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MINUTES of February 10, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jacki Block, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patty Lawrence, Geoff Schwerzler, Greg Varner

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Andy Bateman, Carrie Brown, Carole Cottrill, Laura Esslinger, Katie Shepard

ASSOCIATE MEMBER EXCUSED: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Alicia Fine, Susan Graham, Cathy Krieg, Pamela Lindeman, Laura Stith, Anne Wise

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

1. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed the Board members to the meeting. Karen Conrad explained that Karen Scherra was absent due to the birth of her granddaughter in Chicago. Board staff shared pictures of the new baby on the Smart Board. The meeting then proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the February 10, 2020 Board meeting. (Motion-Patty Lawrence, second-Dorothy Glancy).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 Board of Director's meeting. (Motion-John Kelly, second-Kelley Costello).
4. Review Materials/Correspondence Folders: Associate Director Lee Ann Watson brought everyone's attention to the folders being passed around and specifically mentioned a few of the items.

In the Federal/State Issues/Articles folder, Lee Ann mentioned that numerous articles related to Federal bills on changes to Obamacare and Medicaid.

Also in the folder was an article on an Ohio Medicaid report to Governor DeWine regarding the Ohio Medicaid system. The report claims that Governor Kasich's administration failed to protect the privacy of hundreds of beneficiaries, erroneously removed people from Medicaid, forcing people to seek treatment out of state, shortchanged health care providers, and ignored legislative initiatives. Lee Ann also mentioned the article on Medicaid officials pledging to fix eligibility and a backlog of over 19,000 applications for health coverage.

On a local level, Lee Ann brought the Board's attention to the Smart Board on which the February county newsletter was displayed. Lee Ann pointed out that the County newsletter is

instrumental in keeping readers aware of the Board's actions and accomplishments. Lee Ann also advised the Board that the newsletter can be accessed on the Clermont County Government Portal. In the February newsletter, there were three articles referencing the Board's impact on the community. Lee Ann touched on each.

The first one was on the 2018 overdose report recently released from the Ohio Department of Health. The report showed a decrease in Clermont County overdose deaths for the third straight year. The 2018 OD death rate was 24% less than 2017. In the article, the Board's Executive Director, Karen Scherra, was quoted as saying that although the decrease in unintentional overdose deaths is encouraging and indicative of the county's comprehensive measures to address addiction, "we must maintain our efforts and try to expand them due to the continued use of opioids and the rise in meth (methamphetamine) use to provide treatment options".

The second article in the newsletter reported on the Family Recovery Court of the Clermont Juvenile Court receiving certification as a Specialized Docket from the Ohio Supreme Court. In order to be certified, the Court had to adhere to strict certification standards and undergo a site visit. Our Board provides funding to the Family Recovery Court for participants to have access to a Recovery Coach and treatment.

The third article related to the Opiate Task Force (OTF) of Clermont County which is managed by the Board. The article focused on the "explosion" of meth usage in Clermont County. The article stated that the OTF plans to continue to work together to address this dire threat to Clermont County.

In the Adult Mental Health folder, Lee Ann said there were articles that focused on an increase in suicides in older adults and law enforcement. Lee Ann informed the Board that Clermont plans to restart its Suicide Prevention Coalition and all are welcome to join. The first meeting will be on February 19 and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) will be present at the meeting. OSPF plans to discuss state initiatives in suicide prevention.

Finally, in the Addiction folder, Lee Ann said many of the articles focused on the huge rise in meth across the country. According to recent data, meth-positive drug tests are continuing to rise rapidly and surpass other drug usage numbers.

5. Executive Director's Report: Associate Director Lee Ann Watson presented a few highlights from the Executive Director's report. Under the Opioid Issue section, Lee Ann Watson stated that the final report for the Interact for Health Union Township/Pierce Township QRT grant was submitted on January 15. The grant began in January 2017 and included a partnership with Union Township Fire/EMS and Mercy Hospital ED and was expanded to Pierce Township in 2018. The QRT will continue in both Union and Pierce Townships as well as with Mercy Hospital. During the three-year period, the QRT received 615 referrals: 66 from Union Township; 52 from Pierce Township, and 497 from Mercy Hospital, and many individuals were connected to treatment through QRT. On average, 45% of the QRT referrals completed an assessment, and 41% (181) of those entered treatment.

Under OMHAS Related Activities, a federal funding change will allow states to cover treatment services for stimulant use with federal funding that had been previously earmarked for opioid use treatment only. Since 2017, Washington has awarded billions to help states target opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery through grants called State Opioid Response (SOR).

However, Clermont has been informed by OMHAS that the SOR funds, which are utilized to assist the Board with funding the CASC program, cannot yet be used for anything other than opioid addiction.

Under Federal Legislation, Lee Ann Watson mentioned the section on the proposed revision of the Medicaid program. These revisions could eliminate Medicaid expansion, greatly impacting the Behavioral Health system. Behavioral Health advocates have long stood opposed to block granting Medicaid and other funding mechanisms since it would shift costs onto states and beneficiaries, restrict access to care, require states to limit the number of beneficiaries who can enroll in Medicaid, and increase the number of uninsured and underinsured individuals. As for Clermont, Medicaid Expansion greatly assists with funding treatment for a large majority of Clermont Recovery Center (CRC) clients. Any cuts in Medicaid expansion could severely impact access to services for individuals at CRC and increase the financial burden of the Board.

Lee Ann also mentioned the section on a proposed Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) rule change that would threaten disability benefits for millions of Americans over the next ten years and would chip away at the safety net for thousands of poor and ill Ohioans. The proposed rule changes alter the frequency of the review process to determine eligibility for payments from every three years to two years, and create a new category called "Medical Improvement Likely" with even more frequent eligibility reviews; both are intended to reduce the rolls and save money. These changes would impact many Clermont County clients regarding access to behavioral and physical health services.

6. Presentation by Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) Staff: Laura Stith (Chief Clinical Officer), Cathy Krieg (Assistant Director of Crisis Services and Diagnostics), and Anne Wise (Coordinator of Crisis Services) of Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) presented on traditional outpatient mental health services, the Clermont County Crisis Response Team, Mobile Crisis Services, and the Criminal Justice Mental Health Linkage Project at the jail. The presentation consisted of a PowerPoint as well as two (2) handouts that were passed out at the end of the presentation, which was a continuation of CFI's presentation at the January 2020 Board meeting.

Laura Stith began the presentation with slides and a brief description of CFI's traditional outpatient mental health services. Laura said these services are the "wheelhouse" of CFI, and all other services grew out of these services. Laura said 18% of clients whose family income qualifies them for a sliding fee are supported with Board dollars. In the outpatient mental health services department, available services include psychological evaluation, diagnostic evaluation, crisis intervention services, medication services, case management, and individual, family, and group therapy. In FY 2019, 100% of the traditional outpatient clients were seen by a Crisis Intervention Specialist within 24 hours of being recognized as a client with service needs. Laura added that 85% of those clients have shown improvement as a result of the crisis intervention.

Laura Stith discussed the roll of CFI's Clermont County Crisis Response Team (CRT). The team's mission statement is: "A group of caring individuals from various social services agencies committed to joining with communities in crisis to share the burden of grief and to facilitate the process of healing." Laura said in the 25 years of CFI being in existence, the CRT has facilitated 166 community crises, which on average is seven (7) responses per year. The

CRT has 90 members and approximately 20-25 members facilitate each crisis. The Team responds to community-based crises such as sudden deaths and suicides, as well as provides debriefing for juries after a traumatic criminal case.

Laura Stith also introduced the Crisis Hotline and Mobile Crisis Services portion of the presentation. The Hotline began in 2003 with a non-traditional approach, since it is non-facility based, but instead utilizes cell phones. The use of cell phones substantially decreases the cost of the Hotline. The Hotline is available to callers 24/7, 365 days a year, and is staffed with highly qualified and licensed mental health professionals. Many of the Hotline staff have been providing the service since the beginning of the Hotline. Utilization of the Hotline has increased substantially over the years from 339 calls (23 were suicidal) in FY04 to 3,027 calls (307 were suicidal) in FY19.

Cathy Krieg provided the Board members with specifics on how the Hotline is staffed. The Hotline always has three responders on call. If the first responder is on a call, and the Hotline receives a second call, that call “rolls” to the second responder and on to the third if necessary. If the third responder is also on a call, the call “rolls” to the agency. Callers are not put on hold. The Mobile Crisis staff cover the Hotline calls from 8am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. The evening and weekend shift handle all other hours. The Hotline staff always carry two (2) cell phones to ensure no client is put on hold and no calls are missed. The Crisis Hotline is the gateway to the Mobile Crisis Team and triages the needs for on-site evaluation of the caller.

Cathy Krieg went on to discuss the role of the Mobile Crisis Team, which started in 2012. The team’s hours are 8am-10pm, Monday through Friday and 12pm-8pm on Saturday and Sunday. Over fifty percent (50%) of the referrals to Mobile Crisis come from law enforcement. The Mobile Crisis Team responds to individuals in the community experiencing a severe mental health crisis. When the team is dispatched to a location, a Law Enforcement Officer accompanies them. Upon arrival, the team assesses the safety of the individual and others involved and takes appropriate action, including assisting with hospitalization, developing a safety plan, or helping the individual reconnect with ongoing treatment in the community. The role of Mobile Crisis is to try to stabilize the individual in the community. Only 5% of individuals seen by Mobile Crisis Team must be sent to the hospital.

In 2018, the Mobile Crisis Team added a branch called Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS). MRSS is a grant-funded comprehensive program available to youth ages 0 to 21 and their families. MRSS staff meet with youth and families in person, wherever they are, to provide intensive services to address emotional and/or behavioral issues that require intervention.

Ann Wise presented on the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Linkage project. The project is a program within the Clermont County Jail. Its goal is to identify individuals in jail with behavioral health needs and to connect them to the appropriate resource in order to receive treatment and reduce recidivism. The position provides screenings, assessments and referrals to community-based services. The position works closely with staff from Greater Cincinnati Behavioral (GCB) and CRC to coordinate referrals to services for newly identified clients as well as coordinate services for current clients of both agencies.

The program began in 2014 and was managed by a part-time Mobile Crisis Team staff member. In 2015, the Mobile Crisis Responder was hired to be stationed at the jail. In 2017, the position was increased to a full-time and an office in the jail was dedicated to the position. The current Jail Liaison, Renae Butcher, was recently awarded the Sheriff's Commendation Award for her fantastic abilities, progress and accomplishments with the jail linkage project. Since 2017, the position has screened over 3,000 individuals.

The Child Focus presentation ended with the passing out of two (2) handouts that included information on CFI and its programs.

7. Action Items: The first and only action item was the cancelling of the April Board meeting, setting the Board Retreat date, and rescheduling the June and November Board meetings. As discussed at the December and January meetings, there were some changes that needed to be made to the Board meeting schedule.

Erica Pursley, Board Fiscal Officer, presented the following recommendations for the rescheduling of the meetings:

1. Schedule the Board Retreat for Saturday, March 28th from 9:00-3:00. There would still be a regular meeting in March, on March 9th, but the April Board meeting would be cancelled. The April Board meeting needs to be cancelled since both Karen Scherra and Lee Ann Watson are attending the National Council conference in early April.
2. Reschedule the June Board meeting, which conflicts directly with the Opioid and Other Drugs Conference which both Karen Scherra and Lee Ann Watson are attending, to the third Monday of June, June 15th. There are 5 Mondays in June, so the spacing to the July meeting stays about the same as usual.
3. Reschedule the November Board meeting from November 9th to November 16th. With the levy campaign and election to deal with, it would be almost impossible for the Board staff to get out a mailing for the 11/9 date. There are also 5 Mondays in November, so spacing with the December meeting would not be an issue.

After discussion, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the cancellation of the April Board meeting, set March 28th as the Retreat date, and reschedule the June and November meetings as presented. (Motion-Greg Varner, second-Dorothy Glancy).

8. Discussion Items: The first and only discussion item was the FY 2020 Funding Update. Fiscal Officer Erica Pursley presented various funding updates to the Board.

Erica reported there is still no information on when the Board will receive the Infrastructure Crisis Funding from the State or what specific requirements there will be for spending the funds. However, Erica said Board staff have learned that the Flex Crisis funding can be carried over to the next fiscal year. Another "Crisis Academy" regarding the funding is scheduled for February 27, and Lee Ann and Amy Foley will attend. The primary focus of this Crisis Academy will be the utilization of peer support in crisis services.

Erica also reported that she has submitted both the 040 report as well as the Substance Abuse

(SA) entity report. Erica explained that the 040 report is an annual report required by OMHAS that details the Board's financial activity per service. The SA entity report is a semi-annual report required for substance abuse block grants and details the agencies in Clermont County that treat addiction disorders.

Another funding update was on the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) Grant. Erica mentioned that unfortunately Clermont did not receive the FORE grant. Information provided by FORE shows that the grant was highly competitive: 440 letters of intent were received by the foundation, 20% were asked to submit full proposals (88) and 5% were awarded (4). Erica said there was information in the Correspondence folder regarding the note on the FORE website about the high number of letters of intent received. Lee Ann Watson mentioned that the Board staff will continue to research other grants that could fund the proposed jail Linkage expansion.

Erica also informed the Board the Interact for Health Grant had reached its end and that the final reports had been submitted. Details on the grant were included in the Executive Director's Report. The grant was used to form a Quick Response Team (QRT) that consisted of a partnership between Clermont Recovery Center, Union Township Fire/EMS, Pierce Township Police Department, and Mercy Hospital ED.

For the update on agency overages, Erica informed the Board that meetings have been scheduled for late February and early March with GCB and CFI. The meetings will focus on discussion on how to address and avoid overages for the fiscal year and beyond. Erica said this will also be a topic at the Board retreat on March 28.

The final update was on the SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Grant. The grant will be applied for by some or all of the eight (8) Boards in the Southwest Ohio Collaborative. Applying as the Collaborative will increase chances of receiving the grant since it increases the number of individuals touched. OMHAS is also applying, but this grant allows for State and local applications. This means that it will not be a conflict if the SW Collaborative applies as well. The intent of the grant is to focus on suicide prevention for high risk groups, including older adults. Clermont expects to be the fiscal agent for the grant if it is received.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Laura Stith of CFI said her report stands. Laura added that she did want to make a small clarification under #11 on her report. The report read, "12% of Child Focus' total clients (18% of Clermont County clients) received Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board assistance in December". Laura wanted to be clear that Board funding goes solely to Clermont County residents.

Alicia Fine of GCB/CRC said her report stands. Alicia added that GCB/CRC had started its CARF survey that day and was hosting six (6) surveyors from all over the country. Alicia also added that CRC's Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program has no waiting. There are currently 474 clients in the MAT program.

Lee Ann Watson said that Amy Foley of Hope Community Center was unable to attend the meeting but that she had contacted Lee Ann and said her report stands.

Board staff said that Heather Turner from NAMI had also contacted the Board to say she was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, NAMI's report stands.

10. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the February 10, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-John Kelly, second-Jacki Block).



Karen Conrad, Chairperson



Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director