

The Wasserman Building  
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### MINUTES of July 20, 2015

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andrea Bryant, Suzy Carter, Karen Conrad, Greg Cotrill, Dorothy Glancy, Molly Greer, Wayne Johnson, Angela Liggett, Scott Wheeler

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Richard Chaney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jim Carter, Amy Foley, Sandy Lock, Laura Stith

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

1. One action item, NHO pay back of property lien, was added to the agenda under Discussion Items. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the agenda as revised (Motion-Molly Greer, second-Greg Cotrill).
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Minutes from the meeting on June 8, 2015. (Motion-Molly Greer, second-Greg Cotrill).
3. Review Materials/Correspondence: In the Miscellaneous folder, Karen Scherra referenced the program from the recent Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) annual dinner on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Karen Scherra received an award for her support of children's mental health. Karen also brought attention to the County Commissioners' resolution, which was confirmed last Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, for placement of the Board's levy on the November ballot. Karen also discussed the impact of Medicaid on addiction services and the proposed marijuana legislation.

Karen Scherra brought attention to several items in the Correspondence folder. She highlighted a letter sent by Board Chairperson Angela Liggett to the County Commissioners regarding the critical nature of the Board's current financial situation and the urgent need for the Board to be included on the November ballot. Karen also highlighted a letter from NAMI Ohio to the state legislature advocating for OMHAS to retain the SFY2015 funding level in the SFY 2016-2017 state budget. Karen Scherra also pointed out two additional letters. One letter was from representatives of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), who copied OMHAS Director Tracy Plouck on the correspondence, and the other letter from Karen herself; both letters were sent to Governor John Kasich advocating the need for recovery housing and requesting the omission of the language as presented in H.B. 64 as it will negatively impact recovery housing. Advocacy efforts worked;

the Governor did line item veto the language requiring public hearings and resolutions of support by the County Commissioners before boards could develop recovery housing.

The Newspaper folder contained, yet again, quite a few articles regarding the marijuana initiative in Ohio as well as the impact of heroin addiction. It has yet to be seen if the marijuana initiative will have the required number of appropriate signatures for the issue to be placed on the November ballot.

4. Karen Scherra presented highlights from her Executive Director's Report. Karen pointed out that the state has increased our threshold for usage of the state hospital to 2 civil and 6 forensic beds. Currently, we have zero civil clients in Summit Behavioral Health.

Moving forward, Karen Scherra brought attention to two meetings that occurred within the past month. Scott Gehring, the Director of Sojourner, met with Karen Scherra on June 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the residential services they provided to Municipal and Common Pleas Court referrals in FY2015, payment for clients still in treatment, and the new FY2016 contract. Karen Scherra pointed out that during the meeting, Scott Gehring discussed his possible plan to build two AOD residential facilities in Clermont County (one for males and one for females) with minimal financial support from the Board and/or other County entities. Karen Scherra will be meeting with Mr. Gehring in the future along with stakeholders to hear specifics about the proposal. Karen also advised that First Step women's residential treatment also wants to come to Clermont County and is currently looking at property; however, they are looking for funding from the Board. It may be a real possibility that we could get residential treatment in our county.

Karen Scherra also relayed to the group that Steve Rabolt, the County Administrator, met with Lee Ann Watson, our Associate Director, to discuss the Board providing training for county employees in "de-escalation skills". Karen Scherra stated that, as a result of our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and other interactions, the County is seeing the Board as a resource for providing important training to county employees.

Karen Scherra pointed out that she was recently in North Carolina attending NACo meetings and Ed Humphrey, County Commissioner, was there representing our county. Karen Scherra met with Commissioner Humphrey after she heard a presentation regarding a national initiative, "Stepping Up," involving diversion of individuals with a mental illness from jail. Karen was also able to introduce Commissioner Humphrey to the NACo staff person heading up the initiative. Karen Scherra advised that Commissioner Humphrey is interested in hearing more about the initiative and that in coming months, NACo will sponsor a conference and provide funding for programs, and we plan to be involved in both.

5. Committee Reports: Scott Wheeler updated the group on the Finance Committee Meeting and the discussions surrounding Levy funding and the proposal to use Board funds in the maximum amount of \$30,000.00 to allocate to the levy campaign. Scott Wheeler explained to the Board members that the Board is the only entity that is legally permitted to utilize current

levy funding to promote the levy campaign. Scott Wheeler also indicated that the funding allocated for the levy campaign will be offset by various fundraisers such as a walk being held in October and selling of "Recovery is Beautiful" t-shirts. Joyce Rain also mentioned that there is roughly \$1,000.00 remaining from the last levy campaign in the account to allocate towards this one. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the use of Board levy funds, up to a maximum of \$30,000, for use in the upcoming levy campaign for the renewal plus .25 increase in the current .5 mil levy to be on the November 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. (Motion-Scott Wheeler, Second-Greg Cotrill).

Scott Wheeler also relayed to the group that Board staff has been making changes to the payment parameters for GOSH Claims/Contract Standards for FY2016 and that with our current decreasing finances, and state funding likely to continue to decrease, the Board is interested in proposing stricter standards and more limitations on who is considered a "Board client". Karen Scherra stated that she has researched what other Board areas are currently doing, and many Board areas are limiting the number of "Board clients" or the clients for which services are funded by the Board. Karen Scherra will be meeting with the agencies to determine how the proposed changes will impact them as well as obtain their feedback. There may be a fiscal impact for the agencies. Once all information has been gathered and the amendments finalized, Karen Scherra will bring these items to the Finance Committee for approval and will then bring them to the Board for final approval, hopefully in September 2016, with the goal of implementation in January 2017 or possibly even July 2017. Implementation will depend on whether the levy passes. Karen Scherra advised that if the levy passes, we may have the financial ability to wait longer; however, if it should fail we will need to implement the changes sooner.

And lastly, Scott Wheeler advised the group that the Board currently has a lien on a property from a grant from the Board towards purchase of an apartment building in Piccadilly Square about 15 years ago by a Warren County Housing Provider, NHO. The intent of the apartment building was to house young adults with a severe and persistent mental illness. However, the program never succeeded and now the area around the apartment complex has declined. The apartment building has been vacant for a long time (according to the NHO Director, which was inaccurate according to a couple Board members), and NHO has recently received an offer on the property. Scott Boone, Director of NHO, contacted Karen Scherra requesting that the Board entertain the possibility of waiving the \$80,000 lien that is owed to the Board in accordance with the terms of the contract. Scott Wheeler proposed that if NHO sells the property and, in turn, makes a profit on the sale, that the Board request a return of a portion of the lien, if not all of the lien. There was discussion on this issue, with Greg Cotrill stating that we are not in a financial position to waive balances owed to the Board and that before he is able to make a decision on this, he would like more information as to the value of the property and why the Board should waive the funds owed. Members agreed with this and requested that Karen gather additional information and present that information at the next meeting.

6. Action Items: Karen Scherra explained the possible issue we may have with the IDAT funds for FY 2015 and going forward. At the end of each fiscal year, CRC reports the amount of

services provided to clients who meet the IDAT funds criteria. This number historically has always been much higher than the amount in the MOU with Municipal Court. However, CRC is reporting only about \$35,000 in services provided in FY2015. CRC is in the process of verifying this report, but thinks that the decrease in billed services may be due to the number of clients now on Medicaid and they are investigating further to ensure that no cases were missed or errors made. This means that if the \$35,000 figure is correct, the Board would only receive \$35,000 from the Court's IDAT funds for FY 2015, instead of the \$125,000 for which we contracted. Karen further explained that Municipal Court is permitted to claim a surplus and, once claimed, we could in turn use the additional funds for any sort of treatment. Karen asked that the Board approve the FY2016 MOU for IDAT Funds and the MOU with Sojourner at this time, pending responses from CRC as well as the Court.

Karen Scherra presented the FY 2016 MOU with Sojourner in Butler County for residential services for alcohol/drug clients and the FY 2016 MOU with Municipal Court regarding IDAT funds and residential services. Karen Scherra relayed to the group that IDAT funds were increased to \$150,000 in FY16 and that Municipal Court then added an additional \$35,000 toward IDAT eligible services and asked the Board to maintain the agreement with Sojourner in FY16 at that amount. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with Clermont County Municipal Court regarding increased Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) funds for FY2016 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board (pending final confirmation from the Municipal Court judges). (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Suzy Carter).

In return, the Board has agreed to put its funds toward the MOU with Sojourner to pay up to \$35,000 for residential services for clients referred by Municipal Court. A subsequent motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2016 MOU with Sojourner in Butler County for residential services for alcohol/drug clients and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board (pending final confirmation from the Municipal Court judges). (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Molly Greer).

7. Karen Scherra also presented the FY 2016 Purchase of Service (POS) Contracts with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, Clermont Recovery Center, Child Focus, Inc., and Hope Community Center. Karen Scherra provided the Board with a copy of the CRC POS contract as an example in the Board mailing and stated that copies of the other POS contracts were available upon request. Karen Scherra also noted the amounts in each agency's contract – CFI \$1,755,749; GCB \$1,341,761; CRC \$1,801,644; and HCC \$84,400. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Purchase of Service (POS) contracts with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, Clermont Recovery Center, Child Focus, Inc., and Hope Community Center for FY16 and to authorize the Executive Director and the Board Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Scott Wheeler).
8. Karen Scherra presented the revisions to the Contract Standards. Karen Scherra provided the Board with a copy of the Contract Standards for review, highlighting the suggested revisions for the upcoming fiscal year, which include areas such as billing codes, clearer definitions of

key items, addition of Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC), clarification of the special needs requests process, requirements for adult residential care placement, requirements for admissions to state hospitals, trauma informed care policies and principals, as well as a updated mobile crisis protocol. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Board Contract Standards revisions as presented. (Motion-Molly Greer, second-Suzy Carter).

9. Karen Scherra also presented on the FY 2016 OMHAS Assurances. Karen provided the Board with a copy of the Assurances, explaining that the OMHAS Assurances must be approved by the Board annually. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2016 OMHAS Assurances as presented, and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Assurances on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Suzy Carter, second-Molly Greer).
10. Karen Scherra advised the group that in past years, the August Board Meeting has been cancelled due to vacation schedules and asked whether the board members would like to cancel the meeting for this year. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the cancellation of the August 10, 2015 Board meeting. (Motion-Suzy Carter, second-Greg Cotrill).
11. Discussion Items: Karen Scherra relayed to the group that Board Member, Andrea Bryant, is not leaving the Board, as previously advised. She will continue her tenure with the Board at this time.

In terms of the state budget, Karen Scherra shared with Board members that Board Directors recently had a conference call with OMHAS Director Tracy Plouck. OMHAS was cut about \$30 million in funding for FY16. The cut was passed onto the boards differently than expected; the Hotspot Collaborative funding and Central Pharmacy were cut. We received less of a funding cut than first anticipated, since the allocations were distributed based on county population and not the former formula, which is more lucrative for Clermont due to our still growing population.. The funding cut for Clermont was less than \$100,000. During the call with OHMAS, Director Plouck stated that the funding cuts shouldn't be of grave concern since Boards don't need to pay for clinical services with Medicaid expansion. Karen Scherra feels that this is a warning for the future in reference to state funding to boards for clinical services paid by Medicaid and insurance.

With regard to language in the state budget bill, the requirement that Boards must hold a public hearing and get approval from the County Commissioners prior to opening a Recovery House/Sober Living Facility was vetoed by the Governor. The veto occurred after much advocacy by the Board Association and many Board Directors. The state budget bill did contain language that Boards will have a role as Ombudsman for all behavioral health clients regardless of the payor source, including Medicaid. This will allow Boards to advocate for behavioral health clients as Medicaid switches to managed care.

In terms of the upcoming levy, Karen Scherra and the Directors from the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCDD), Children's Protective Services (CPS), and Clermont Senior Services were asked to present once again to the County Commissioners. The second presentation occurred since CCDD decided that they wanted to request placement on the ballot this November. CCDD requested that two (2) of their four (4) "continuing" levies be placed on the ballot this November as replacements, with an additional Continuing levy to be placed on the ballot next year. One continuing levy was replaced a few years ago. Karen Scherra presented to the Commissioners on behalf of the Board. She explained the urgency of the Board being on the ballot in November, as well as the need to request an increase. The Commissioners decided to make the decision as to who would be on the ballot in November during the presentation. Commissioner Humphrey wanted to allow all three levies on the ballot in November. Commissioner Proud disagreed, advising that three issues was too many at one time, and stating that CPS and the Board should be on in November, with CCDD waiting until March. After much discussion, Commissioner Uible agreed with Commissioner Proud and they decided that CPS and the Board would be on the November ballot. The Commissioners are to certify the levies this week. Karen also relayed that there was an article already published recently in *The Sun* about our levy, and Kathleen Williams, the county's public relations coordinator, will be sharing articles for both levies. Karen Scherra believes that the county voters will support the campaign. Karen Scherra also shared that the idea was raised at a recent Opiate Task Force meeting to hold a "Recovery Walk" in October and the group seemed very supportive. The walk will be tied to an event in Washington the same day. Karen Scherra also mentioned that we will have a "Recovery Is Beautiful" video for the levy campaign that was developed through the Opiate Task Force; the video will be modified to add information about the levy.

Karen Scherra recently met with Judy Eschman, Director of the Department of Job and Family Services, and asked if CPS wanted to work collaboratively with the levy campaigns and she agreed. A joint levy kickoff event will be held sometime in September in the DJFS parking lot. Currently, we are working on handouts for our booth at the fair. A lot of levy promotional items will not yet be printed as we are awaiting our issue number. In the meantime, Board staff will be creating a Levy Committee and will be asking who on the Board of Directors and from the contract agencies would like to be involved. Karen Scherra advised that at least two representatives from each agency will be needed on the Committee. She also stressed that the committee will need to get moving on decisions about the levy as quickly as possible. The Committee will meet as often as is necessary, more than likely a couple of times in the beginning stages and then as needed as Election Day gets closer. Board staff is currently working on setting up a sign-up system for people who will be working the polls.

Karen Scherra shared with Board members that OMHAS has finally provided a timeline for the continuum of care requirements. However, there are still no definitions regarding the required services. Further, OMHAS has not addressed the issue of whether continuum of care services will be required to be provided in the Board's area.

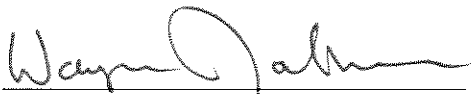
Melissa Burke discussed the upcoming Clermont County Fair. The fair occurs the last week of July. Melissa Burke stated that there was still a need for a few volunteers to staff the Board's booth. The materials for the fair have been ordered. The Board will have a banner with a removable strip about "supporting the levy". The banner will be hung at the fairgrounds stadium. Melissa Burke stated she has the fair passes available.

12. Agency Directors' Reports:

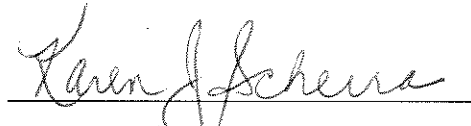
Amy Foley with HOPE Community Center (HCC) reported that HOPE was closed the last week in July in order to clean the center. The attendance for the month was 146. Amy Foley also advised that there was a recent article published in *The Enquirer* as well as *The Community Press* concerning the services provided by HOPE. Amy Foley was interviewed for the article.

Jim Carter presented for Child Focus, Inc. (CFI). She relayed to the group that CFI held the Encourage the Heart Dinner in July. At the event, eight people were honored, including Karen Scherra, for their help in providing CFI with a strong foundation over the past years. Laura Stith also updated the Board on their psychiatrist shortage.

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



Wayne Johnson, Secretary



Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director