

The Wasserman Building
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MINUTES of March 7, 2015

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Andrea Bryant, Ken Spurlock (extended sick leave)

GUESTS PRESENT: None

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

1. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to add Action Item #5: Interact for Health grant contract to the Agenda. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Molly Greer).
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Minutes from February 9, 2015. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Molly Greer).
3. Review Materials/Correspondence: Karen Scherra highlighted several items in the folders. In the Miscellaneous folder was an article outlining the community health rankings for all states. Karen pointed out that Ohio is 47th and Kentucky is 48th in ranking. Also, within the folder was SAMHSA's five point plan to improve the nation's mental health system. Karen highlighted that the article lists five (5) steps that America could take to immediately improve the existing mental health system and help ensure the delivery of effective, high quality, evidence-based care for all Americans with mental illnesses; included in the five point plan was the need for increased funding for substance abuse and mental health services. Karen also brought attention to the other items within the folder such as a flyer for FAST TRAC's Family Fun Day & Music Festival scheduled for May 9, 2015 to celebrate Children's Mental Health Month, and the most recent newsletter from GCBHS. Angela Liggett asked as to whether the newsletter was currently online and Karen confirmed that it is online as well. Karen also mentioned that the U.S. Senate recently hired Michael P. Botticelli as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Mr. Botticelli has an extensive qualifying background for the role and is the first known director who is in long term recovery from a substance use disorder (26 years of sobriety).

In the Newspaper folder, a majority of the articles were related to addiction. Kristin Rover is a reporter for the *Clermont Sun* and is writing a 4-part series on heroin addiction and its impact

(10) grow centers in Ohio. Three (3) of the grow sites would be located in the Cincinnati area; with one of the sites located in Clermont County and others in Hamilton and Butler counties. The last article that Karen pointed out outlines the critical shortage of psychiatric hospital beds in Ohio, written by Hannah Poturalski from *The Journal News*. Ms. Poturalski pointed out that “in addition to Medicaid expansion, 6.8 million uninsured people with a mental illness are gaining new healthcare coverage under the health care law”. The article also mentions that there are six (6) psychiatric hospitals across Ohio, with 1,065 beds available at the state hospitals, which run at 90% capacity.

4. Karen Scherra presented highlights from her Executive Director’s Report. She noted that February 2015 was the lowest month for our utilization of the state hospital this year. Karen provided an update on the OACBHA conference call which was held on February 19th to discuss additional information relating to the state budget. OACBHA staff initially heard that Representative Sprague was interested in changing the funding formula for distribution to the Boards, and that OMHAS Director Plouck was also in support of a change. However, on the conference call, Karen learned that Director Plouck was NOT interested in addressing the 421 allocation process. Representative Sprague, however, still wants to review the Board allocations and possibly offer an alternate means for distribution. This issue could be problematic as we move forward in the budgeting process, as Clermont County is one of the boards viewed as over funded by the state based on our allocation per population. The state looks only at state funding, and does not take into account levy funds.

On February 25th, the OACBHA Hospital Services Workgroup met for the first time since September 2014. Karen indicated that there were some very good discussions with the OMHAS Director and staff and that the Boards’ points of view were well articulated and listened to by the OMHAS staff. One issue raised was that the Boards receive a daily spreadsheet of the number of clients in each state hospital and the number of available beds. However, the reports from our local hospital, Summit Behavioral Health, never truly reflect “real time” bed availability, since many double rooms are used for just one client (for clinical reasons) and other rooms are being “held” for transfers from correctional institutions or hospitals. Liz Banks, Summit CEO, offered to add to the data report the true number of open beds for both civil and forensic clients and for both male and female clients as well. This information began to be delivered on the daily report on the next business day, which is very helpful for the Southwest boards. It was also decided that OMHAS will start getting involved in helping address the lack of inpatient psychiatric hospitalization beds for children. The committee will be meeting more frequently going forward to work on the issues raised before the start of the next fiscal year.

Karen also confirmed for the Board that we were awarded the Opioid Prevention Grant from Interact for Health in the amount of \$48,650. The funding will be for a 24-month period in order to conduct universal prevention activities in Clermont County. Karen indicated that we are looking for every source of money for prevention, and that this should be a great grant!

Karen also relayed that the Administrator for the Village of Moscow contacted the Board, as the entity running the Clermont County Opiate Task Force, and asked that key members come to a meeting to educate Moscow residents on how to address the Opiate epidemic. Karen Scherra, Lee Ann Watson, Mary Wolff (Director for the Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County), members of SOLACE, several of the "River Rats" group from New Richmond, and a representative from Adams Recovery Center presented to approximately 12 Moscow residents. This presentation was sparked by four (4) overdoses in the Village of Moscow in a two week period of time. Karen and Lee Ann headed the presentation, which lasted 2 ½ hours. Karen indicated the Board continues to learn more from various communities about how hard they are being hit by the opiate epidemic. Moscow is a very small community and very tight knit, thus it is often difficult for neighbors to come forward to report information occurring in the town. Lee Ann pointed out that a representative from Franklin Township asked the Board to also do a presentation on the opiate epidemic; thus, word is getting out and people are looking to the Board as a resource for information more and more.

Karen Scherra also mentioned that at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's (CJCC) last meeting she learned that the jail was 100 people over the maximum. A lot is riding on reopening the CASC program. It appears that CRC is going to get the contract for CASC. The County Commissioner's office recently contacted Karen regarding a grant from the McArthur Foundation that the County believes could be used to fund the CASC program. CRC and GCB are still uncertain of the ability to bill Medicaid for the services provided in the CASC program. CRC is looking for someone to confirm that they are able to bill Medicaid for services at CASC. The County cannot afford the CASC program if there is no additional funding for services. Everything is on hold at this time until the Medicaid issue is rectified. If the County is able to get the McArthur Foundation grant, Karen believes that it will be of great benefit to the County, by allowing for additional services that we want to provide but currently can't due to funding. Karen also highlighted that through a League of Women Voters (LWV) member who heard her recent presentation, she was invited to the annual policy meeting of the local Farm Bureau to discuss the opiate epidemic.

Karen also attended the County Management Roundtable Discussion on February 27th, in which she viewed a presentation by the Clermont County Coroner, Dr. Brian Treon. The presentation was excellent. Karen spoke with him after the presentation, and he agreed to send her his powerpoint slides that contain detailed historical data about the growth in the accidental drug overdose deaths in our county. Dr. Treon also offered to be part of future Town Hall meetings or presentations on the opiate epidemic. He is completely on board with helping tackle this issue.

6. Action Items: Karen presented to the group the DJFS Fox Run contract extension. The contract provides for residential treatment services for children who are in the care or custody of Children's Protective Services (CPS). The basic contract has been approved by the Board; however the contract needs to be extended. CPS is asking for a three (3) month extension of the contract at the same rate in order to maintain an ongoing contract until the new IV-E rates are established and a new one (1) year contract can be approved. Karen stated that no funding

will be attached to the contract extension since the extension is a formality to assure coordination across systems. Karen reminded the group that we do not have children's residential facilities in this county; thus, if residential treatment is needed; clients are moved to facilities that best fit their needs. These facilities are located throughout the state. Karen discussed that the use of residential treatment is increasing, despite efforts (through FAST TRAC and FCF) to keep that number as low as possible. Board Member Gail Padilla questioned why the increase in services was occurring. Karen advised that Judge Shriver believes that this is the best care that we have currently for children and that he is the final decision maker for children involved with Juvenile Court. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the DJFS Fox Run contract extension. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Molly Greer).

Karen Scherra raised the issue of staff raises with the Board members. Karen advised that the Commissioners met on February 11, 2015 and agreed to give County staff a raise of 2.35% retroactive to December 22, 2014. Karen reminded the Board members that staff raises were discussed at a previous Board meeting. Karen relayed that for the past twelve (12) years the Board has given raises to Board staff only when the County gives raises. Karen confirmed that the funds are in the budget to provide the staff raises. Board Member Suzy Carter asked if raises are based on performance. Karen Scherra stated that raises for Board staff have not been based on performance when they are given at the time the County provides them and at a small percentage. Karen also pointed out that Board staff has only had four (4) raises in the past twelve (12) years. Joyce outlined that \$4,286 is the full cost associated with the raises for the Board staff. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to allow the Executive Director to grant raises for all eligible Board staff members at the same rate as approved by the County Commissioners retroactive to the December 22, 2014 pay period for FY 2015. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Scott Wheeler).

Scott Wheeler suggested a raise for the Executive Director. The Chair indicated that such a discussion needs to occur in Executive Session. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, for the Board members to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. (Motion-Molly Greer, second-Scott Wheeler).

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to end Executive Session and return to the Board meeting. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Karen Conrad).

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to provide the Executive Director with a raise at the same percentage as the Board staff, also retroactive to December 22, 2014. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Scott Wheeler).

Karen Scherra asked the Board Members to review the FY 2015 Health Officer Designations for Child Focus, Inc. It is necessary every fiscal year, and whenever there are new staff members, for the Board to approve Health Officers at our contract agencies. There is now an additional Child Focus, Inc. staff person who needs to be designated as a Health Officer for FY 2015. Karen pointed out that the Child Focus staff person has been trained and meets all credentials for appointment. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the

revised FY 2015 Health Officer Designations for Child Focus. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Scott Wheeler).

Karen Scherra presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with Hamilton County MHRS Board for FY 2015 in order to solidify and confirm our relationship with the Hamilton County Board regarding detox services at the Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment (CCAT) for Clermont County residents. Collaborative 507 funding will be used to pay for the detox services at CCAT. We have been unable to enter into a direct contract with CCAT, along with several other Southwest boards. However, a few Clermont County residents have presented at CCAT for detox services and were admitted, and Hamilton County was billed for those services. We are providing some of our Collaborative funds to the Hamilton County board to pay for these services. Karen recommended that the Board enter into this agreement as she is sure that detox will be one of the services included on the OMHAS Continuum of Care in SFY16. Board Member Gail Padilla asked if we will be billed at the same rate as Hamilton County clients and Karen confirmed same. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with the Hamilton County MHRS Board for FY 2015. (Motion-Wayne Johnson, second-Scott Wheeler).

Karen Scherra confirmed that the Board was awarded the Interact for Health Opiate Prevention Grant. However, Joyce Rain pointed out that the amount of the award is different than what was initially applied for. Karen will investigate the reason for the difference before she agrees to sign the agreement. Lee Ann Watson pointed out that the primary intent of the grant is to train instructors to deliver the evidence based practice "LifeSkills Training". Materials for instructors and the students will also be purchased with grant funding. Initially, LifeSkills Training will be provided to three (3) school districts within Clermont County and then hopefully will be implemented in other schools. The Board will be partnering with the Sheriff's Department and the Union Township Police Department to provide officers to become certified LifeSkills Training instructors. The training focuses on skill building and confidence building for grades 3-12. Starting drug prevention activities at an early age has shown to provide better outcomes. Increased prevention activities in the schools are needed. Karen Scherra pointed out that the youngest person reported using heroin in Clermont County is 11 years of age, and that children believe that cigarettes are much worse than marijuana, according to local surveys. Angela relayed that if you look at the average, we are 6.7% higher than the state average for prescription medication abuse. As soon as we were approved for the grant, we received a call from Interact for Health concerning an additional grant for funding for this program. Board Member Wayne Johnson noted that there are no salary line items in the grant budget; Lee Ann confirmed that the salaries are provided as in kind. The plan is to start with Batavia, West Clermont and possibly New Richmond school districts. Lee Ann further clarified that the LifeSkills Training will be offered at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Karen advised that two of the women who attended the League of Women's Voters (LMV) recent presentation were teachers and asked to volunteer for this program. Angela Liggett, Board Chair, pointed out that there is very little if any drug prevention programming in schools at this point. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to

approve the Interact for Health Contract once the financial piece of the grant is clarified. (Motion- Scott Wheeler, second-Dorothy Glancy).

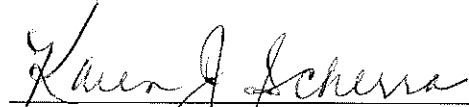
7. Discussion Items: Karen Scherra discussed the possibilities for the Board being on the ballot in November 2015. Karen will meet with the County Commissioners on April 6, 2015 and asked the Board for a recommendation as to what the Board request should be. Based on the state budget, decreased tax income of our current levy, and increased service need, Karen recommended requesting an increase in our current levy. After discussion, the Board members agreed that Karen should request a renewal with a .25% increase. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to request a levy renewal with a 25% increase from the County Commissioners (Motion-Scott Wheeler, second-Wayne Johnson).

Karen Scherra discussed current issues occurring at CRC. Recently, the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Physician, Dr Marc Whitsett, resigned. Dr. Whitsett will be the Medical Director at Northland. A recent bill based by the legislature has resulted in limitations in the number of prescriptions of Suboxone a physician can write per month. Currently, that limit translates into CRC only being allowed 44 clients to be prescribed medications for MAT. The legislation stated that it was not the intent to decrease the number of clients that can be treated in MAT. For now, CRC is not able to place new clients on Suboxone and clients are being placed on a waiting list. Individuals on the waiting list are being offered Vivitrol. CRC is working with several state associations and others to fix this problem.

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



Wayne Johnson, Secretary



Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director