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MINUTES of February 12, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Suzy Carter, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carole Cottrill, Peggy Hickman, Angela Liggett, Katie Shepard

ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESENT: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Jim Carter, Amy Foley, Steve Goldsberry, Jean Houston, Laura Stith, Lucas Strakowski

STAFF PRESENT: Cindy Knoblauch, Erica Pursley, Karen Scherra, Lee Ann Watson

1. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed everyone, and the meeting then proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the February 12, 2018 Board meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-John Kelly).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Dorothy Glancy).
4. Review Materials/Correspondence Folders: Executive Director Karen Scherra brought everyone's attention to the folders being passed around and specifically mentioned a few of the items from each. From the Heroin/Opiate folder, Karen pointed out an article from *Cincinnati Magazine* that featured Clermont County's CASC program and mentioned CRC/GCB and the CCMHRB. Karen also mentioned an article that discussed the trauma experienced by children due to the heroin epidemic and the number of children in foster care as a result.

From the Adult Mental Health folder, Karen mentioned an article about a currently pending State legislature bill that would prevent prisoners with a severe mental illness from receiving the death penalty. From the Youth Mental Health folder, she said there were many articles discussing the major rise in youth suicides and specifically mentioned one about a town in northern Ohio that had seven or eight unrelated teen suicides in a six-month period. From the State/Federal Articles folder, Karen said there were a lot of articles discussing the Medicaid work requirement.

Lastly, Karen mentioned an article from the State/Federal Reports folder, about a two-day long SAMHSA/Bureau of Justice Assistance conference at which a panel of experts convened to develop guidance to the field on essential components of diversion for law enforcement and behavioral health providers. Karen said Associate Director Lee Ann Watson was invited as one of the experts to serve on the panel. The meeting occurred on January 29 and 30, 2018. Lee Ann presented on the QRT team and the topic “What Does a Community Need to Know to Make an Informed Decision Regarding Early Diversion Strategies for Rural Communities?”. Lee Ann told the Board it was a wonderful experience and gave her the opportunity to present on what Clermont County is doing to address the heroin epidemic and use of pre-arrest diversion techniques.

5. Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared some highlights from her monthly report. Regarding the opiate issue, she, Lee Ann Watson, and Erica Pursley met with CRC staff on January 8, 2018 to discuss the vision for the Recovery Coach Outreach team. Lee Ann Watson met with Steve Goldsberry on January 18, 2018 to further discuss the direction of the QRT teams. Karen said she had received the proposed budget for peer support from CRC earlier that day and would present it at the Board Retreat.

On January 29th, Board staff met with GCB regarding the development of another Recovery House in Clermont, this one for women. There are capital funds at OMHAS in FY 2018 set aside for this purpose, and the community must provide a 25% match to the state’s 75% amount, when normally the split is 50/50. GCB staff also reached out to OMHAS staff to determine at what stage we would need to be before the end of the fiscal year to access the capital funds. We are hoping that by spring, GCB will begin looking at local real estate for the house.

Karen mentioned that the Union Township Quick Response Team, which is funded by an Interact for Health grant, has its year one report due in February. Karen highlighted some of the outcomes of the project: 45 people were referred to QRT, with 82% connecting to QRT. All individuals contacted by QRT were referred to treatment; 74% accepted the referral and 77% of those individuals engaged in treatment.

Karen moved on to criminal justice issues. On January 26th, she and Lee Ann participated with about 35 other local stakeholders in a Lean Sigma Six process to update the Sequential Mapping Project and determine future goals and projects for keeping those with a mental illness out of the local jail. The process went very well; participants were very engaged and provided a lot of input. Karen and Lee Ann got the opportunity to discuss our accomplishments and what remains to be addressed in an interesting, global way. The second part of the process will occur on February 23rd, when the team will develop a plan for the next 3-5 years, focusing on what needs to be done to continue to lessen the number of individuals with a serious mental illness who get involved with the criminal justice system and become incarcerated at the jail.

Karen also discussed some OMHAS related activities. She attended a demonstration at Clermont Mercy Hospital on January 31st of a web-based data platform called the “Crosswave Health Product” to track availability of SUD services in the community in real time, along with Lee Ann and staff from the Warren/Clinton and Greene/Clark/Madison Boards. The Hospital is interested in the Boards in Southwest Ohio helping to fund this project using the collaborative funds. The amount requested per Board was much higher than anticipated, and the focus of the collaborative funds is withdrawal management services, not technology, so Karen expects that the Boards will not participate in this project. Karen met with Dr. Larry Graham, Mercy’s Medical Director, with the Brown County Board Director on February 6th to discuss a contract for the withdrawal management services at Mercy for local Board clients.

Erica and Karen participated in an OMHAS conference call on January 23rd to discuss how federal prevention dollars will be allocated beginning in FY 2019. These SAPT funds were initially allocated through grants many years ago under ODADAS, and they have simply continued every year. OMHAS is opening up these funds for next fiscal year so that anyone can apply for them. Clermont did not receive any of these grant funds, so will therefore not be cut, but could possibly gain some additional prevention funding if we apply and are selected.

Karen also touched on some troubling news about the Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Karen said ONDCP serves as the coordinating authority over the sixteen federal departments and agencies that control the government’s multi-billion-dollar anti-drug initiatives of prevention, treatment and drug control issues. The Office administers the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) grants and is the agency that ties all of drug control policies together, giving not only a unified approach but also acting as a strong advocate and support system for communities. Two things took place in January that threaten the existence of ONDCP. First, a young inexperienced individual rose quickly from the ranks of a low-level post to Deputy Chief of Staff at ONDCP; and second, the administration is purportedly looking to strip ONDCP from overseeing its two major grants, DFC and HIDTA, which could threaten the existence of these important programs. Karen said we need a comprehensive effort to coordinate the drug crisis, including prevention, treatment and supply reduction, and ONDCP has served well in this capacity.

Karen informed the Board members that the Trump Administration extended the public health emergency declaration for the opioid crisis for an additional 90 days. Unfortunately, the original declaration yielded few results and no new funding to address opioid addiction was approved. Additionally, the FY 2019 federal budget recently released revealed many cuts affecting treatment and included Medicaid work requirements.

Karen also highlighted that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) recently hosted a hearing titled “The Opioid Crisis: An Examination of How We Got Here and How We Move Forward.” Discussion among committee members and the single witness centered heavily on supporting community-based solutions at the local level. The witness, Sam Quinones, a journalist and author of “Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic”, offered testimony and urged those gathered to focus on multifaceted community-level strategies. Specifically, Mr. Quinones suggested investing in alternative

pain management strategies, offering better prescribing training for doctors, and increasing access to treatment for substance use disorders within prisons and jails. It is unusual to have only one witness at such hearings. When asked by Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) about potential concrete policy solutions, Mr. Quinones responded, “[The] best idea I can come up with is to consult those people who are already working on that.” Committee members on both sides of the aisle agreed that investing funding in local programs would perhaps begin to move the needle on this crisis, but a chasm emerged between the two parties regarding the role of Medicaid expansion in stemming the epidemic. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) asserted that instances of opioid overdoses were directly linked to the Medicaid expansion in his state. Mr. Quinones attributed this to the fact that pills are often the only pain management option in the more economically disadvantaged communities, and Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) said the relationship was most likely circumstantial.

Karen then updated the Board on some meetings she had attended. On January 10th, she volunteered to be one of the adult leaders for “Be the Difference Day” at Milford High School. She said several CRC/GCB and Municipal Court probation staff also participated. This event is very positive for the students, who get to express a lot of emotions during the day and learn how many others struggle with the same issues they have. They also discover how to support one another, even those students they don’t know well.

Karen also attended the quarterly ASPIRE stakeholders’ meeting on January 18th. The program continues to show good outcomes, with many businesses hiring participants in the program. Karen said CRC/GCB has applied to present at the state Opiate Conference in June about this program.

Karen highlighted her meeting with Amy Foley from Hope Community Center on January 18th. They discussed the need to have all the Recovery Coaches be employees of CRC/GCB since Recovery Coaching is now Medicaid billable. The two Coaches who are currently employed at Hope Community Center and placed at CRC would have to switch for next fiscal year. Also discussed during the meeting was expanding the role of HCC to be the “Peer Support Center” for Clermont County, overseeing recruiting and training of peers, and to possibly integrate Families Connected with HCC in the coming year.

Karen informed the Board that on February 2nd, Deb Dixon from Channel 12 News was in Clermont County to do a story on the decrease in overdose deaths in Clermont. The focus of the story was why Clermont deaths are decreasing when counties around us are seeing increased overdose deaths. Ms. Dixon interviewed Commissioner Painter and two CASC clients, along with a CASC treatment group of men and staff from the ASPIRE program. She was also interviewed the Sheriff’s Office about their QRT program. Karen said Deb Dixon had gotten back with her earlier that day and read the script on what would air on the story. Karen told the Board she would send the information on when to expect the story on the news when she had it.

Karen wrapped up her report highlights by informing the Board members that Governor Kasich's State of the State Address will be held Tuesday, March 6th at 7:00pm. She encouraged the Board members to watch it.

6. Committee Reports: Jacki Block presented to the Board members on behalf of the Finance Committee which met prior to the Board meeting. Jackie advised the Board that at the Finance Committee meeting Erica Pursley, Fiscal Officer, presented the proposed changes to the fiscal monitoring section in the policy and procedure manual. Erica read those revisions to the Board members. On policy 2.01, procedure number two (2) will now read, "The Board shall maintain a reserve fund of no less than \$750,000." On policy 2.02, number eight (8) will now read, "In compliance with Ohio Revised Code 307.86 and Clermont County policy, any purchase exceeding \$50,000 shall be made using competitive bidding." On policy 2.04, regarding credit card usage, number two (2) will now read, "for the purchase of postage" instead of "for the purchase of on-line postage", as the Board no longer purchases postage on-line. Also, on policy 2.04, number four (4) will now read, "Available credit is \$10,000. Any change to the line of credit must be approved by the Board." Jacki informed the Board members that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the fiscal policy updates. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revisions to the fiscal policies and procedures as presented. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Andy Bateman).

Jacki then moved on to the next item: FY 2018 Funding for Additional Staff for the Behavioral Health/Criminal Justice Linkage Grant program. Jacki asked Karen Scherra to elaborate on the subject. Karen reminded the Board members that the Board had received a Behavioral Health/Criminal Justice Linkage grant from OMHAS for FY 2018. The grant ends June 30, 2018. This grant funds two positions: 1) a Jail Liaison, who is a member of CFI's Mobile Crisis Team stationed in the jail and conducts mental health screenings, assessments, pre-trial diversion support, and resource connections; and 2) an intensive case management position, or Re-entry Coordinator, housed at GCB and part of the Forensic Team, to provide re-entry support to individuals with a behavioral health disorder by engaging with inmates prior to release to assess needed resources and determine if housing and other essential services are in place. The Re-entry Coordinator is also responsible for connecting with current GCB clients that are in jail.

While there were initially some issues with getting this project up and running, things are now going very well. Jail administration and staff have been very collaborative in helping to make this project a success. DJFS is also a partner to this project. DJFS staff are at the jail daily, enrolling eligible inmates in Medicaid so that they have Medicaid benefits on the day they are released from jail, and suspending rather than terminating Medicaid for those who had Medicaid pre-incarceration. This process has been helpful in quickly connecting people to treatment. The County Commissioners are very supportive of this project and are carefully watching the outcomes, with the hope that the project will reduce the population at the jail by increasing the number of individuals connected with the treatment system.

Karen added that before we started the grant project, the number of individuals in jail with a serious mental illness who were in need of connection to treatment was not known. Now that

the project has been operating for several months, the number of individuals with a serious mental illness eligible for case management services at GCB but have never been involved in treatment was underestimated. Further, there are many “historical” GCB clients in jail that need to be reconnected to treatment. To connect to GCB for treatment, an intake needs to be completed which includes a 1.5-hour diagnostic assessment. Unfortunately, at the present time, there are inmates waiting for connection to GCB because there is not enough staff to complete all of the needed intakes and assessments. The intent of the project is to connect the inmate with services before they are released from jail, so the intake must occur while the inmate is in jail. Therefore, we need additional staff for the program.

GCB has proposed hiring a full-time diagnostician to work on intakes. Jacki advised the Board members that \$26,748 in Board funds are being requested for this additional position for a four-month period – 3/1/18 to 6/30/18. If there are no grant funds available for a second year, the Board will be looking at the cost of sustaining the entire program for FY 2019, including the diagnostician position. Jacki advised the Board the Finance Committee recommended approval of the additional funding and that the additional amount of \$26,748 would come out of free reserves, not the \$750,000 required reserves. To further illustrate the critical need for the additional funding, Lee Ann Watson advised the Board that just since September of 2017, the project has identified over 30 new individuals with a serious mental illness who have been referred to case management services at GCB, and over 50 GCB historical clients that need to be reconnected to GCB. The Jail Liaison is completing over 100 screenings per month. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve FY 2018 funding for additional staff for the BH/CJ Linkage Grant program in the amount of \$26,748. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Kelley Costello).

Jacki then moved on to the final Finance Committee item, the 21st Century Cures Grant Funding-Year Two. On January 24th, Karen participated in a call with OMHAS. She learned that although Ohio will be getting the Cures federal funds for the second year, OMHAS has decided to distribute the funds among all the Boards, not just those Boards that received the funds in Year 1 due to their ranking on overdose deaths and other factors. Each Board area will have to apply for the grant funds within a three-week period. Since these funds pay for the CASC program for women operated by GCB, Karen said the Board may have issues going forward if those grant funds are not sufficient to operate CASC for a full year, which would involve the County assuming the cost of the program earlier than anticipated.

7. Action Items: The first item was the FY 2018 Child Focus Health Officers. It is necessary for the Board to officially approve the designation of Health Officers each fiscal year as well as when new staff are hired at the agencies. Child Focus has a new employee that they would like added to the list of approved Health Officers for FY 2018. This individual meets the requirements for a Health Officer. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the addition of a Health Officer for Child Focus for FY 2018 as presented. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Dorothy Glancy).

The second action item was the rescheduling of the March Board meeting/scheduling of the annual Board Retreat. The recommended day for the retreat is Saturday, March 24, 2018 from

9am to 3pm at the Board office. As we do each year, the March Board meeting will be held at the start of the retreat. Karen said there will be discussions at the Retreat about FY 2019 funding, the impact of Behavioral Health Redesign, and the free reserves. The Board agreed with the Retreat date. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to reschedule the March meeting and schedule the Board Retreat on March 24, 2018 as recommended by Board staff. (Motion-John Kelly, second-Greg Varner).

8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Behavioral Health Redesign Update. Karen Scherra stated that it did start as of January 1, 2018. As far as the new service billing codes and rates that the agencies bill the Board, Karen said that only a few live files have come in so far and those were from CRC. The other agencies are still in test mode. Laura Stith from CFI said they had some issues at first with correct coding and are still submitting test files, but they are making progress and are very close to going live with their billing. Karen told Board members that at the Finance Committee meeting, Tawnya Dunn from GCB said they will be ready to go live the following week and that the entire process has so far been seamless for clients. Steve Goldsberry of CRC told the Board members they are “holding their own” per Jeff O’Neil. Karen said that hopefully by the Board Retreat date, there will be more live billing and Board staff will be able to give a more detailed update.

The second discussion item was Medicaid Managed Care and the Board’s role. Karen Scherra and Erica Pursley attended a training on Managed Care on January 30th hosted by OACBHA. The training was a follow-up to the two-day retreat Karen attended last year, also held by OACBHA for Board Directors, to begin the conversation about what role Boards should play in managed care and how they should solidify that role. The January 30th training focused the morning session on the role of the Boards as outlined in Ohio statute to illustrate areas in which Boards could retain their role and/or gain additional responsibilities in partnership with managed care companies. The afternoon session focused on connecting the Boards’ roles and responsibilities to the items that managed care companies might need at the local level. The training was interesting in parts, but Karen stated they still do not have an action plan for working with managed care companies to determine how the systems will be coordinated after July 1. Karen mentioned that even after the training, she still feels like the Boards’ role in Managed Care is unclear and is concerned Clermont (and the other boards) will not be ready when it goes into effect on July 1, 2018. It appears that managed care companies will not want to deal with the Board areas individually but will want standardization across the state.

The third and final discussion item was how to celebrate Appreciation Week for those involved in fighting the opioid epidemic. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services came up with the idea to honor those throughout the state who have been involved in fighting the epidemic. The original idea was to provide the Board areas with metal tumblers to give out to first responders, treatment providers, and others. However, funding is now not available for the tumblers. Karen informed the Board that she and Lee Ann are forming a planning committee to come up with ideas to show appreciation. Also, during that week, the Clermont Board of County Commissioners, as well as the Governor, are making a formal proclamation and recognition of appreciation week. Karen said the planning

committee will come up with some ideas and that some people will be recognized at the Board's April meeting.

9. Agency Director's Reports: Amy from Hope Community Center said her report stands and added that HCC will have a master gardener who volunteered to develop raised garden beds with the HCC members. The members will plant vegetables and the OSU Extension Office will be providing classes to teach how to cook fresh vegetables.

Jim Carter from CFI also said his report stands and added that CFI is currently involved with West Clermont Schools and Loveland Schools as they develop a peer to peer suicide prevention program. Jim informed the Board members of the upcoming Kevin Hines suicide prevention film "The Ripple Effect". CFI is sponsoring the showing of this powerful film. The showing is on March 14, 2018 at the Newport AMC Theater. Jim Carter also mentioned the foster parent campaign for which Charles Winburn is partnering with CFI and other agencies to promote recruitment of foster parents.

Steve Goldsberry said CRC's report stands and added that currently 34 clients are on Vivitrol and many of those clients have taken more than 12 shots. Karen Scherra advised the Board that she and Lee Ann had met with a drug company that day to discuss a 4-6 month program involving an injectable naltrexone drug for use with opioid addiction. The program is still in its early stages and the drug company offered Clermont a place in the pilot program. No definite decisions have been made about this yet.

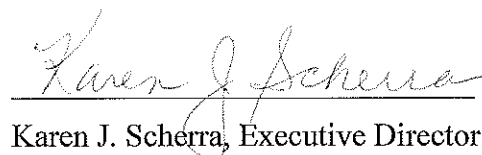
Lucas Strakowski from NAMI then spoke and said their report stands. Lucas added that NAMI's "Hot Topics" presentation was going to be in Clermont County on March 13, at CFI. He said the program is titled "In Their Own Voice" and focuses on the personal perspective of having a mental health disorder. He also advised the Board members that one of their employees, Sara Huron, had left NAMI for another opportunity, but that another person had been hired for the position.

Jean from Families Connected said her report stands as presented and added that Families Connected and CFI are still in the process of developing a partnership regarding peer support services for CFI families. The two agencies will be meeting again soon to work out the details of the joint effort. Jean and Jim Carter, from CFI, both agreed that it is a good match.

10. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the February 12, 2018 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Kelley Costello).



Karen Conrad, Chairperson



Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director