



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 February 11, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Suzy Carter, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Geoff Schwerzler, Greg Varner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Carole Cottrill, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Katie Shepard

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER EXCUSED:** Richard Chaney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Carrie Brown, Jim Carter, Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Sabrina Hamrick, Patty Hassel, Patty Lawrence, Pamela Lindeman, Emily Neal, Jeff O'Neil, Julia Saldanha, Laura Stith, Janie Tidwell

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

1. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed everyone. Karen then introduced and welcomed two potential Board members, Patty Lawrence and Carrie Brown, and gave them each an opportunity to tell everyone why they were interested in joining the Board. As there were many new faces in the room, Karen Conrad asked everyone in the room to introduce him/herself. The meeting then proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the February 11, 2019 Board meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Kelley Costello).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the January 14, 2019 meeting minutes. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Andy Bateman).
4. Review Materials/Correspondence Folders: Executive Director Karen Scherra brought everyone's attention to the folders being passed around and explained to the potential Board members the purpose of the folders. Karen reminded the Board members if they want a copy of any article, initial it and Cindy will email it to them. From the Adult Mental Health folder, Karen stated that there were articles on the "Stepping Up" Initiative, the national movement to keep mentally ill individuals out of jail. Clermont County has supported Stepping Up for years, and now more counties are getting involved.

In the State/Federal Info folder, Karen pointed out the three new Executive Orders issued by Governor DeWine. One focused on children's initiatives, another on elevating the importance of prevention services at OMHAS, and the third was on the development of a new cabinet level agency, Recovery Ohio.

In the Local Info folder, Karen highlighted the annual reports from the Board's contract agencies, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health (GCB) and Child Focus, Inc. (CFI). A CFI staff person passed out copies of CFI's annual report.

Karen said that in the Federal/State Issues/Articles folder, there was an article on the potential impact of the Texas vs. Azar case which was filed by state attorneys and focuses on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. There was also an article that reported on the impact of the decreasing federal match for Medicaid Expansion on Ohio. In addition, Ohio will have to contribute \$200 million over the next two years to pay for the CHIP program which provides health coverage for about 225,000 low-income children. And finally, Karen mentioned an article about Ohio Medicaid enrollment numbers. More than 700,000 Ohioans were removed from the State's Medicaid program in just the first 10 months of 2018. The total Medicaid enrollment statewide was 2.8 million as of October, so a quarter of were removed from the program; however, about 270,000 were added to the rolls in the same period. Karen stated that the article explains that officials have been unable to come up with a solid explanation as to the cause of this high number of dis-enrollments.

In the Heroin/Opiate/Addiction folder, Karen said many articles reported a drop in the overdose rates. However, meth usage is still on the rise. Another huge focus is the increase in vaping and marijuana use, especially by teens. Karen also mentioned the article on the White House prioritizing opioid abuse in the first national drug control strategy.

In the Correspondence folder, Karen pointed out information on OACBHA's Legislative Day and copies of materials that were given to legislators during the event.

5. Executive Director's Report: Karen Scherra presented a few highlights from her Executive Director's report. Under hospital update and utilization, Karen said we averaged 11.3 forensic clients/day for the month, the second highest number of such clients we have ever had at Summit (just under the 11.5 in December). Our numbers continue to illustrate the issue at Summit – too many forensic clients. Karen said this mirrors the state hospital numbers across the state. Boards are trying to work get OMHAS to provide training for Municipal and Common Pleas Court judges to decrease the number of forensic admissions to the state hospitals.

Under criminal justice activities, Karen advised the Board that on January 15th she attended the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) meeting. Much of the meeting was focused on the overcrowding at the jail and whether there is a need for additional jail beds. She said there was a clear consensus that the need exists, but space and costs are issues to be discussed before a decision can be made by the Commissioners. The jail in January had 417 inmates and the number should be at around 370. During the meeting, Karen said there were some comments made about choosing between treatment services in the jail and more beds; again, the consensus was that both are necessary. According to Karen, this will probably be the dominant issue for the County's criminal justice system in the coming year. However, opening a pod in the jail could cost the county \$1 million.

Under OMHAS related activities, Karen reported that Dr. Hurst, the former director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, told legislators that if funding for OMHAS remained flat in the next state budget, he would have to cut direct services to make ends meet. Dr. Hurst was asked to produce preliminary budget requests at 100% of current

funding and 90% of current funding. He stated that flat funding would necessitate “direct service reductions” because of growing payroll costs that would put the department at a \$18 million deficit in FY 2021. Dr. Hurst further stated that if the budget was reduced to 90% of current levels, OMHAS would be forced to consider the option of closing one of Ohio’s state psychiatric hospitals, displacing some of the most vulnerable citizens, and severely diminishing much needed capacity.

Under ENGAGE Grant activities, Karen reported that on January 16<sup>th</sup>, the Clermont ENGAGE MRSS Team met. According to Karen, the MRSS team will be meeting monthly going forward to work on any issues that arise, and to keep the program evolving as the group learns more about what is working and not working and how best to address the needs of the youth and families referred from Juvenile Court. Staff from Family and Children First/Wraparound and Pressley Ridge, a children’s mental health agency, have been added to the team for better coordination of services for the families. Karen said that she was very pleased with how well the Clermont MRSS program is progressing.

Under Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Butler, Clermont, and Warren Counties, Karen reported she was unable to attend the WIB Board meeting on February 1st due to weather conditions. An item on the WIB’s agenda that day concerned the Department of Labor (DOL) grant, which focuses on persons displaced from employment because of the opioid epidemic. The state of Ohio determined specific counties with high need to receive the grant funds, and Butler and Clermont are among the counties receiving the funds. The grant project will be coordinated through the WIB, with the funds flowing through local Departments of Job and Family Services (DJFS). Other partners involved in the local project are GCB’s ASPIRE program, the Board, and the Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) center. Apparently, because of Karen’s involvement in writing the grant and her familiarity with employment services in Clermont county, the Clermont Board is being asked to take a lead role in the grant. Karen said she had hoped to have a meeting with WIB staff before the Board meeting, but that was not possible. Karen explained that if the Clermont Board takes the lead role in the grant project, a contract would need to be established. Karen said she was meeting with the WIB on Wednesday and would have more information on the subject at the next Board meeting.

Wrapping up, under Federal activities/legislation, Karen said the partial government shutdown ended on Friday, January 25, when President Trump and Congress agreed to temporarily reopen the U.S. government through a continuing resolution that ends on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Karen said the good news was that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was not negatively affected by the shutdown, so federal funds and grants continued without interruption.

6. Committee Reports: Jacki Block spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee, which met prior to the Board meeting. Jacki recapped the financial issues discussed. She advised the Board that the Clermont County Board of Commissioners had approved a salary increase of 2.25% for county employees for 2019. Jacki explained that the Board follows the lead of the County and offers the same salary increases as the County Commissioners. Jacki further explained that the Executive Director wanted Board members to approve or disapprove the salary increases and when they would be effective due to the tight budget we are operating with this year. Since a salary increase of 3.5% was budgeted into the Board’s budget for FY 2019, the Finance

Committee was recommending to the full Board to approve the 2.25% salary increase for Board staff, retroactive to January 1, 2019. The remaining funding set aside for 2019 salary increases will be placed into reserves. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve granting the 2.25% salary increase retroactive to January 1, 2019. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Suzy Carter).

Jacki also reported on the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funding. Jacki explained that in the January 25<sup>th</sup> proposal from the Southwest Collaborative, Clermont had asked for \$360,000 for the women's CASC program; in addition, \$275,000 was requested for a syringe exchange program that will be shared by Butler, Brown, and Clermont counties. Jacki said that with some funding from Clermont County Public Health, the syringe exchange program will use sites as opposed to vans, with Clermont hoping to set up a site in offices at Clermont Mercy Hospital. The Collaborative is expecting to receive an answer this week on whether the proposal was approved. The funding runs from February 28, 2019 through September 28, 2019. Karen Scherra said there is also additional SOR funding available for Recovery Houses, which is very restrictive and may not be accessed by Clermont, and for Recovery Coaches, with the application materials not yet released. Karen also said the Board received one-time block grant funds of \$43,000 available for children's multi-system mental health initiatives. Karen will be meeting with Child Focus and Family and Children First to determine how best to utilize the funds. This funding must be spent by June 30, 2019.

7. Action Items: There were no Action Items for the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Legislative Day Update. The annual OACBHA Legislative Day occurred on January 29, 2019. Karen Scherra and Recovery Coach Kristi Mudd attended the day's activities together. Karen said Governor DeWine, Lori Criss, the new Director of OMHAS, and the Director of the Recovery Ohio Initiative, Alisha Nelson, were all in attendance. Governor DeWine spoke for a few minutes and then passed the microphone around the room to hear from directors what the behavioral health needs are across the state. Lori Criss also spoke and assured those in attendance that she is familiar with issues in the system and intends to do her best in her new role as OMHAS Director. Karen reported that a wide variety of topics were discussed including: the need to focus on addiction not a specific drug, overdose response teams (QRT), family services, mental health screening, evidence-based practices, needs of special populations, suicide prevention plans, rural and urban differences, Medicaid Expansion, bringing back OMHAS Regional Directors, data collection, peer support, state hospitals, and prevention. The Speaker of the House, Larry Householder, spoke at the event as well, and stated that he was very supportive of the behavioral health system and promised to support Medicaid Expansion if he sees that it has produced positive outcomes.

In the afternoon, Karen and Kristi had the opportunity to meet with Senator Uecker's aide Brittany. Karen said they had a good conversation and Brittany said Senator Uecker would follow up and meet with Karen and others in Clermont County sometime soon. Karen and Kristi also met with Representative Green. She said he has always been supportive of the behavioral health system and they had a very good conversation. Representative Green was

very interested in hearing about Kristi's experiences as a Recovery Coach.

Wrapping up, Karen said the Governor's budget is due by March 15. The House will not turn it over to the Senate until May, so it will probably be sometime in late June before the budget is sent to the Governor for approval. Governor DeWine has stated that he plans to try to have some of the \$2.75 billion in the rainy-day fund returned to local governments. The Governor stated that he believes that funding for behavioral health should be prioritized. Attorney General Yost has also stated that opioid addiction is his top priority, and with both OMHAS and RecoveryOhio also having a focus on addiction, the behavioral health system is concerned about competing priorities and directives from the state.

The final discussion item was the Crisis Response to the Local Incident. A Clermont County Sheriff's Deputy, Detective Bill Brewer, lost his life in the line of duty on February 2, 2019. Lt. Nick DeRose was also injured during the same incident. Detective Brewer was the first officer killed in the line of duty in Clermont County. In response to this tragedy, Karen Scherra said our system was asked to step in and support family members, fellow officers and first responders, and anyone else in the community who needed help getting through this traumatic event. Karen said the Mobile Crisis Team went above and beyond throughout that week. Laura Stith of Child Focus said she received a call at home at 3:30 am following the incident to dispatch the Mobile Crisis team to the Sheriff's Office to assist with debriefing immediately after the incident. The Sheriff's Office had worked with Child Focus previously to have a team available for responding to Critical Incidents. Mobile Crisis Team members trained in the Critical Incident model had agreed to be available when needed by the Sheriff's Office, and they responded early that Sunday morning. Laura said she was very proud of the work the team accomplished, as they put everything they had into supporting the officers, including the officer who had been injured in the incident. Lee Ann Watson mentioned that Amy Foley had recently developed a Clermont County First Responder Peer Team that also assisted with providing support to the first responders. Amy Foley coordinated with first responders from other county departments to assure they were available for support for Clermont County first responders.

Karen Scherra said the efforts put forth by our system including CCMHRB, Child Focus, Hope Community Center, Mobile Crisis Team, Peer Support, and others was greatly needed and appreciated by the Sheriff's Office and the other first responder organizations that were involved in the incident. Karen also said that the Board and the contract agencies involved in the response will develop a policy and procedure for response should an incident ever happen again. In the end, Karen said this was a time for Clermont to be proud of what its behavioral health system can accomplish and can provide. Karen said she also received a call from Dr. Hurst, OMHAS Director, asking if we needed help from OMHAS to cope with this incident. Karen advised Dr. Hurst that she believed everything was covered. Dr. Hurst told Karen that he was not surprised that Clermont was already prepared and capable of handling an incident of this magnitude, which Karen said was very encouraging to hear. Karen also said she plans to meet with the crisis program coordinator at OMHAS in the near future as a future resource. Karen said she plans to incorporate this event into Appreciation Week activities in some way.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) passed out her monthly report. Amy added that HCC started new programming at the beginning of the year,

and that the Peer Support staff are doing great.

Jeff O'Neil of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health said his agency's report stands. Jeff gave a brief update on Behavioral Health Redesign. Jeff reported that six months into the process, many claims are still being denied. Jeff said once a claim is denied, it is extremely hard to get it reopened and paid. He said this has been the hardest transition, going from one Medicaid processing entity to five, but his team is still plugging away on getting claims processed. Jeff stated that GCB is starting to see some action and support from the new Governor's staff. Jeff reassured the Board members that despite the difficulties, the transition has been seamless for the clients. Board member Suzy Carter asked Jeff the reason for the claim rejections. Jeff said he believes it is coding errors in the Managed Care Companies' systems.

Laura Stith of Child Focus, Inc. said her report stands.

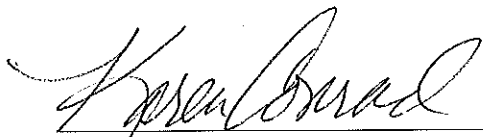
Julia Saldanha of NAMI said her report stands. Julia added that NAMI's support groups are going very well. She said there are currently 8 groups a month and all have had many participants. Julia said there was a Family to Family class that recently had 18 graduates. NAMI is still offering "Ending the Silence" presentations in the community and plans to start a new Peer to Peer class soon. Julia closed by introducing Emily Neal, who is replacing Lucas Strakowski as NAMI's new Administrative Support Specialist.

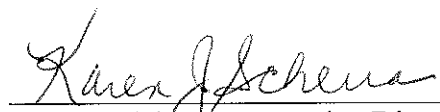
10. Executive Session: A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Kelley Costello). Jacki Block-yea, Suzy Carter-yea, Karen Conrad-yea, Geoff Schwerzler-yea, Greg Varner-yea. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move back into Regular Session. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Kelley Costello). Jacki Block-yea, Suzy Carter-yea, Karen Conrad-yea, Geoff Schwerzler-yea, Greg Varner-yea. The Board moved back into Regular Session at 8:35 p.m.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the contract renewal and 2.25% salary increase of Executive Director Karen Scherra. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Suzy Carter). Andy Bateman-yea, Karen Conrad-yea, Kelley Costello-yea, Geoff Schwerzler-yea, Greg Varner-yea.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the February 11, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Kelley Costello).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Conrad, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director