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### MINUTES of March 9, 2020

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Carrie Brown, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Carole Cottrill, Laura Esslinger, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patty Lawrence, Geoff Schwerzler, Greg Varner
- MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Katie Shepard
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER EXCUSED:** Richard Chaney
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Heather Cokl, Melissa Cole, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Patty Hassel, Pamela Lindeman, Jeff O'Neil, Heather Smith
- STAFF PRESENT:** Cindy Knoblauch, Erica Pursley, Karen Scherra, Lee Ann Watson

1. 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 March 9, 2020 Board meeting with the following changes: 1.) Move the Finance Committee Report to the slot after the Executive Director's Report and before the Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services Presentation 2.) Add a discussion item #4 titled "Coronavirus Plan". (Motion-Carole Cottrill, second-Andy Bateman).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 Board of Director's meeting. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Geoff Schwerzler).
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.

In the Adult Mental Health folder, Karen said there were articles reporting on the sharp increase in active Airforce and Military Veteran suicides.

In the Local Issues/Articles folder, Karen pointed out an article advertising free Mental Health First Aid trainings at Clermont County libraries. The training educates the public on symptoms of common mental health disorders, helps citizens recognize the signs of a suicide or other mental health crisis, and provides information on local resources. Karen said for the past few years, the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board (CCMHRB) has awarded a mini-grant to the Clermont County Library to fund the program.

In the Correspondence folder, Karen highlighted a press release from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost imploring Ohio local governments to join the “One Ohio” movement by taking formal action to have all entities agree together how to distribute the opioid lawsuit settlement money. Karen saw one list of potential amounts to the various local governments in Ohio, and Clermont County was earmarked to receive \$17 million from the settlement.

In the State/Federal Issues/Articles folder, there were several articles of mention. A couple of the articles provided an update on current concerns around the Affordable Care Act and what may happen if it is overturned by the Supreme Court. There was also an article published in the Marion County newspaper, written by the Board’s Executive Director, that clearly explained the role of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Board (the legal name for Mental Health and Recovery Boards).

Karen also mentioned the article detailing the various social services levies throughout Ohio on the March 2020 Primary ballot. Karen pointed out that there was not one mental health levy on the ballot in March.

The final article mentioned entitled “What is Child Welfare?” contained some very good information on the collaboration of behavioral/mental health professionals and child welfare professionals.

In the Addiction folder, Karen said many of the articles focused on methamphetamines (meth) and psychosis and methods of medication treatment. On a side note, Karen mentioned that earlier that day, Associate Director Lee Ann Watson held the first community meeting to beginning planning for a response to address the uptick in meth. The committee first plans to focus on outreach to mothers with a stimulant use disorder.

The final item Karen mentioned was the handout on peer support which explained the definition and roles of a peer recovery supporter.

5. Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Karen Scherra presented a few highlights from her Executive Director’s report. Karen said Lee Ann Watson submitted the necessary paperwork to OACBHA on February 10 to once again attempt to hire an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer to assist with coordination of the Opiate Task Force and the County-wide summit being planned for October 2020. VISTA is a program similar to the Peace Corp, where individuals are hired as a federal civil volunteer at a minimum stipend to work on community related projects.

On 2/27, Julie Spohn from OMHAS conducted a Site Review of the CASC program which is funded through federal SOR grant funds. A small number of the SOR funded programs were selected for review in order for OMHAS to meet their SAMHSA grant requirements. After the Review, Julie shared with Karen that she were impressed not only with the programming, but also with the level of collaboration and commitment to CASC among the partner agencies. Participating in the Review were Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services/Clermont Recovery Center (GCB) staff, Municipal Court Probation staff, Commissioner Painter, County Administrator Tom Egle, and Karen. The group also made sure to reference the need for continued funding to support Clermont’s efforts, as the SOR funding ends 9/30/20.

There will be a meeting of the Board leads and ENGAGE Project Director on March 10. Besides the usual topics, the group will be discussing how to proceed with the recently

announced April 30th retirement of the Project Director. The grant does not end until September, 30 2021, so the group will need to hire someone for this role, which may be difficult as the new Director will have to step in towards the end of Year three of a four-year grant, with no plan for that position to continue once the grant terminates. The current Project Director has said she may be able to stay on as a consultant.

The Workforce Initiative Board's (WIB) Executive Committee met on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Karen plans to follow up with the committee to discuss the status of the DOL grant. The grant ends September 30, 2020, and Karen wants to be clear on expectations of the Board and GCB's ASPIRE program.

Under Federal activities, Karen mentioned that recently the Federal Government gave States the authority to use the federal State Opioid Response (SOR) grants to also address stimulant use disorders, such as cocaine and methamphetamine.

Another new development this week was from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The DEA has issued a proposed rule permitting the establishment of new mobile units to expand access to opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment with methadone. The proposal would revise the existing regulations for narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) to allow registered programs to dispense methadone remotely for OUD treatment.

Also, in a letter addressed to mental health commissioners across the country, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) clarified that Community Mental Health Services Block Grant funds can be used to care for individuals with serious mental illness who are justice-involved, including for treatment services provided during incarceration.

And finally, Karen reported that Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran says Ohio has no plan to take up an offer by President Donald Trump's administration that would give states greater flexibility in Medicaid spending in exchange for limits on how much the federal government contributes. Corcoran said she will not seek such block-grant funding, at least not now.

6. Committee Reports: Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee which met prior to the regular Board meeting.

The first item presented was the additional funding for the Linkage Project Expansion. The Board had previously approved the expansion of the Linkage Project for FY20. However, specific funding was not approved for the expansion because Board funding was not known in July, so an addendum to the POS contract with GCB was never executed. GCB will need an additional \$47,102 for FY20 to expand the Linkage Project to cover the one additional staff. GCB proposed a larger budget to expand the project, but the Board will not reimburse GCB for indirect or supervision expenses outside of grant funding. Lee Ann recently had a program meeting with GCB staff regarding the Linkage project and reviewed how the project could be more cost efficient. Lee Ann explained that the committee is discussing the possibility of changing the scope of the project. Currently, clients are screened when they enter the jail, and

much effort is taken to engage inmates prior to release in order to increase the chance that they will engage in needed services. Despite best efforts, approximately 30% of the inmates opened in services do not engage in community services due to being sentenced to prison or refusing follow-up with services after release from jail. Changing the focus of the staffing to when the inmate is being released will reduce the time being spent opening clients who may never make it into our system and help clients engage in services at the time of their release. Karen Scherra plans to discuss the proposed change in the timing of screening with jail leadership, pitching the idea as a way to reduce cost and recidivism. The Finance Committee supported the additional funding in the amount of \$47,102 for the expansion of the Linkage Project and recommends approval to the full Board. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the additional funds for the expansion of the jail Linkage Project in FY 2020 as presented. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Dorothy Glancy).

The next item was the FY 2020 overall agency budget update. Clermont Recovery Center (CRC) has utilized 61.94% of the FY20 contract through January billings. CRC is anticipating being close to the POS contracted budget amount for the year. Karen met with Alicia Fine from CRC to discuss reducing medication costs by applying the sliding fee scale to the medication costs of some MAT clients next year. There is also a possibility that Summit County's Board might share with Clermont and other counties some of the medications it received through the opioid lawsuit settlement.

GCBH has utilized 65.98% of the FY20 contract through January billings. Board Staff met with GCB staff on February 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss service trends for FY20. GCB is expecting to exceed the POS contract by an estimated \$300,000-\$400,000. GCB staff are looking at the areas with overages and will meet with Board staff before the retreat to discuss findings. Karen Scherra would like to schedule a Program Committee meeting with GCB in April so that the Board members can discuss service priorities.

CFI has utilized 57.93% of the FY20 contract through January billings. Board Staff met with CFI staff on March 4<sup>th</sup>. They are projecting an overage of \$100,000 all in school-based mental health services. Karen reminded the Board members that CFI requested additional funding for school-based mental health services for FY20. It was anticipated that the Board would be receiving additional prevention funding from the state of Ohio. Unfortunately, the Board did not receive the additional prevention dollars, as the funding was allocated to the school systems. The agency is strategizing on how to prevent any overages for FY20 and are reviewing how to continue to meet the need for school-based mental health services.

The third item was the FY 2019 agency overage reimbursement. Jacki reported that the Board has received the FY 19 overage reimbursements from the agencies.

The fourth item was the update on crisis infrastructure funding. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, OACBHA staff met with Director Criss and Alisia Clark and were told that the crisis infrastructure funds will likely not be available until the beginning of FY 2021. In addition, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued to access this funding, and eligible applicants will include not only Boards but providers and other social service agencies. Karen Scherra reminded the Board members that there was also the Flex Funding, which can be used for a wide variety of services and

programs. Karen said that funding, which is \$107,000, can be carried over to the next fiscal year. However, Boards have been advised to expend the funding during this year so as not to risk losing the funding in the future. Clermont plans to spend the Flex Funding this fiscal year.

The fifth item was grant updates. Jacki reported that Board staff are looking at applying for multiple grants. The first one is a Federal grant for suicide prevention that the Board will be applying for with Brown, Butler, Warren/Clinton, and Clark/Green/Madison Boards. OMHAS will not be applying and has pledged their support for the collaborative Boards. Judge Shriver has also agreed to applying for a grant for sequential mapping for the Juvenile Court system to identify flows and gaps in Clermont's system of providing services for youth involved with the Court.

Jacki said Board staff will also be working on two (2) Bureau of Justice Assistance grants. One grant will support the substance use disorder assessments and in-reach that is being provided in the jail through the Linkage project, and the second grant will be focused on funding Quick Response Team (QRT) programs.

Jacki also advised the Board that the Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition received a grant in the amount of \$7,400 from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to strengthen the coalition strategic planning. The funding will allow for key members of the Coalition to receive training on community assessment and strategic planning, as well as hosting a Countywide mental health summit.

And finally, Jacki said the Governor's office is offering \$40,000 to all Ohio counties for the expansion and enhancement of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and programs.

The final item was Board staff salary actions. As discussed at the January 14th meeting, the Clermont Board of County Commissioners' CY 2020 budget included appropriations for a 2.5% salary action for County employees effective January 1, 2020. The Finance Committee supported the salary actions for Board staff of 2.5% retroactive to January 1, 2020. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the salary action of a 2.5% raise for Board staff retroactive to January 1, 2020. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Carole Cottrill).

7. Presentation by Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) Staff: Melissa Cole, Team Lead of Clermont Recovery Center's (CRC a division of GCB) Prevention Team gave a presentation titled "An Overview of Alcohol, Tobacco, Problem Gambling, and Other Drug Prevention Services". The presentation consisted of a PowerPoint and other handouts that described the different types of prevention services and programs offered by CRC. A list of the services provided is attached to these minutes.
8. Action Items: The first and only action item was the MOU with the Ohio Bureau of Workman's Compensation (BWC) for the Substance Use Recovery Workplace Safety Program. Karen Scherra said CCMHRB has been selected to participate in the Substance Use Recovery Workplace Safety Program managed by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

This program began with just four (4) boards under the auspices of then Attorney General Mike DeWine. Now, Governor DeWine wants the program expanded to 14 additional boards under the auspices of Recovery Ohio. The purpose of the program is to lessen the impact of the substance use epidemic on Ohio's workforce by assisting Ohio employers to hire, manage and retain employees who are in recovery and to promote a safe and healthy workforce. This program aligns nicely with what Clermont already does with the ASPIRE program and the DOL grant for which the Workforce Investment Board contracted with the Board to fund the ASPIRE program to do outreach to find dislocated workers and to increase the number of businesses willing to employ individuals with a history of addiction and often criminal offenses.

The Board will receive funds that will be provided to businesses to reimburse them for the cost of drug screens of employees and for management training to support employees in recovery and to prevent industrial accidents and diseases. The counties participating will split the \$5 million in available funding. Boards will receive 3% in funding to cover administration costs.

Besides Clermont, the other Boards in Southwest Ohio that were selected for the program are Hamilton, Warren/Clinton, and Brown counties. Butler County was also contacted but at present is not interested in participating in the project.

To promote the program, the BWC will provide materials that can be shared with Clermont's community contacts and contract agencies. The Clermont Chamber of Commerce has also agreed to give a presentation to local businesses on the importance of supporting and hiring people in recovery in order to allow them to become active members of the community. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the MOU with Ohio BWC as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-John Kelly).

9. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) recommendations to "modernize" the Board System. Karen Scherra said OACBHA has received input from the Boards regarding their suggestions for improvements to the current Ohio County Board system. One recommendation requested the ability for a Board to provide prevention services rather than, or in addition to, contracting with providers. Currently, only provider agencies can provide prevention services. Another recommendation was for OMHAS to provide Board's with "base level funding amounts" to assure that mandated services are available in every County. OACBHA presented these ideas and concerns to the Governor and Ohio Legislature. OMHAS was also made aware of the input from Ohio Boards. Director Criss indicated that OMHAS is "working on them" and informed Boards that the issues raised are being handled internally by OMHAS staff. Boards expressed the need to be involved in resolving and modernizing the Ohio behavioral health system.

The second discussion item was the OACBHA Board Directors' Retreat. At the March 26-27<sup>th</sup> Retreat, one focus will be identifying the duties of County Boards that are vital to the behavioral health system, that are well managed, and are duties only performed by the Boards. OMHAS Director Lori Criss will be in attendance with several of her leadership staff to hear this discussion. Karen will discuss the retreat at the our retreat on March 28.

The third discussion item was the planning for the 2020 Clermont County Mental Health and

Recovery Board (CCMHRB) Retreat. Karen Scherra provided the Board members with an overview of the items that will be discussed at length at the CCMHRB Retreat on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Particularly, the retreat will include a discussion on agency overages and the clinical need for the increased level of services. Board staff will also provide Board members with information on the services provided by each agency and the funding amount provided by the Board. After the retreat, the agencies can present needs to the Board members at a program committee meeting in April. Board member Patty Lawrence suggested discussing the upcoming Board levy and the Board logo at the retreat. Karen said she has still not received permission to be on the ballot from the Board of County Commissioners but would update the Board on that matter at the retreat. Karen encouraged the Board members to think about any concerns or questions they may have between now and the retreat and to feel free to email those items to Board staff for the retreat agenda.

The fourth and final discussion item, which was added at the start of the meeting, was the Board's coronavirus plan. Karen Scherra informed the Board members that OMHAS Director Lori Criss recently provided Boards and providers with guidance regarding the coronavirus and access to services. The focus now is implementing the Department of Health's emergency management plan with emphasis on containing spread of the virus. There is a conference call scheduled on March 10 with OMHAS to discuss coordination with local health departments and other local partners and to identify how best to address behavioral health treatment access. Karen Scherra has been in contact with Clermont County Public Health Commissioner Julianne Nesbitt regarding the impact and preparedness plan for Clermont County. Public Health has been working overtime to be prepared for the impact in this community. Karen said during previous disaster situations, the Board has given her authority to make critical decisions, including financial decisions, in order to take swift actions to meet the needs of clients in Clermont County during crisis situations. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to give Karen Scherra the authorization to make decisions and to adopt a plan to address the coronavirus crisis in Clermont if the need arises. (Motion-Andy Bateman, second-Erica Koe-Krompecher).

10. Agency Directors' Reports: Heather Smith of NAMI said her report stands. Heather also thanked the Board for its support. Heather added that NAMI is making great strides with its support groups and is continuing presenting its "Ending the Silence" program to area schools.

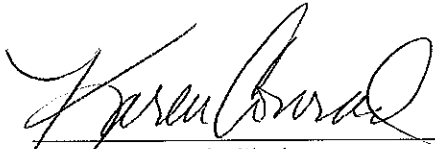
Pamela Lindeman of Child Focus Inc. (CFI) said her report stands. Pamela added that CFI has its CARF accreditation audit this week. Pamela also said that CFI has formed a rapid response team in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The team has tentative plans in place in case the need arises. Plans include educating the public on hygiene and prevention. CFI has contacted Cintas about sanitation stations at a low cost.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center passed out her report. Amy said her report stands. Amy added that Clermont Public Health staff will be visiting her agency to educate HCC on how to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and other illnesses.

Jeff O'Neil of GCB/CRC said his report stands. Jeff thanked the Board members for their

attention to the GCB/CRC presentation earlier in the meeting and advised that GCB will be presenting on additional services at future meetings. Jeff also said GCB/CRC's CARF audit went very well and the agency only received two recommendations. He also said the he learned at a recent State-level Managed Care meeting he attended that the number of Managed Care organizations may increase from five (5) to as many as 10 or 11. He said this could make the future of agency billing even more complicated.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the March 9, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Carole Cottrill).

  
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Karen Conrad, Chairperson

  
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Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director