



2337 Clermont Center Drive • Batavia, Ohio 45103  
TELEPHONE: (513) 732-5400 FAX: (513) 732-5414 TTY: 1-800-750-0750  
WEBSITE: [www.ccmhrb.org](http://www.ccmhrb.org) CRISIS HOTLINE: (513) 528-SAVE (7283)

### MINUTES of March 24, 2018

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jacki Block, Suzy Carter, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Carole Cottrill, Dorothy Glancy, Peggy Hickman, John Kelly, Katie Shepard, Greg Varner

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Andy Bateman, Angela Liggett

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESENT:** Richard Chaney

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

1. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed everyone, and the meeting then proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the March 24, 2018 Board meeting. (Motion-Carole Cottrill, second-Greg Varner).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the February 12, 2018 meeting minutes. (Motion-John Kelly, second-Peggy Hickman).
4. Review Materials/Correspondence Folders: Executive Director Karen Scherra brought everyone's attention to the folders being passed around and specifically mentioned a few of the items from each. From the State/Federal Information and Reports folder, Karen pointed out a report on drug abuse trends in Ohio that shows the availability of Meth, Heroin, and Fentanyl is up in almost every County. Karen also mentioned a report on each State's "well-being". Karen said the report shows that Ohio is ranked 44<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states due to the high rates of: opioid use/misuse, operating a vehicle while intoxicated (OVI), suicide, and obesity in the state.

In the State/Federal Articles folder, Karen pointed out that there were many articles discussing the proposal that Medicaid recipients be required to work. Although there is discussion of exemptions for disability and SUD treatment, it is unclear if all clients in our system would be exempted under the rules developed.

From the Adult Mental Health folder, Karen mentioned articles that linked gun violence with mental illness, furthering the stigma that individuals with a mental illness are violent. Board Chairperson Karen Conrad brought up the recent school shooting in Florida and how this

time, teens across the country are actively banding together to confront the government about gun control. Ms. Conrad stated that she believes that today's teens are a politically engaged generation and they will not back down until something changes. Karen Scherra further pointed out several articles regarding President Trump's idea on how to deal with the school shootings. In the wake of the deadly school shooting in Parkland, FL, President Trump urged states to consider reviving mental institutions that he called "asylums", citing his belief that mental health played a role in the shooting. "We have to confront the issue and we have to discuss mental health and we have to do something about it," the President said before a group of governors assembled at the White House last week. Unfortunately, the language used in discussing the issue was stigmatizing.

Karen also mentioned a few articles from the Local Issues/Articles folder. One article announced Tom Eigel as the new Clermont County Administrator. Karen said she was happy about the Commissioners' decision, as she has a good working relationship with Mr. Eigel. Karen also pointed out several articles on the opening of the syringe exchange van in Clermont County. Karen praised the Public Health Department for all their hard work and efforts to make the program a reality. Karen stated that there are Recovery Coaches readily available to talk with syringe exchangers who express the desire to seek treatment. Board member Greg Varner, who works for the Hamilton County Health District, explained that the Clermont and Hamilton County Public Health Departments partnered to start the program in Clermont County. The day in Clermont is one of five of the permanent exchange sites. Mr. Varner went on to add that the syringe exchange program has been wildly successful, citing that within the first two months in Cincinnati, there were 60,000 needles exchanged. Karen told the Board she would share the statistics on the Clermont exchange program once they were available. Karen then moved on to mention another article about the recent flooding in Clermont County. Karen said she was glad when she was contacted by the County Emergency Management System to assure there would be behavioral health staff available if needed during the flood. Behavioral health staff were ready to respond, but the need did not arise. On a side note, Karen said one of the contract agencies, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, did put some of their clients up in a motel until the flooding subsided. The Board provided special needs funding to assist with the cost of the hotel.

From the Heroin/Opiates folder, Karen pointed out that there were several articles dealing with overdose death statistics for 2017 and that 14 states are down in the numbers, although Ohio is not one of them. Unfortunately, Hamilton County had an increase in OD deaths for 2017, but Karen said while the numbers are not finalized, it appears that Clermont County's OD deaths were down in 2017. Some of the decrease could be attributed to efforts in the County with Narcan and connecting people with treatment, but part of the reason for the decrease in OD deaths may be the move to Meth as a drug of choice. Associate Director Lee Ann Watson pointed out that Clermont is doing a good job in diverting the sale of drugs in Clermont, but over 10% of the overdoses in Hamilton County are Clermont residents.

5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra shared some highlights from her monthly report. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Karen attended the OACBHA Membership meeting.

Leading up to the meeting, Karen said there had been a lot of concern with the role of boards after Managed Care for Medicaid is in place. However, Karen learned at the meeting that there will be language in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) that specifically spells out what the Boards' role and responsibilities will be in working with managed care. The ORC will state that Boards have a role in advocacy and client rights among other responsibilities.

Karen also told the Board of a new bill that has passed in Ohio that she will be keeping an eye on to see how it could affect the behavioral health system. It is a bill that makes permanent the annual 3-day period where there is no sales tax on school related items. Karen's concern is the rider attached to the bill that gives educational service centers the ability to run a tax levy to support school safety, security, and mental health. Karen feels this may cause confusion if the Clermont County Educational Service Center decides to try a tax levy since many residents may confuse it with our mental health levy or vote one down thinking they are for the same service. On a side note, Board member Kelley Costello said the ability for educational service centers to run a mental health levy could increase the ability for children with autism to receive mental health services. Karen concluded the conversation about the levy rider saying that she would discuss the matter with the Clermont County Educational Service Center Superintendent Jeff Weir.

Karen pointed out another article regarding whether Kentucky lawmakers should impose a new tax on opioid prescriptions. Instead of lawmakers allocating the new revenue obtained through taxing prescriptions to addiction treatment and education programs, the Kentucky plan, if enacted, would direct the money to fill budget gaps elsewhere, including boosting funding for the state's public schools.

Karen further pointed out that she attended the ENGAGE Committee meeting on March 19th. OMHAS received a System of Care grant from SAMHSA and selected two (2) regions of the state to receive the funding, including the Southwest region. These grant funds are supposed to be used to provide Mobile Crisis/Parent Peer Support response to youth/families in crisis. The Southwest group has been meeting monthly but has still not developed a plan for the funds. During discussion at the meeting with consultants from OMHAS, the program detailed in the grant proposal recently submitted to Department of Youth Services could serve as a pilot program for the region. The Board did not receive the grant but may now receive funding through the ENGAGE program. The project involves working with youth/families involved with Juvenile Court by a Mobile Crisis responder in partnership with a Parent Support Partner conducting a detailed assessment to help the Juvenile Court Judge determine the best course of action for the youth and support for the family. Karen said she will be meeting with Judge Shriver at Juvenile Court in a few weeks to discuss this possibility.

Moving on, Karen said the second session of the Lean Sigma Six process was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The session went very well, and the group developed short term and long-term goals to address all intercepts in the Sequential Intercept model. One of the most important goals for the County is to develop a crisis stabilization center/drop off triage center for first responders to take individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis, rather than jail or when hospitalization is not appropriate. Other areas for focus include improving communication

between treatment and the Court/probation, the formation of multi-disciplinary teams to address difficult cases, and better collection, use, and exchange of data. Committees will be formed to work on each of these areas.

Karen also discussed some recent state and federal legislation activities. At the federal level, the budget bill that Congress passed earlier in the week lowered the proposed amount of \$6 billion set aside for the opioid battle to \$4 billion. At the state level, Governor Kasich mentioned briefly in his state of the state address that he was putting \$20 million toward supporting mental health programs for young people. Karen said she will be closely watching what happens with the Governor's plan. Governor Kasich's also announced a new \$112 million facility to be built to replace the current Twin Valley Behavioral Health Hospital in Columbus, which was built in 1977. The state psychiatric hospital is the busiest in Ohio and one of the oldest. The new hospital will aim to better serve its growing population of younger patients.

Karen wrapped up her report highlights by opening the floor to Lee Ann Watson to discuss the Collective Impact Grant. Lee Ann said the OMHAS grant was received at the beginning of 2018 with the aim of funding the development of logic models to help our community join with the same mission, vision and goals to address the opioid crisis. Lee Ann said it is a way for communities to work together as a team and decrease duplication of efforts. Lee Ann also said she and Karen are attending the National Collective Impact conference, paid for by the grant, in early April to learn more about the model. Lee Ann said that forming central goals based on data will make it easier for the Board to get other grants as well.

6. Action Items: The first action item was the MOU with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) for a VISTA worker. Karen Scherra said last year, the Board Association (OACBHA) learned of a grant opportunity to have VISTA workers placed at Boards to assist with local efforts around the opioid epidemic. OACBHA applied and received the three-year grant and, in February, received official approval from the Corporation for National and Community Service to move forward with the statewide project. Clermont was one of about twenty Boards to agree to participate. Through the program, Clermont will get a full time VISTA worker for each of the next three years, starting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The worker will be of minimum cost to the Board, since the individual's salary is already covered through the grant. The Board's cost would only be for some mileage and travel as well as attendance for the VISTA worker at state conferences. Erica Pursley said staff had just submitted the required job description for the worker to OACBHA. Erica said the draw for the candidates is not only paid wages, but also tuition reimbursement and payment for relocation if needed. The VISTA worker opportunity is not age group specific and staff said it would be nice to see a person in recovery get the position. Karen said there is a Memorandum of Understanding that needs to be signed by all project Host Sites. To meet OACBHA deadlines, Karen already provided a signed copy to them. It was approved as to form by the Prosecutor's Office. By policy, the Board must approve all contracts, so Karen recommended that the Board give a formal approval for the MOU. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with OACBHA for the VISTA worker and to

authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Carole Cottrill, second-Dorothy Glancy).

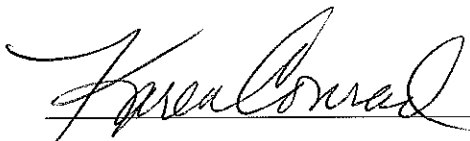
The second action item was the donation of Board-owned property at the 1088 Wasserman Way campus to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health (GCB). Karen explained that years ago, her predecessor had purchased the property in front of what is now Clermont Recovery Center (CRC) for the potential of expanding the driveway and parking lot at that campus. In the past few years, the property has created problems and expenses for the Board due to falling trees and damage to adjacent non-Board owned property. Karen added that it no longer seems practical for the Board to own the property since we have no use for the land. GCB is unlikely buy the property since they did not want to spend the money on it in 2010 when CRC bought the property. Therefore, Karen recommended to the Board that they approve the donation of the land to GCB. Cindy Knoblauch informed the Board of the Auditor's valuation of the property as \$44,800, and Erica Pursley showed the Board an aerial view of the land. The Board decided they wanted Board staff to explore other options, such as selling the property before agreeing to donate the land to GCB. The discussion was tabled for future decision. Board staff will contact the business that has adjoining property to determine their interest in buying the land. Board staff will also talk with GCB about the property.

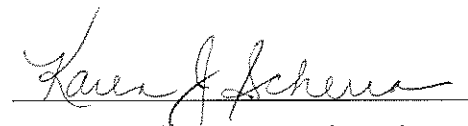
The third and final action item was to approve the rescheduling of the June Board meeting as recommended by Board staff. Karen said as has occurred in past years, the date of the June Board meeting conflicts with the OACBHA Opiate Conference, which is being held this year on Monday and Tuesday, June 11-12. The regular Board meeting date is June 11<sup>th</sup>. Both Lee Ann and Karen usually attend this conference, and a few Board members have also attended. This year, Karen is also presenting with GCB staff on the ASPIRE program at the conference. Karen recommended moving the Board meeting to one week later, June 18<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to reschedule the June 2018 Board meeting to June 18, 2018. (Motion-Suzy Carter, second-Peggy Hickman).

7. Discussion Items: The first item was the women's CASC program/21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES grant funding application. Karen said in order to receive the \$469,756 in 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES grant money, the grant proposal needs to be submitted by April 6, 2018. The problem that Karen is experiencing is that the actual contract for use of the money is between the County and GCB. The Board is only the grant applicant for the CURES funds. Additionally, the County is in the process of issuing the RFP for the operation of CASC when the current contract ends on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Because of this dynamic, the County has requested that Karen not mention GCB in the grant application as a receiver of the funds. The County also has asked Karen to find out if some of the grant funding can be used for services for the Men's CASC program, e.g. for MAT services. Karen will contact OMHAS to confirm that the CURES grant funding can be used in this matter. Karen said the good news is that the County is not holding the Board responsible for any shortcomings with the grant funding. Karen did advise the Board members that if the money from the CURES grant was not enough to fund CASC, the Board should consider funding specific services, such as the ASPRIE vocational program.

The second discussion item was the April Appreciation Week activities/presentations planned for those involved in fighting the opioid epidemic. Karen told the Board that “Appreciation Week” is an idea developed by the Governor to recognize and thank all the people and agencies involved in combatting the opioid epidemic. Karen advised the Board that the committee formed to implement appreciation week activities has come up with many ideas. Karen said some of the activities include a County Proclamation, appreciation certificates given to recognize people who have been involved, cookies delivered to first responders in the County, thank you cards with engraved flash drives containing information on self-care for first responders, thank you videos, and a celebration on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Opiate Task Force meeting with food, door prizes and recognition. The parties being acknowledged include: county departments, police officers, Fire/EMS, Clermont Mercy, Chamber of Commerce, Public Health, churches, SOLACE, Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont, contract agencies, recovery coaches, and many others. Karen also said that most of the April Board meeting will center around appreciation week activities with guest speakers and more recognition for our contract agencies. Appreciation week will be a great opportunity to focus on the positive results of Board and community efforts against opioid abuse.

8. Agency Director’s Reports: As there were no agencies present, all agency reports stand as is.
9. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the March 24, 2018 Board of Director’s meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Peggy Hickman).

  
Karen Conrad, Chairperson

  
Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director