



2337 Clermont Center Drive • Batavia, Ohio 45103
TELEPHONE: (513) 732-5400 FAX: (513) 732-5414 TTY: 1-800-750-0750
WEBSITE: www.ccmhrb.org CRISIS HOTLINE: (513) 528-SAVE (7283)

MINUTES of April 13, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Bryant, Richard Chaney, Karen Conrad, Dorothy Glancy, Molly Greer, Wayne Johnson, Angela Liggett, Gail Padilla, Scott Wheeler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Suzy Carter, Greg Cottrill, Ken Spurlock (extended sick leave)

GUESTS PRESENT: Kim Allen, Jim Carter, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Sara Huron, Sandy Lock, Gregg Pieples, Laura Stith

STAFF PRESENT: Melissa Burke, Joyce Rain, Karen Scherra, Lee Ann Watson

1. Two action items, CFI Health Officer Designations and NAMI Southwest Ohio's request for additional funds, were added to the agenda. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the agenda as revised. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).
2. It was noted that the name of the County Coroner should be in the minutes as Dr. Brian Treon. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revised Minutes from the meeting on March 7, 2015. (Motion- Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).
3. Review Materials/Correspondence: Karen Scherra referenced a letter of appreciation from the group "Artsy Fartsy" regarding the approval of their application for a Mini-Grant in the Correspondence folder. She mentioned that the program that "Artsy Fartsy" implements for middle school age children helps boost the children's self esteem and creativity.

Karen Scherra also brought attention to several items in the Miscellaneous folder. She referenced the problem gambling insert that was recently included in the Valpak mailing that goes out to approximately 50,000 Clermont County residents. Karen Scherra also mentioned that Valpak may be a useful avenue for the Board's levy this fall. Karen also mentioned that CRC has ads playing at the Pierce Point Cinema regarding treatment for problem gambling. The Board will be able to place ads for the levy at the theatre, since CRC was able to get free advertising for two months based on their contract for the gambling ads. Karen also referenced the flyer from SOLACE regarding the upcoming meeting on May 21, 2015, which is intended to network and unite local "grass roots" groups in order to encourage a collaborative effort in fighting the heroin epidemic in our county. Karen pointed out that

SOLACE is a group of mainly mothers who have lost loved ones from addiction and that SOLACE is a mini-grant recipient. This folder also included demographic, financial and health data for Clermont County, which outlined where Clermont County ranks in the state. There was also an issue from *The Highlander* included in this folder that was created by the Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services which provided information on the components of Recovery Housing. Also included in this folder was information on GCB's First Program, which is a treatment program for young adults who are experiencing their first psychotic episode. The First Program is grant funded and serves both Clermont and Hamilton County youth. Karen Scherra attended the ribbon cutting today for the program. Within this folder was also a NCHS Data Brief outlining that prescription opioid use among adults is higher than it has been since 1999. Karen reminded the Board that if any member would like copies of any of the documentation within the folders to please mark the item and Board staff will send it to you.

The Newspaper folder contained quite a few articles concerning the heroin epidemic, the need for distribution of Narcan, and the impact of mental illness in the work place. Karen advised that articles are continuing to come out about the legalization of marijuana, and that Clermont County is listed as one of the 10 growing sites connected to the marijuana initiative most likely to be on the November ballot. This folder also included the last of the 4-part series written by reporter Kristin Dover for the *Clermont Sun*. Karen Scherra stated that she sent the 4-part series to OMHAS, which provided a link to the stories in its most recent email blast on activities around the state.

4. Karen Scherra presented highlights from her Executive Director's Report. She noted that there are currently no civil clients at Summit Behavioral Health. Even though the Board does not have a contract with the local behavioral health unit in our county, civil admissions to Summit have not significantly increased. This is due in large part to the services in the community helping to keep consumers stable and not needing hospitalization. Karen provided an update on the Opiate Summit that she attended with Lee Ann Watson, Angela Liggett and Suzy Carter from the Board, as well as Michelle Lydenberg from Clermont County Public Health Department. She reported that overall, it was a very informative conference and that Commissioner Humphrey was very pleased that she, Lee Ann, and members from the Board attended.

Karen also mentioned in her collaborative meetings update that the Southwest Ohio Collaborative boards reviewed the letter that she drafted to OMHAS Director Tracy Plouck about the possibility of having crisis stabilization services again at Summit Behavioral Health, which she then sent. Director Plouck then responded and asked that collaborative members participate in a phone conference with OMHAS next Monday to discuss the idea. The Medical Director and CEO of Summit Behavioral Health are both behind the initiative. Karen stated that several of the board areas in the Southwest Collaborative are trying to find a place for crisis stabilization/stepdown for adults and this may be the gateway. OMHAS has funding set aside for innovative and creative ideas to reduce the need for the state hospital, and Karen is hoping that OMHAS will utilize this funding for our project idea.

In relation to the Opiate Task Force (OTF), the County Coroner, Dr. Brian Treon, gave a presentation at the March meeting. Karen Scherra mentioned that Dr. Treon is also willing to present at future town meetings to provide information to the public from his perspective. Karen believes that he will be a great addition to spreading the word about the heroin epidemic.

Karen provided an update on the building in Felicity, Ohio and advised that the Township Trustees are discussing what their requirements are for the Board utilizing the building. The Trustees are now thinking that the Board may have to pay rent to utilize the building. We are waiting to hear what their proposed terms are and to discuss whether we are willing to pay that amount.

Karen relayed that at a presentation for the Clermont County League of Women Voters on the heroin problem and our funding situation, one of the LWV members invited her to give a presentation at the Farm Bureau's annual policy meeting. That presentation went very well. Those in attendance who were also presenting included Senator Uecker, Chief Deputy Steve Leahy, Clermont Chamber CEO Matt Van Sant, and staff from the Public Health Department and Water Resources. Karen mentioned that Chief Deputy Steve Leahy spoke highly of the OTF and our Narcan project with the Sheriff's Office.

Karen Scherra reminded the group that she and Joyce Rain will be meeting with our contract agencies on April 9th to discuss the items reviewed at the Board retreat, the SFY 2016 budget and the presentations to the Program Committee.

5. Action Items: Karen Scherra presented Clermont Recovery Center's (CRC) mid-year budget revision. No additional money is being added to CRC's budget. CRC is re-aligning the Board funding to the budget line items that are being under-spent and over-spent based on client need. The Finance Committee reviewed CRC's request, and Scott Wheeler as Finance Chair indicated the Committee's recommendation that the mid-year revision be approved. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve CRC's request for a mid-year revision of services and funding as presented. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).

Karen Scherra also presented to the group NAMI of Southwest Ohio's request for funding in the amount of \$8,250 from the FY15 Budget. Because of the potential merger of NAMI Clermont County with the NAMI agencies in Hamilton and Warren counties, the Board previously provided funding to NAMI Clermont County for only half of their FY15 \$16,500 allocation. Now that the merger is completed, NAMI of Southwest Ohio is asking for the remaining funds to support the programs they are providing in the county. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve providing NAMI of Southwest Ohio the remaining \$8,250 from FY2015 funds. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).

7. Discussion Items: Karen Scherra provided an update on the status of the state budget. We are still awaiting the House Budget Bill and anticipate knowing more within the next few weeks.

Karen hopes that the behavioral health funding that the Governor removed in his budget proposal will be added back in, but the matter is still unclear. The Board Association submitted to the legislature suggested language to add an “ombudsman” at the Boards, which would be similar to the client rights officer but have additional authority and power, including advocating for Medicaid clients. The Board Association is working to educate the House members on the reality that Medicaid does not pay for all services and that instability in funding creates extreme difficulties for Board planning and maintaining services. Various other systems have been supporting the return of funding for behavioral health. Testimony was also given by many provider agencies. Karen Scherra pointed out that an article in the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities monthly newsletter, *The Beacon*, stated that the Department of Disabilities will receive an increase in state funding of \$360 million. Karen will continue to follow and keep the Board apprised as matters progress and we should know more in May.

Karen Scherra discussed items concerning the required Continuum of Care, included in the Mid-Year Biennial Budget Review (MBR). Karen mentioned that she recently reviewed with the contract agencies OMHAS’ power point regarding the requirements of the proposed Continuum of Care. Much is still unknown about the requirements. During a meeting with OMHAS, answers given by OMHAS to questions about the requirements were all related to fulfilling Representative Sprague’s intent. Karen said that the Continuum of Care is only focused on services related to opiate addiction and co-occurring issues. There is still quite a bit of uncertainty about whether services on the Continuum of Care must be present in each Board area or can be provided on a regional basis. Currently, Clermont County provides residential and detoxification services through contracts with providers located in other counties. Further, Clermont County joined with our collaborative partners to develop Recovery Housing that is located in Clinton and Brown Counties. If the OMHAS requirements remain as proposed, our Recovery Housing would not meet the OMHAS mandate. It is still unclear if a specific number of treatment slots for each required service on the Continuum of Care will be spelled out by OMHAS, based on County population or another variable. Further, the Boards will be mandated to assure that the required services in the Continuum of Care are accessible to all individuals residing in the respective Board area. This will include 12-step programs, such as AA, which the Board does not fund. The agencies providing the required services in the Continuum of Care will be required to report monthly to every Board that has clients receiving/accessing services on various items such as the number of individuals served, the number on waiting lists for services, etc. The Boards will also be required to report on how all funding is being utilized – how much for the Continuum of Care and how much for all other services. If the funding is not utilized to provide the full Continuum of Care, OMHAS can ask the Board to redirect the funding. According to the bill that passed, any Board that does not have a full Continuum of Care as of September 2016 will lose all state and federal funding. OMHAS also stated that local levy funds would also have to be utilized to assure that the Continuum of Care is fully available in all Board areas.

Karen Scherra also shared with the Board members that she presented to the County Commissioners, along with the DD Board, DJFS/CPS, and Senior Services, about our

financial situation and our levy request, on April 6th. Commissioner Ubile was ill and not present; however, Commissioners Humphrey and Proud were in attendance. Karen Scherra provided to the Board members copies of her PowerPoint, as well as the PowerPoint from Senior Services, the Department of Job and Family Services and Children's Protective Services (CPS), and the Clermont County Department of Developmental Disabilities (DD). As the Board approved, our request was for a renewal levy with a .25 increase, to be on the November 2015 ballot. Children's Protective Services is requesting to be on the upcoming November ballot with just a renewal. DD is currently unsure of what they will be requesting, since they still need to get approval from their Finance Committee and Board of Directors. DD is anticipating that they would be requesting to be on the ballot in 2016. Senior Services is asking for a renewal with a .2 increase, to be on the ballot next year. The budget of the Clermont County Department of Disabilities and our system is substantially different. DD currently has five levies, four of which are permanent levies. DD will most likely be requesting that eventually all five of the levies be replaced. Senior Services is concerned with the growth of the older adult population and most of their budget is levy dollars. Karen is unsure what the County Commissioners will decide but no one can move forward until they make a decision. Karen will provide an update as soon as she receives an answer from Commissioners' Office.

8. Agency Directors' Reports: Amy Foley with HOPE Community Center (HCC) reported that three peers have been trained in Mindfulness and classes recently started. Five people were in attendance for the first classes. Amy is also working on creating training for peer support workers that would include some members from such non-traditional peer partners as SOLACE, Veterans Services, etc. Amy also reported that the Hope Community Center Board has reviewed the bylaws for HOPE, and the by-laws have been submitted to the state.

Jim Carter reported for Child Focus, Inc. (CFI), stating that the CFI fundraiser dinner is scheduled for July 10, 2015 and the golf outing is August 10, 2015. Jim also reported on the recent Crisis Response Team involvement at Milford Junior High after a youth suicide. As a result, the Milford Superintendent wants to increase suicide prevention in the schools. Jim also shared that he will be traveling to Russia, paid for by the US Embassy, to share his knowledge regarding suicide prevention and bullying prevention, as well as assisting with training teachers on how to recognize and support youth with severe emotional disabilities.


Alicia Fine spoke on behalf of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health (GCB). The First program had its ribbon cutting event today, which was a success. The local news stations were present (channels 5 & 19) and reported on the event. GCB's Champions of Hope dinner/annual fundraising event will occur on April 24th downtown.

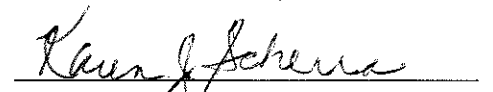
Greg Pieples with Clermont Recovery Center (CRC) advised that Dr. Whitsett left the Agency and that Dr. Katie Schmidt was hired on and is the new Medical Director. He also reported that there was a third doctor hired this week, which allows for more flexibility, and new admissions are already being taken. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is now being offered on Saturdays and Tuesday evenings. A lot more doctors are coming forward expressing their interest in this type of treatment. The Commission on Accreditation of

Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) will be coming in two weeks to review the Opiate Treatment Program for accreditation.

Sara Huron with NAMI Southwest Ohio reminded the group that the Peer-to-Peer classes at HOPE Center started April 7th (14 people signed up for the class; however, only 5 people were actually in attendance) and that they will also be offering a Family-to-Family course starting May 20th on Wednesday evenings at the CFI building. New support group fliers have been left in the lobby. The NAMI walk will be on May 9th at Sawyer Point and she anticipates that 1,500 to 2,000 people will be in attendance.

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


Wayne Johnson, Secretary


Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director