counseling, case management, prevention and group counseling, as well as hire prevention and outreach staff in the fourth quarter of FY 2016. The FY 2016 under-spending is directly related to the increased Medicaid penetration. Additionally, Steve stated that there has been a decrease in the need for intensive outpatient treatment (IOP) with the opening of the CASC program, as some clients no longer need that intensive level of service once released to the community. These clients are instead utilizing traditional outpatient services. Steve stated that outreach services for clients is critical in engaging individuals and assisting with linking them to needed services once they are out of the legal system. The under-spending of the FY 2016 contract will support the increased staffing. Karen Scherra reminded the group that the full time prevention and outreach specialist staff have already been requested and were part of the total amount requested at the March Board meeting. Karen also stated that with the heroin epidemic, CRC/GCB needs to increase prevention efforts in the community. Karen pointed out that the critical need for the outreach specialist in assuring that individuals are linked and engaged in treatment. Karen Scherra recommended that the Board approve these changes. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the changes to GCB/CRC's FY 2016 Purchase of Service Contract (POS) as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).

Tawnya Dunn, GCB CFO, explained GCB/LPS's Request for a Medicare Supplement. Medicare is not covering the full cost for psychiatric service; there is a big gap between what the service costs and what Medicare reimburses for the service. The agency is serving more Medicare clients and therefore is having to bill Medicare more frequently than in the past, which has resulted in under-spending of the Board funded Med/Som units. GCB/LPS is approximately \$120,000 under-spent in this line item. GCB/LPS is requesting that the Board supplement the difference in Medicare reimbursement by allowing \$120,000 from the FY16 Medical Somatic contract amount to be utilized to support the cost of Medical Somatic services billed to Medicare. This is not an increase in the FY16 allocation nor will it be a

request for an increase in Medical Somatic services for FY17. Instead it is a request to utilize the under-spent funding in the FY16 contract. Karen stated that the Board members should consider that moving forward, supplementing GCB/LPS to cover their costs reduces the amount of funding available to meet the state's continuum of care requirements, like the funding of other "essential services". A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve GCB/LPS's request to utilize \$120,000 of under-spent Medical/Somatic funding to support the cost of providing Medical/Somatic services to Medicare clients. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Jacqueline Block).

Steve Goldsberry provided an update on the GCB/CRC Benefit Specialist position. Steve stated that GCB/CRC is in the process of establishing a system to maintain clients on Medicaid, as the agency has seen an issue with clients re-enrolling in Medicaid. The GCB/CRC Benefit Specialist assists clients with obtaining and maintaining Medicaid, as well as assists them with obtaining other eligible benefits. Steve stated that this position has proven to be very beneficial. Karen Scherra stated that if more hours are needed to assist clients with obtaining and maintaining their benefits, the Board should consider funding additional hours, as the Benefit Specialist position is a good investment.

In relation to the reserves level for FY 2017, Scott Wheeler stated that the issue going forward is whether to keep the reserves level at the current required one million dollar mark or reduce the amount required to be in reserves. Additional information will be brought to the Finance Committee for review and the Committee will make a recommendation to the Board before the end of the fiscal year.

6. Action Items: Susan Graham spoke regarding prevention services/school based mental health services at Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) for FY 2016 and the impact that the newly adopted standards may have on the delivery of those services. She stated that CFI serves thousands throughout the year in prevention services. These services provide necessary primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in the schools, early childhood settings, the community, and in the juvenile justice system. The prevention services are designed to offer early identification and intervention for youth who are demonstrating at-risk behaviors or social and emotional issues in order to prevent youth from developing more significant mental health needs that will require treatment. Recently, OMHAS changed the requirements for who is eligible to provide prevention services. Susan Graham illustrated that the changes in eligibility to provide prevention services will create a significant hardship on the program moving forward, since a majority of previously eligible staff will now be ineligible to provide the services. If a change is not made in the standards as presented, thousands of youth will go unserved; relationships with the schools, early childhood centers, and the juvenile justice system will be compromised; large gaps will be created in the continuum of care; and fewer staff will be available to respond to crises. Susan further stated that while CFI's prevention program cannot function with the current changes made in the credentials for providers, it is believed that the changes made to the standards, which greatly impact mental health prevention, might have been an oversight. Mental health prevention credentials do not currently exist in the state of Ohio as they do in the field of alcohol/other drugs. There are prevention credentials

available, but from what Susan has determined, it isn't easy for those in the mental health field to obtain these credentials, making current employees ineligible to provide prevention services. Nineteen of twenty-one positions would need to be replaced with a higher educated and credentialed employee under the new standards, necessitating higher salaries and a much higher cost for the program.

To address the issue for the current fiscal year, CFI is requesting to amend the FY 2016 Purchase of Service contract to allow billing of school-based services as "other mental health" vs. prevention services. Karen Scherra stated that the best approach is to have the agency shift the services from prevention to "other" mental health services; however, they may not be able to bill this way going forward, due to changes related to the Continuum of Care. Board support is needed so that these services can be maintained through this fiscal year. The standards change was first slated to go into effect on April 1, 2016, but due to many providers' and boards' concerns over the changes to the standards, OMHAS has pushed the date back to June 1, 2016. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve CFI's request to amend the FY 2016 Purchase of Service contract with CFI to allow billing of school-based services as "other" mental health as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Scott Wheeler).

6. Discussion Items: Karen Scherra provided an update on State Medicaid Planning/Behavioral Health Redesign, stating that some of the timelines that were previously discussed at the Board Retreat have now been pushed back. Karen stated that the Rendering Provider requirement and the Evaluation/Management requirement will be in effect on July 1, 2016, and that Medicaid spend-down will end on June 30th. Many of the coding changes are being delayed until next year. Medicaid rates are still being discussed, but a "final" draft of rates has been issued and is currently being reviewed. Jeff O'Neil commented that GCB is looking at how the changes will impact the agency. Jeff added that there are significant changes being proposed and many processes that will need to be worked out. He mentioned that GCB hopes that many of the clients on spend-down will qualify for the "1915i" waiver benefit. Jeff further stated that GCB has been performing an analysis of how the new rates will impact the agencies and found that for AOD groups, there will be an estimated six figure loss. The new lower nursing and physician rates will result in a loss of approximately \$500,000. Karen Scherra stated that initially the State told boards that this redesign would not impact boards; however, the redesign may impact how boards fund services, so that agencies can continue to provide them. OMHAS will be conducting training for the Board Association about the proposed changes at the end of this week. This meeting will allow the boards to pose questions to OMHAS and hopefully gather more information as well. Karen said that she will continue to gather information on the proposed changes and will keep the Board apprised.

In relation to the Continuum of Care requirements, Karen Scherra mentioned that OMHAS changed the due date to July 1, 2016 for the FY 2017 Community Plan and budget. There is still controversy about which of the required Continuum of Care services are to be local and which can be regional. In September 2016, when the Continuum of Care is required to be in place, OMHAS may be able to approve our plan on a provisional status if we do not have all

the requirements in place; then the Board would have until July 1, 2017 to work with the agencies and other providers to implement all required services.

In relation to the rental space at the Board building, Karen Scherra stated that she recently met with Judge Shriver. He thought our proposal of about \$20,000 in rent was very reasonable. Judge Shriver spoke with Wade Grabowski at the County Facilities Department about the potential move, as well as with Steve Rabolt, County Administrator. Karen Scherra is waiting to hear from Wade for the next steps to proceed.

Finally, regarding client-related issues, Karen Scherra advised Board members that the Board is being asked to pay for services for clients who are truly not residents of Clermont County. She said that this is happening more and more and we are doing our part not to allocate funds to individuals who are not our residents based on state guidelines, so that all funds are directed to Clermont County residents. Karen has talked to NAMI Ohio about one of the clients, and NAMI Ohio has stated they will assist with discussing the situation with OMHAS.

7. Agency Reports: Laura Stith reported for Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) stating that the hotline calls have increased by 48% for the year. Almost every month CFI reviews the total number of calls and they have already seen a 78% increase comparing last month to last year. Laura reported that Mobile Crisis services have also increased from last year. Laura mentioned that the Crisis Response Team responded after a teen car wreck in January.

Karen Scherra added that she is on the public awareness committee that was formed from the regional opiate response team. The committee is looking to develop a regional response to the opiate epidemic. The committee is developing a regional website, of which Clermont's Opiate Task Force will be part, and has proposed a regional crisis number. Karen Scherra stated that like us, other areas have their own crisis number and most agreed that adding a regional number would create confusion. The committee agreed after much discussion not to pursue a regional crisis line, but the committee wants to find a way to connect the services in various counties to one another. The committee is looking into alternate avenues to approach this.

Steve Goldsberry reported on behalf of Clermont Recovery Center (CRC/GCB) and stated that his report stands as is.

Lucas Strakowski reported for NAMI stating that his report stands as is. Heather Turner said that NAMI held a "Hot Topics" session for Clermont County residents and roughly 60 people attended. It was held at the CFI training center. The topic was Medication Assisted Treatment.


Amy Foley presented for HOPE Community Center (HCC), stating that her report stands as is. She noted that attendance at HCC decreased slightly from January to February. HCC has started a new schedule for classes. In relation to peer support training, Amy stated that two individuals completed the January 2016 Peer Support Training. She is currently waiting to hear about the April training candidates. The evening support groups are currently working

with recovery groups to create a peer-guided linkage program. Amy is also looking at hiring recovery coaches at HCC.

8. There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn. (Motion-Scott Wheeler), second-Angie Liggett).

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Karen Conrad, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen J. Scherra". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director