



2337 Clermont Center Drive • Batavia, Ohio 45103

TELEPHONE: (513) 732-5400 FAX: (513) 732-5414 TTY: 1-800-750-0750

WEBSITE: www.cemhrb.org CRISIS HOTLINE: (513) 528-SAVE (7283)

## ENCLOSURE ONE

### MINUTES of January 12, 2015

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Suzy Carter, Karen Conrad, Greg Cottrill, Molly Greer, Angela Liggett, Gail Padilla, Scott Wheeler, Wayne Johnson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Andrea Bryant, Richard Chaney, Dorothy Glancy, Ken Spurlock (extended sick leave)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Amy Foley, Sarah Huron, Sandy Locke, Jeff O'Neil, Gregg Pieples, Laura Stith, Brian Todd

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

1. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda of January 12, 2015. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Scott Wheeler). Karen Scherra introduced the Board's new administrative assistant, Melissa Burke.
2. One minor correction to the minutes from the December meeting was noted: On page 1, line #3, "county" was corrected to read "country". A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2014 meeting as revised. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).
3. Review Materials/Correspondence: Karen Scherra highlighted several items in the folders. In the Miscellaneous folder was a copy of the Board's FY16 Community Plan Update. Also included in the Miscellaneous folder was a copy of the recent Commissioner's minutes highlighting the county budget for 2015, and a copy of the request for proposals for providing services at the County's CASC program. Karen Scherra mentioned that CRC/GCB will be submitting a proposal. The Miscellaneous folder also contained GCB's annual report, and a National NAMI article regarding mental health funding rated by state. According to the NAMI article, Ohio received increased mental health funding in SFY14. In the Correspondence folder was a Columbus newspaper article that discussed that only six (6) counties, including Clermont County, did not have, or were not in the process of obtaining, recovery housing. The article also stated that there was a September 2016 deadline for counties to meet the mandate of a full continuum of care. Karen Scherra will discuss this issue in the Discussion section. Also included in the Correspondence folder was a letter from NAMI Clermont County Director, Amy Foley, stating the upcoming merger of the Clermont, Warren and Hamilton County NAMI offices into one large Southwest Ohio NAMI chapter. Karen Scherra also highlighted a Christmas card she received from the Governor's office. In the Newspaper

folder, a majority of the articles were related to heroin abuse. Karen pointed out a few articles. The heroin epidemic in Northern Kentucky continues to receive press from the Cincinnati Enquirer. The article also mentioned that the cost of Narcan has recently doubled. The Board is in discussion with CRC about the impact of the increase of this life saving drug. One article was an editorial in the local paper by Danielle Flack, who is in recovery and whose husband passed away of an opiate overdose. Ms. Flack was very articulate in expressing the need for access to treatment. The Board will be asking Ms. Flack to speak at the Opiate Task Force. The second article concerned a transgender young woman who recently committed suicide in Warren County. Questions arose from the Board members as to how the agencies are dealing with the gay, lesbian and transgender community. Agencies reported that they do have support for this sector of the community; however, attempts to provide support groups have had little to no participation. Karen Scherra also informed the Board members that our partner, Lt. Scott Gaviglia from Union Township Police Department, was formally promoted to Chief earlier this month and Lee Ann Watson was invited to the ceremony. Karen also mentioned a recent Cincinnati Enquirer article featuring GCB/CRC's new Director of Addiction Services, Gregg Pieples, discussing his role in working with the homeless in downtown Cincinnati.

4. Presentation by Brian Todd of Clark, Schaefer and Hackett: The Board's formal audit is completed through the County's annual audit. To assure that the Board has all necessary controls in place, the Board has used Clark, Schaefer and Hackett for many years to conduct "Agreed Upon Procedures" as an additional review of our financial operations. Brian Todd reported key factors that the Board should be reviewing to ensure compliance. Upon review of the internal controls and cash receipts, they found no discrepancies for 2014. The contract agencies' A133 reports were reviewed and there were no negative findings. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that LPS is not required to submit their A133 since their federal funding is under the required \$500,000 mark. Receivables were down for 2014, more than likely due to budget cuts. There was a reduction in debt stemming from the sale of the Wasserman building, which led to a \$270,000.00 loss versus a potential \$470,000.00 loss without the sale of the property. Mr. Todd mentioned that the review was very "clean" and that Joyce Rain and her staff do an excellent job maintaining the accounting processes.
5. Karen Scherra presented highlights from her Executive Director's Report. She discussed the OACBHA Executive Committee conference call on January 8, 2015 to discuss approaches for the Association relative to the upcoming state budget. The state budget is due to be released in early February and it is anticipated that behavioral health funding will be decreased again this year. Karen Scherra also advised the Board members that a Southwest Collaborative meeting will be held on January 21, 2015 to review potential properties and proposals from Talbert House for recovery housing and to discuss the financial feasibility of a Crisis Stabilization Unit. Referrals from Municipal Court to Sojourner, the agency with which the Board contracted in Butler County for primarily residential services, have not worked as anticipated. Despite Sojourner's promise of available capacity, Municipal Court has had difficulties accessing beds. However, Common Pleas Court reports that they have been successful in having two probationers admitted, and three other probationers are currently pending admission. Karen also advised the Board that the Interact for Health opioid prevention grant

proposal for school-based drug prevention programming is to be submitted by January 14, 2015. We will be submitting a grant proposal in collaboration with CRC and the Drug Free Coalition.

6. Finance Committee: Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that State funding runs on a Fiscal Year, which ends in June. However, the County budget runs on a calendar year. Annually, the Board must submit a calendar year budget to the County, which is the basis for our allocations and payment of expenses by the County Auditor's Office. Since the calendar year contains one-half of two fiscal years, some of the calendar year budget is a "guesstimate" of our funding for next fiscal year. The Finance Committee discussed the county budget in more detail and recommended approval. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Board's Calendar Year 2015 County Budget as submitted to the County Commissioners. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Gail Padilla)

Karen Scherra discussed the offer from the Fire Chief of the use of a building in Felicity so that the Board would provide services related to the heroin epidemic in that area. The Board would be responsible for paying only for utilities and any needed insurance costs. Karen advised the Board that we would not provide treatment services initially, but prevention services and support groups. Other agencies such as Hope Community Center and our FAST TRAC grant might also use the building for group meetings and activities. Finance Committee supported the idea. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to authorize the Executive Director to move forward and develop a proposal (costs and lease agreement) for use of the donated facility to resubmit to the Board of Directors for approval. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Molly Greer).

7. Action Items: Karen requested that the February 9, 2015 Board meeting be rescheduled to 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the scheduled presentation by the CEO of the Board Association, Cheri Walters, on ROSC. The Finance Committee meeting would also be moved to 5:00 p.m. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to move the February Finance Committee and Board meetings back an hour to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm respectively. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).
8. Discussion Items: Karen Scherra further detailed the recent Columbus Dispatch newspaper article focused on state funding and recovery housing. The article discussed the Mid-Biennial Budget Review (MBR) mandates for all County behavioral health systems to have a full continuum of care in place. The article stated that all but six (6) counties have, or are working on implementing, the mandate for Recovery Housing. Clermont County was included in the list of counties without Recovery Housing. The article recently was also emailed to constituents throughout the State in OMHAS' bi-monthly newsletter. The article stated that the deadline for counties to have the full continuum of care in place is September 2016. After reading the news article and the OMHAS newsletter, Karen Scherra wrote a letter to the OMHAS Director, Tracy Plouck. The letter explained that Clermont County has been working on developing recovery housing through the Collaborative funding/project with our partners the Warren/Clinton and Brown County Boards. While Clermont will not have recovery

housing located in our County, we will have access to the service in the other two Board areas where the housing will be located. Director Plouck responded to Karen's letter with a letter explaining that she did not "out" the 6 counties; she also requested a follow-up phone call with Karen. On the conference call, Director Plouck expressed her understanding of Karen's concern, and stated that OMHAS had not given the information to the Columbus paper, and that a deadline for completion of the continuum of care mandate had not been released or discussed with the boards yet. Karen Scherra asked Director Plouck if the mandate included a requirement that recovery housing must be actually located in each county. The Director did not answer this question. The mandate for recovery housing and the other services to be included is still not clear. Director Plouck asked if Karen Scherra would like her to write a letter to our Board of Directors or attend a Board meeting to explain the misleading nature of the article; Board members did not feel that it was necessary for Director Plouck to do either. During the discussion with Director Plouck, Karen Scherra also discussed the difficulty of working in a collaborative with other counties that have different needs, different providers and different approaches. Karen Scherra also expressed the difficulty associated with spending funds for a particular mandated item when other services desperately need funding. During the phone conference, Director Plouck also mentioned that a Clermont County resident recently wrote a letter to the Governor articulating Clermont's need for additional behavioral health funding to address our County's heroin epidemic. He is a retired state trooper who attended our Town Hall meeting in Goshen.

Children's Protective Services (CPS) approached the Board and CRC regarding the possibility of providing substance abuse assessments to parents who lose custody due to drug issues as soon as the case is identified. In August, CPS initiated a state program called "Alternative Response" which provides options to avoid immediately removing children from their parents. This program is working so well that CPS Deputy Director Tim Dick is examining all other cases, many of which are unsuccessful in reuniting children with their parents, that he wants to try something different to hopefully get better outcomes. Adding the ability to conduct assessments early in the process with a CRC staff person located at CPS to do assessments at the CPS office or at the parents' home should increase the likelihood of getting into treatment, successfully completing treatment, and regaining custody. Karen Scherra proposed utilizing collaborative monies to support this program and the OMHAS Director approved the request. Board collaborative funding will be used until June 30<sup>th</sup>, with CPS taking responsibility for funding for the remainder of the year assuming the program is worth continuing.

The contract with Talbert House to operate the County's CASC Program, the only one in the state, was not renewed in August, but extended for six months. The Commissioners decided to let that contract end, as the program was not having the expected results and a revision in the scope of the project was needed. As such, the County Commissioners recently released a Request for Proposal (RFP) which will be available during the third week of January; proposals must then be submitted by February 5<sup>th</sup>. GCB/CRC will be submitting a proposal.

The Interact for Health prevention grant application is to be submitted by noon on January 14, 2015. All Board members completed a conflict waiver at the meeting citing whether they have

a conflict of interest related to the Interact for Health Board of Directors and/or Officers. Each member in attendance at the meeting completed the questionnaire and the members that were not in attendance will be contacted outside of the meeting. Lee Ann Watson discussed the details of the prevention grant application. The grant will provide funding to train staff, including Clermont County Sheriff's Office Deputies and Union Township Police Department Officers, as well as CRC prevention staff, and to purchase LifeSkills Training materials. LifeSkills Training is an evidence-based practice that provides prevention activities for grades 3-12. The plan is to initially implement it in West Clermont and Batavia school districts, and then to expand to other school districts after the first two years of the grant.

Karen Scherra suggested that the Board Retreat, which is usually held in March, be scheduled for March 28, 2015. She also recommended that if the retreat were held at the end of March, we replace the April 2015 Board meeting with the Program Committee Meeting. Board members discussed possible dates and decided to coordinate the retreat date by e-mail to ensure the largest attendance as possible, as there were some conflicts with the 28<sup>th</sup> date noted.


9. Agency Directors' Reports: Amy Foley with HOPE Community Center reported that new classes started in January and will run for an 8 week session. The three (3) Peer Support Specialists who completed the Peer Support training and passed the testing in November are ready to begin teaching, and the Community Center is looking for ways to utilize their services in the community. Amy Foley also discussed the increased marketing of HOPE; HOPE is now on Twitter and Facebook. Amy Foley also recently met with the local hospital to discuss their utilization of HOPE.

Laura Stith with CFI reported that the two grants that were funded in December resulted in an increase in staffing, and that CFI will be providing MDFT for Juvenile Court youth/families.

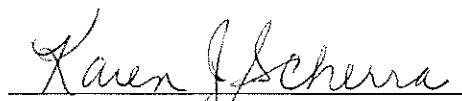
Sara Huron with NAMI Southwest Ohio was present and advised that the merger between the Hamilton, Clermont and Warren County NAMI affiliates is final and the new NAMI of Southwest Ohio will continue to support Clermont County activities. Sara also advised that the merged NAMI has a new website – [www.namiswoh.org](http://www.namiswoh.org).

Jeff O'Neil with GCB advised that as of January 1, 2015, GCB began a data infusion to gain a more detailed insight on client care. He also brought to the meeting Gregg Pieples, who is the new Director of Addiction Services at GCB/CRC.

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



Wayne Johnson, Secretary



Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director