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### MINUTES of June 15, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Carrie Brown, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Carole Cottrill, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Patty Lawrence, Geoff Schwerzler, Greg Varner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Laura Esslinger, Erica Koe-Krompecher

**MEMBERS UNEXCUSED:** Katie Shepherd

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESENT:** Richard Chaney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Tammy Brewer, Alicia Fine, Patty Hassel, Pamela Lindeman, Heather Smith

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

1. The meeting was conducted on video conference via Zoom due to the State of Ohio “Shelter at Home” order and the changes in the Open Meetings regulations due to the coronavirus. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed the Board members and the meeting proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the June 15, 2020 Board meeting. (Motion-Carole Cottrill, second-Dorothy Glancy).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 Board of Directors’ meeting with the correction of adding Board member’s name Kelley Costello under the section “Members Excused”. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Carole Cottrill).
4. Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared a few highlights from her report. Under the state hospital update, Karen said there was a breakout of COVID-19 cases at the state hospital in Columbus, Twin Valley, last month and it was closed for any new admissions. Board staff are provided information daily on any COVID-19 cases at the state hospitals, both staff and clients, as well as the number who tested negative for COVID-19. Since the time that Karen submitted her Executive Director’s Report, another state hospital in northern Ohio reported COVID-19 cases.

Under the OACBHA (Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities) section, Karen stated that the OACBHA staff have been incredibly valuable and supportive in assisting with issues related to COVID-19. Karen also added that attached to her report was the

OACBHA statement on racism. Karen helped, along with others, to write the statement and the entire membership voted on accepting it and releasing it last Friday. Pamela Lindeman of Child Focus Inc. (CFI) asked Karen if she could get a copy of the statement. Karen said she would get that to her.

Under OMHAS (Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services), Karen said she, Lee Ann Watson, and Erica Pursley have participated in all the OMHAS conference calls and virtual meetings to try to keep up with all the issues.

Karen also participates in all the calls related to federal SOR funding. OMHAS has indicated that there will be additional SOR funding that will begin in October 2020 (the current funding ends 9/30). According to OMHAS, there will be more SOR funding in FFY21 than last year, but it is still not clear how those funds can be utilized. Tom Egle, the County Administrator, has contacted Karen several times to inquire about the status of these funds, as the bulk of them support the CASC program.

Under Ohio Legislation, Karen said the Ohio General Assembly has begun its summer recess.

5. Financial Update: Erica Pursley, Board Fiscal Officer, provided a financial update. The Board has received 100% of its allocations from OMHAS. Board staff is working on getting year-end invoices processed as soon as possible. Contract agencies have been given until July 31<sup>st</sup> to submit all FY2020 invoices, since carryover requests from the Board must be submitted to OMHAS by August 15. Erica said currently, FY2021 funding is unknown, including State/Federal allocations as well as grant funding. OMHAS expects to have the numbers sometime in July.

Erica also informed the Board that the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) has decided not to renew its \$30,000 shared funding contract with the Board in FY2021. Karen Scherra requested a reason for the change and said she has yet to receive a response as to why DJFS does not wish to renew the contract.

Karen also added that once the FY2021 funding amount is received, Board staff will only have two weeks to finish the 040 Budget Report that is required by the state. The 040 is the Board's official budget.

Board member Patty Lawrence asked if the agencies had requested increased funding to address client service needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lee Ann Watson said that was a perfect segway into her section of the meeting.

6. Clinical Services Update: Lee Ann Watson, Board Associate Director, provided an update on clinical services. Lee Ann said the contract agencies are seeing a steady flow of clients needing services, but not the substantial increase that was anticipated for the pandemic. However, Lee Ann said that Clermont Recovery Center (CRC) and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) are seeing an increase in the complexity of client needs, with many clients reporting homelessness and difficulty finding housing.

Lee Ann said all of the contract agencies have obtained and are using personal protective equipment (PPE) for all staff and clients that are seen in the office. The Board and agencies are continuing to obtain additional PPE such as facemasks and gloves, but sanitizing wipes have been harder to obtain. Additional PPE will continue to be needed since clients will need to wear masks when they are seen in person. This is particularly true of services that are continuing to see clients in person such as crisis services, care management in the community, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

All the contract agencies are open and providing client services, with the exception of Hope Community Center (HCC), which closed back in March and continues to stay closed due to its Director being on medical leave. HCC is still providing outreach to its members via phone. The treatment agencies are all utilizing telehealth services for a majority of their clients. In-person services, including intakes, are available for those who request it. A majority of clients at all the agencies prefer to continue with telehealth, and CFI reported that 85% of their clients prefer telehealth. Lee Ann reported that the clients across the system of care are adjusting well to telehealth and treatment sessions are beginning to reach the same length of in-person sessions.

Approximately 20% of the Crisis Hotline calls are related to COVID-19 related concerns, which is a decrease from the previous two months. The Hotline did not see a substantial increase in calls as a result of recent protesting. However, CFI reports that they are seeing an increase in anxiety among their clients as a result of COVID-19 as well as the protests. The Mobile Crisis Team runs are still below normal but are slowly starting to increase.

At CRC, the Quick Response Team (QRT) resumed face-to-face outreach as of June 1. Outreach to individuals at Mercy Hospital has also resumed face-to-face contact. Adolescents are still being seen in person to minimize confidentiality concerns. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is still operating and CRC has even done some mobile MAT treatment for high risk individuals. While CRC has not seen an increase in referrals, there has been an increase in clients following through with assessments and engaging in treatment.

At GCB, mobile outreach for clients in need of injections and medication is being utilized. GCB is reporting no change in referrals numbers or intakes.

Board member Patty Lawrence asked if there were any problems with clients not having the internet and telehealth. Karen Scherra said those clients without internet have been able to receive services via the telephone. Lee Ann Watson added that clients are also able to come into the provider's office and do a video treatment session.

Pamela Lindeman of CFI said her agency was able to go remote within 4-5 days of the start of pandemic. As of May 18, CFI is back to having face-to-face contact with clients and staff and clients are increasingly using more PPE, especially masks. Karen Scherra said the Board is expecting another shipment of masks and told Pamela she would make sure CFI received some of them. Board member Jacki Block added that her company is producing masks and hand sanitizer with one day delivery and that she will get CFI and the Board some pricing for the items.

7. Action Items: The first action item was the FY2021 addenda to the FY2020 Purchase of Service (POS) Contracts with GCB, CRC, CFI, and HCC to extend the contracts for the 1st Quarter of FY2021. As was discussed at the April Board meeting, due to the uncertainty of the state and federal funding for FY2021 as well as the impact that COVID-19 has had on service delivery and costs, the Board agreed to extend the FY2020 Purchase of Service (POS) Contracts with GCB, CRC, CFI, and HCC for the 1st Quarter of FY2021. This decision provides financial stability to the Board's contract provider agencies and allows for sufficient time to develop funding levels for FY2021 once OMHAS provides the allocations for FY2021. The intent is to have the FY2021 POS contracts for the adjusted period of 10/1/20-6/30/21 before the Board for approval at the September Board meeting. Once Board staff receive the funding information, Board staff will meet with the provider agencies to discuss any changes to current funding that may need to be implemented, such as cuts if funding is reduced, redirection of funds due to service delivery alterations because of the coronavirus pandemic, or identified needs to address the new environment in which services will be provided. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the extension of the FY 2020 Purchase of Service Contracts with GCB, CRC, CFI, and HCC for three (3) months and to authorize the Board Chairperson and Executive Director to sign the contracts on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Carole Cottrill).

The second action item was the addendum to the FY 2020 agreement with NAMI of Southwest Ohio to extend the Letter of Agreement through the 1st Quarter of FY2021. Each year the Board enters into an agreement with NAMI of Southwest Ohio to support the activities the agency undertakes on behalf of Clermont County families impacted by the mental illness of a family member. The agreement briefly describes the relationship between the Board and NAMI and the activities it will provide. As was decided for the contract agencies, it is being recommended to the Board to extend the FY2020 agreement with NAMI for the 1st quarter of FY2021. The amount of the funds to be provided to NAMI for this period (7/1/20-9/30/20) is \$7,500. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the extension of the FY2020 Agreement with NAMI of Southwest Ohio for three (3) months and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Carrie Brown).

The third action item was the SFY2021 OMHAS Agreement and Assurances. Annually, each Board is required by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) to sign an Agreement and Assurances document and to provide required information as noted in the Agreement and Assurances by set dates. The Agreement and Assurances and additional documentation are required for the SAPT Block Grant, other state, and federal grants, and to meet other state statutory requirements. The signed Assurances also must be entered into the state's GFMS system so that the Board can receive its allocations for FY2021. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2021 OMHAS Agreement and Assurances as presented and to authorize the Board Chairperson and Executive Director to sign on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Kelley Costello).

The fourth action item was the FY2021 Agreement with Children's Hospital. The Board maintains an agreement for inpatient psychiatric services for children/adolescents with Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. The Board is requesting that the Hospital's per diem cost remain the same as the previous years. The Board currently pays the Hospital a \$900.76 per diem rate that is all inclusive for room and board, ancillary services, and physician services, only for those children with no third-party coverage. Considering the small number of children without Medicaid or insurance who are hospitalized at Board cost – and in the last several fiscal years there have been none – it is very cost-effective to maintain this contract. This agreement is critical since Children's Hospital is the only option in the region for children who are in need of inpatient psychiatric care.

The agreement remains unchanged from previous years. If Children's Hospital requests an increase in the per diem, considering the importance of this contract and the fact that we rarely pay for any hospitalizations, Karen Scherra requested that the Board approve the contract at the current rate, but also allow her to accept an increase in the per diem if Children's Hospital requests such. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the agreement with Children's Hospital for psychiatric inpatient services to children/adolescents for FY2021 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board and to increase the per diem if requested by Children's Hospital. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Jacki Block).

The fifth action item was the FY2021 Agreement with Family and Children First/DJFS for Parent Support Partners'(PSP) Services from HCC. The Board took over the funding for Parent Support Partners (PSP) provided by staff of Families Connected a couple years ago, and as of June 30, 2019, Hope Community Center (HCC) became the agency overseeing parent peer services due to the retirement of the Director of Families Connected, Jean Houston.

Since the Board is now paying for PSPs, their services are available to families involved in the system, i.e., Child Focus, and for the ENGAGE grant project, currently providing crisis services to youth/families involved with Juvenile Court.

Beginning with the SAMHSA System of Care grant that the Board had from 2009-2014, the PSPs provided services to families involved with wraparound, which is managed by Family and Children First (FCF). In the past, the Board paid for these services, but with the expansion of PSP services, last year the FCF Council agreed to reimburse the Board for the services provided to wraparound families. Based on the budget for PSP services, now housed at HCC, DJFS, the Administrative Agent for FCF, determined a unit rate they were comfortable paying for the services for FY2021. The PSP staff will complete a spreadsheet to collect the necessary information for the Board to bill FCF monthly for the services provided.

The Board provides the full amount of funding to HCC for their operations. The funds from FCF will come to the Board and offset the costs of providing the PSP services to FCF Wraparound families. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2021 Agreement with FCF/DJFS for PSP Services at Hope Community Center and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Kelley Costello).

The sixth action item was the FY2021 Agreement with Brown County Care Center. The agreement with Brown County Care Center for FY2021 is the same as last year's agreement. The per diem rate also remains the same as the past 2 years, \$70/day. Several years ago, the

Board added language to the contract related to the client's resources, stressing that the Board is the payer of last resort for these services. Similar language was also added to the Contract Standards. The contract is considered critical as there are currently five Clermont County residents at Brown County Care Center. Adult residential care is a needed component of our system of care since some individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness are not able to live independently in the community and require 24/7 supervision. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2021 agreement with Brown County Care Center, adult residential care provider, and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Carole Cottrill, second-Kelley Costello).

The seventh action item was the FY2021 Agreement with Alternative Living Solutions, Inc. for Mellon Meadows Care Center Inc. and Peebles Place Care Center, Inc. Mellon Ridge, located in Goshen, and the other facility operated by Alternative Living Solutions, Inc., Peebles in Adams County, have been an integral part of residential services for many years and are essential in maintaining low hospital utilization for adults and a continuum of care for individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness.

The proposed agreement with Alternative Living Solutions, Inc. for Mellon Meadows (which houses 4 Clermont residents) and Peebles (which houses 2 Clermont residents) is the same as the last several fiscal years. The per diem will remain \$79/day for Mellon Meadows and \$65/day for Peebles. The Board added language two years ago related to the client's resources, stressing that the Board is the payer of last resort for these services. Similar language was also added to the Contract Standards. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2021 agreement with Alternative Living Solutions, Inc., adult residential care provider, and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Carrie Brown, second-Jacki Block).

The eighth action item was the FY2021 Agreement with Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board for the PATH Program. OMHAS has again provided funds for the PATH program that serves homeless individuals with a suspected mental illness. The Clermont Board and the Hamilton County MHRS Board share the cost of the program across the two Counties, thereby increasing the availability of staffing in Clermont County. The OMHAS funds go to the Hamilton County MHRS Board, which then passes on the funds directly to GCB, the agency providing the PATH program services in both counties. The Clermont Board must enter into an MOU with the Hamilton County MHRS Board and also provide match funds (\$11, 624) for the program, which is detailed in the MOU. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY2021 MOU with the Hamilton County MHRS Board for the PATH outreach program to homeless individuals as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Carrie Brown).

The ninth and final action item was the appointment of FY2021 Health Officers and Chief Clinical Officers. It is necessary for the Board to officially approve the designation of Health Officers and Chief Clinical Officers (CCO) each fiscal year.

Health Officers are responsible for approving admission of Clermont County residents to the state hospital and admission of clients to local hospitals for involuntary psychiatric inpatient services. The resolutions stating the names of the Health Officers, as well as the resumes of new additions, for Child Focus, GCB, and Mercy Hospital Clermont for FY2021 was presented.

The appointments of Health Officers from GCB, CFI and Mercy are for the period 7/01/20 – 6/30/21. The appointment automatically terminates if the staff member leaves the agency.

The Board has historically not had a Chief Clinical Officer on staff or under contract to the Board but has designated an appropriate staff member at Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services as the adult services CCO and at Child Focus as the children's services CCO. Dr. Laura Stith, CFI Chief Clinical Director, remains as the designated CCO for children/adolescent services. Dr. Katherine Schmidt, Associate Medical Director, is the GCB psychiatrist designated as the CCO for adult services. The resolution designating the two CCOs was presented.

The staff selected as Health Officers and CCOs meet all necessary credentials and training for appointment. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2021 Adult and Children's CCOs and to approve the FY 2021 Health Officers for GCB, CFI, and Mercy Hospital Clermont as presented. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Patty Lawrence).

Before moving on to the next section of the meeting, Karen Scherra discussed the annual MOU between the Board and Family and Children First (FCF). Each year the Board contributes \$25,000 to FCF as a provision toward FCF's services to adults, children, and their families. Karen advised the Board of Directors that this year she has again agreed to contribute \$25,000 to FCF as long as the Board's financial situation allows it.

8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Levy. Karen Scherra advised the Board that she will be making a presentation on June 24<sup>th</sup> to the Clermont Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to request that the Board's levy renewal be added to the November ballot. Karen is in the process of compiling a Power Point for the presentation.

Karen also said there are seven other Boards in Ohio with levies on the November ballot and OACBHA has formed a committee to offer support to each of the Board areas. Butler and Franklin counties have offered to allow their hired levy consultants to participate in a group call with the eight Boards, as the other six Boards do not have levy consultants. Franklin County also plans to share information from its levy survey of county residents that was recently completed. Karen said OACBHA has also offered to help the Boards as much as possible with their levy campaigns.

Karen said once she gets approval from the BCC to be on the ballot, she plans to meet with Board member and Levy Campaign Manager, Patty Lawrence, to discuss the next steps for the levy campaign. Karen will also invite a logo designer to the July Board meeting to discuss changing the Board's logo before getting started on printing campaign materials. The Board levy will be a renewal of the current .75mil. In closing, Patty Lawrence added that she would like to be on the call with the Butler and Franklin counties' levy consultants.

The second discussion item was the Impact of COVID-19. Karen Scherra said she is pleased at how our system of care came together to continue to provide services and address the needs of our County residents despite many barriers associated with COVID-19. Karen also mentioned that OACBHA developed a 'thank you video' from all the Boards to their providers. Karen will assure that the Board members and the agency providers see the video.

Karen is serving on an OACBHA committee that is developing an all-hazard plan to address future crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan will address what was helpful and what was not helpful during the pandemic. One of the “lessons learned” is that state funding needs to be more flexible in a time of a crisis and the Ohio laws need to reflect that state funding can be modified in response to an emergency.

Karen said she is also concerned that there will be a surge in people needing services due to possible relapses from the effects of the pandemic.

The third discussion item was Recovery House Expansion. Karen Scherra said there are two families who have experienced a loss of a loved one to addiction and have partnered to open two new recovery houses in Clermont County. The families have agreed to allow GCB to manage and oversee the operations at the houses. Karen said the Board is in the process of trying to obtain approval from OMHAS to request capital funding to support the new recovery house projects. Alicia Fine of GCB said the families are deeply invested in Clermont County and that she is very hopeful for the success of the project.

The fourth discussion item was the Articles in the Board mailing. The first article Karen Scherra discussed was related to a new synthetic opiate that may have contributed to a significant surge in Cincinnati area overdoses. Another article reported on the expectation of suicide and addiction death rates to climb. The expected increase is based on a study on the effects of social isolation.

There was an article that discussed the \$2.5 billion shortfall expected in Ohio’s budget next fiscal year. Governor DeWine has already made deep budget cuts to education, but so far has announced no behavioral health cuts. Governor DeWine has made it clear that he is very aware of the anticipated increase in the need for mental health and addiction services. Karen stated that federal funding is not easily available and gave the example of a recent FEMA grant application that the Boards worked on with our providers for submission to OMHAS. The funding for the FEMA grant opportunity was first stated to be \$2 million, but by the time the grant was awarded it was only \$450,000, which was then divided among eight Boards which were most significantly impacted by the pandemic.

9. Agency Reports: Heather Smith of NAMI said her report was emailed to Board staff that afternoon and stands. Karen Scherra said NAMI’s report will be part of the Board mailing for July. Heather added that NAMI hosted a virtual interactive workshop called “Coping with COVID”. The program was developed for parents to cope with anxiety in children due to the pandemic. The workshop featured a local psychologist with expertise in parenting and anxiety disorders. Heather said NAMI has held the workshop twice and it was very well received. NAMI plans to have another one before schools starts.

Alicia Fine of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) said her report stands. Alicia added that GCB staff have decided to do the summer prevention camps that are offered each year via Zoom. Alicia also provided the Board members with information regarding the newly awarded SAMHSA grant that will assist with GCB developing into a certified community mental health center. The grant award was \$4 million for two (2) years and will ramp up the crisis services provided as well as accessibility of all services. GCB is one of only two organizations in Ohio that received the grant. Alicia closed by thanking Lee Ann Watson and Karen Scherra for the Board’s efforts in helping the agencies locate PPE supplies.



Pamela Lindeman of Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) said her report stands. Pamela had some other updates to share as well. Pamela said that because CFI implemented a telehealth system back in 2013, the agency was able to expand that system and have its entire staff working remotely within five days of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, CFI's mobile crisis team has remained at the frontline in the jail and the community.

CFI was able to maintain connectivity with clients throughout the stay-at-home order and Pamela thanked the Board for helping with brainstorming connectivity ideas with CFI. Pamela said CFI spent \$50,000 to provide the technology for all staff to work remotely. A while ago, Karen Scherra informed CFI about a \$200,000 grant being offered to agencies expanding their telehealth services due to COVID-19. Pamela said the transition was smooth and clients were able to remotely continue receiving services.

Pamela also provided some stats on some of CFI's accomplishments since mid-March when the pandemic broke out:

35,000 people received resources, news, or training from CFI.

13,000 people received Mental Health services via HIPAA-secure telehealth services.

1,400 meals delivered by CFI.


1,154 pre-school activity packs distributed.

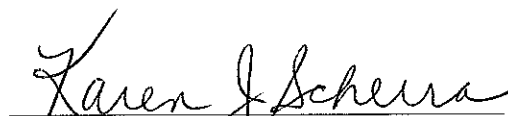
697 crisis call answered.

Wasserman day treatment program has been able to transition to a virtual/remote platform.

Pamela closed by saying CFI was one of eight agencies in the state recognized by the Ohio Council as a standout mental health provider. CFI's telehealth client satisfaction rate is at 80%.

10. Comments from Public Attendees: There were no public attendees at the June 15, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting.
11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the June 15, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Kelley Costello).

  
Karen Conrad, Chairperson

  
Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director