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ENCLOSURE ONE

MINUTES of October 8, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacki Block, Suzy Carter, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Carole

Cottrill, Dorothy Glancy, Peggy Hickman, John Kelly

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Andy Bateman, Katie Shepard, Greg Varner

ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESENT: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT:

Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Steve Goldsberry, Jean

Houston, Jeff O'Neil, Julia Saldanha, Geoff Schwerzler, Laura

Stith

STAFF PRESENT:

Cindy Knoblauch, Erica Pursley, Karen Scherra

1. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed everyone, and the meeting began.

- 2. <u>A motion was made</u>, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the October 8, 2018 <u>Board meeting</u>. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-John Kelly).
- 3. <u>A motion was made</u>, and unanimously approved, <u>to approve the September 10, 2018 meeting minutes</u>. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, 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 Local Info/Reports folder, Karen mentioned the overview of the Clermont County TIP Team. The report stated that even with funding losses due to Behavioral Health Redesign, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health (GCB) has managed to expand the Clermont County TIP Team through Medicaid and the continued funding from the Board (CCMHRB). Karen said the Board's money has been well spent, as the number of clients able to be served has tripled since the SAMHSA grant ended. Also, in the folder was a flyer for Clermont Ohio Means Jobs; OMJ has recently moved to the Department of Job and Family Services Building.

In the <u>Youth Mental Health folder</u>, Karen Scherra said the articles mainly focused on suicide and bullying. Youth suicides are at a high in the U.S. There were also articles regarding the large numbers of children in foster care due to the opioid epidemic. Clermont County currently has 170 children in foster care, down from 370. Hamilton County's numbers are on the rise.

In the <u>Adult Mental Health folder</u>, Karen Scherra said many of the articles focused on suicide, specifically the sharp rise in suicides among police officers. There were also articles about the number of mass shootings happening across the country, including the recent one in Cincinnati.

Karen Scherra said the <u>Federal/State Issues/Articles folder</u> had information on State Issue 1, a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would change drug possession offenses to

misdemeanors and eliminate prison and jail time for most drug possession offenders. The folder also contained an article reporting that 32 states received a "failing grade" for equal access to mental health and addiction treatment 10 years after a federal parity law was passed.

In the <u>Heroin/Opiate/Addiction folder</u>, Karen Scherra said there were several articles reporting that heroin is giving way to the more dangerous fentanyl, which is also giving way to methamphetamine. There were also articles that reported vaping marijuana is becoming increasingly popular and is not less dangerous than traditional marijuana consumption.

5. Executive Director's Report: Karen Scherra presented a few highlights from her report. To update the Board on hospitalization, Karen said during September, Clermont had only 1 civil client hospitalized at the end of the month, and a high of 9 and a low of 7 forensic clients. The numbers for September illustrate the issue at Summit – too many forensic clients and no room for civil clients. Karen added that throughout the month of September, Lee Ann Watson worked to resolve an issue of a GCB client hospitalized at Mercy Clermont who needed to be transferred to Summit Behavioral Health. The client had been at Mercy for weeks, and Summit had no civil beds available. The client ended up being transferred to a state hospital in Cleveland. This situation is going to continue to worsen, as less civil beds are available at Summit.

On criminal justice activities, Karen said members of the team doing the presentation on CASC met on 9/14 to review the PowerPoint and determine who would be presenting on which areas. The presentation on CASC to the Attorney General's Task Force on Mental Health and Criminal Justice occurred on 9/17. The Task Force, co-chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Eve Stratton, was very interested in Clermont's presentation and members present asked a lot of questions. Karen said the group seemed impressed that Commissioner Painter was part of the team representing Clermont. Karen also said she was disappointed that Attorney General Mike DeWine was unable to be there for the presentation.

On OHMAS related activities, Karen mentioned that on September 21, staff from Juvenile Court, Child Focus, Families Connected and she conducted an interview of the top candidate for the mobile crisis position. The selected Parent Support Partner for the program, Chanel Bayless, who has been working at Families Connected for several years, also participated. CFI hired this individual and he started on October 1st. After orientation and training, the program will officially begin November 1, 2018. Karen said everyone involved is very excited to get the program up and running.

Karen also said on October 8, she met with staff from Clermont Mercy, along with staff from Brown and Warren/Clinton County boards, regarding the Withdrawal Management program at the hospital. She said the meeting was to bring everyone up to speed on the program, the referral process, and the coordination with the various counties. Afterward, she and Erica met with staff from CRC to also update them on the new program which is now officially being utilized.

On October 3, Karen participated in a conference call regarding the women's recovery house in Blanchester. New Housing Ohio (NHO), which owns and operates the house, is considering changes, so the three boards involved (Brown, Clermont and Warren/Clinton) scheduled the call to determine their thoughts about the proposal before meeting with NHO. The group decided that when they meet with NHO, they are going to request back their portions of the

money used to purchase the house if NHO no longer plans to maintain the facility as a recovery house.

Under federal activities and legislation, Karen said both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives have passed opioid packages. The House and the Senate assigned conferees to work together and sort out differences in each chamber's opioid package. The differences in the two versions were worked out in a conference committee and brought back to the respective chambers for a vote before going to the President for his signature.

On Ohio activities and legislation, Karen said there is little activity currently in the Ohio Legislature, as the focus is on the November elections. She said she heard there will be a lot of activity after the election in the lame duck session, especially if Mr. Cordray wins the Governor's race. The current legislature could reopen the state budget and overturn any veto from the Governor. Karen is worried the state will overturn Medicaid expansion. She also feels that if Mike DeWine is elected, he would not go to those measures, at least at first. Karen said the behavioral health system needs that Medicaid funding and some advocacy may be needed later down the road if Medicaid is considered for major changes.

On September 18th Karen chaired the WIB's Emerging Workforce Committee meeting, at which there was a lot of discussion on the work Easter Seals is doing with youth, policies, and plans for future meetings. Karen arranged and participated in a lunch meeting between DJFS Director Judy Eschmann and WIB Director Stacy Sheffield to address concerns that had been raised about some decisions Judy made that impact WIB, specifically moving many of the youth services in-house to DJFS and terminating most of its contract with Easter Seals. Karen said the lunch meeting went well and a lot of good ideas came from it.

6. <u>Committee Reports:</u> Finance Committee Chairperson Jacki Block presented to the Board on behalf of the Committee. Jacki reported that during the committee meeting prior to the Board meeting, the <u>Board's financial projection</u> was discussed. Jacki said the Board underspent in FY 2018 by \$198,613, but with \$118,000 less revenue for the upcoming year, it is projected the Board will deficit spend in FY 2019.

Moving on, Jacki turned the discussion to the <u>contract request from First Step</u>. Jacki asked Karen Scherra to expand on the subject. Karen Scherra explained that First Step is a residential treatment program for women with a substance use disorder, who are pregnant or have children, based in Hamilton County. The Agency has recently approached the MHRB to request funding for room and board for Clermont County residents who are living in the facility; the treatment costs are covered by Medicaid. The request is due to 20% of their clients being Clermont County residents. First Step also claims that once a Clermont resident comes to them for treatment and becomes established in Hamilton County, the clients don't usually return to Clermont, thus relieving a further financial burden for Clermont County. Karen said the concern is if First Step does not receive funding from Clermont, the program may no longer be able to serve Clermont County residents. During the meeting Karen had with First Step, she advised the agency that MHRB does not have the available funds at this time but will revisit the matter after elections are over and the State Opioid Response Grant is defined and distributed by OMHAS. She also informed First Step that if CCMHRB was to provide any funding, she would need to see hard facts and numbers regarding the number of Clermont residents First

Step truly serves. She said she would like to revisit the request later at a Program Committee meeting. On a side note, Brown County has agreed to work with First Step regarding funding, but only on a case by case basis.

Something else Karen mentioned was that OMHAS will be receiving funding from a State Opioid Response Grant that will be distributed to boards. The amount is yet unknown and will be distributed sometime after January. Karen said that the money, depending on the amount, could be used to fund First Step's request. John Kelly asked where does the current funding for First Step comes from? Karen said the program is funded by Medicaid and also by donors, but since the agency has expanded its locations recently, she believes the money is much tighter. First Step also told Karen that Medicaid funding for treatment has dropped since the implementation of BH redesign. Kelley Costello said she would need more clarification and details before being in favor of approving funding. Karen closed by saying she would keep the Board apprised on the matter and that it would need to be addressed eventually, as a problem could occur if First Step stopped serving Clermont County residents, with priority on services for pregnant women.

Action Items: The first action item was the FY 2019 MOU with Job and Family Services and Board of Developmental Disabilities regarding services for children in CPS custody. The Board has a longstanding collaboration in place with many of the child-serving agencies in the County. These collaborations involve joint planning for services and sometimes involve shared funding for specific children. When a child is in the custody of Children's Protective Services (CPS) and needs residential treatment, the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) pays for the room and board cost of the placement. These children who are under custody of CPS/DJFS have Medicaid, which pays for the services, with the match covered by the State. Yet, there are occasions when a child not in custody requires residential treatment or some other specialized service and the various agencies agree to share the expenses, or Medicaid will not cover a needed service, or the child does not yet have Medicaid. The Board covers the mental health and/or alcohol/drug treatment services, only if the child is not Medicaid eligible, and the other agencies cover the residential placement and any associated or special cost, or when the Board agrees to participate in the funding because of a unique situation. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2019 MOU with Job and Family Services and Board of Developmental Disabilities regarding services for children in CPS custody and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Suzy Carter, second-Carole Cottrill).

Before proceeding with Action Items, Karen Scherra recognized <u>a potential Board member</u> who had joined the meeting. <u>Geoff Schwerzler</u>, who has shown interest in becoming a part of CCMHRB, introduced himself. He is a licensed Psychologist with a private practice and resides in Milford. Jeff is interested in becoming more involved in the Board's mission. Each person in the room also gave an introduction. The meeting proceeded.

The next item was the FFY 2019 MOU with Butler County Educational Service Center for the ENGAGE Grant Mobile Crisis Response program. The OMHAS ENGAGE program is a concept being developed with the intent of empowering and educating youth to support a successful transition to independence. The Board has previously approved agreements with the

Butler County Educational Service Center for our participation in the ENGAGE grant project and to allow the flow of funds to CCMHRB during the first year of the grant. Year 2 begins October 1, 2018 and runs through September 30, 2019. The Board will need an MOU with the Butler County Educational Service Center for its continued participation in the ENGAGE grant project and to allow the flow of funds to CCMHRB during the second year of the grant. The program will include a mobile crisis worker from Child Focus and a Parent Support Partner (PSP) from Families Connected who will work as a team and meet with youth/families involved with Juvenile Court to provide an assessment of needed services and supports to the Judge to avoid detention and placement outside the home. Both staff for the program have been hired, and after orientation and training are complete, the program is scheduled to begin on November 1, 2018. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FFY 2019 MOU with Butler County Educational Service Center for the ENGAGE grant Mobile Crisis Response program and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Suzy Carter, second-Kelley Costello).

The third action item was the FY 2019 agreement with SOBER FIRST, LLC dba ASCENT for the purchase of apps for participants in the Family Dependency Treatment Court. As discussed at the September meeting, Board staff became aware of an app for those in recovery being used by other Ohio board systems. CCMHRB is interested in using the app on a limited basis to determine its effectiveness for clients. Karen Scherra proposed the idea to Judge Shriver, who operates the Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC), and after a demonstration of the app, agreed to allowing the participants in the FDTC to use the app.

The Ascent Peer Support App is being offered by a company in Cleveland. The app can be downloaded to a phone and will give clients in recovery 24/7 access to a Recovery Coach via text or phone call. The service will be paid for using the OMHAS ATP funds the Board receives for recovery needs of the FDTC participants. The app also provides its users with informational literature and locations of other peers that live nearby. Ascent currently costs \$420 per app license, per client. The company allowed Clermont to purchase only eight (8) licenses for the Court clients to use. The Recovery Coach working with the Court will also pilot the use of the app and its usefulness for relapse prevention. Karen noted that app licenses are good for one year and are non-transferrable. However, if someone who has had the app purchased for them does not complete the program, Karen said the client would still have access to the app and it could prevent a relapse. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2019 agreement with SOBER FIRST, LLC dba ASCENT for the purchase of apps for participants in the Family Dependency Treatment Court and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. (Motion-Carole Cottrill, second-John Kelly).

The fourth action item was the rescheduling of the November 2018 Board meeting. Karen Scherra said the November Board meeting falls on Veteran's Day, which is a County holiday. The County allows some holidays to be "flexible", meaning a department can take the day or "move" the holiday to another date. Our Board officially moved the Columbus Day holiday to the day after Thanksgiving, since Columbus Day falls annually on the second Monday of October, which is one of our Board meeting dates. However, there are holidays which departments are not permitted move, and those holidays include Veteran's Day. Thus, our offices will be closed on November 12th. Karen said the Board could either agree to reschedule

the meeting to a different date in November or cancel the meeting all together, as there will not be a large agenda and there has only been one other meeting cancelled in 2018. <u>A motion was made</u>, and unanimously approved, to cancel the November 2018 Board meeting. (Motion-Carole Cottrill, second-Dorothy Glancy).

The fifth and final action item was the <u>Board's position on State Issue 1</u>. Karen Scherra discussed some information about Issue 1. It is a constitutional amendment, referred to as "The Ohio Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Amendment." Issue 1 states that it would implement criminal justice reforms and redirect funding currently used in the criminal justice system to community addiction treatment. A major drawback of Issue 1 is that it is a constitutional amendment. Many believe this is not the correct vehicle for justice reforms, and it could only be changed or tweaked through another constitutional amendment. Legislation passed by the Ohio House and Senate would seem to be the most appropriate method for such change, although the proponents of Issue 1 say that the Ohio Legislature has not addressed needed changes. However, the reforms in Issue 1 were brought forward not by grass roots groups in Ohio but by outside groups and individuals.

The "pro" and "opposed" sides for Issue 1 paint very different pictures of the impact of Issue 1 if passed. Those advocating for Issue 1 tout that many more individuals with addiction would receive treatment as opposed to jail or prison time, meaning a quicker recovery and no, or a lesser, criminal record. Individuals currently in prison would be able to "work" toward reducing their sentences and would return to the community sooner that initially sentenced. And the savings from all the individuals no longer in prison would be provided to the treatment community so that more people could be served. Those against Issue 1, which includes the state Associations of the Municipal and Common Pleas judges, the Prosecutors, the Sheriffs, the Boards of County Commissioners (BCC), and others, say that Issue 1 would have devastating consequences, actually leading to fewer individuals receiving treatment while reducing criminal penalties for drug possession. One primary concern is that Issue 1 takes away the "stick" used by judges to convince individuals to enter treatment instead of prison or jail, as there would no longer be consequences for not following through with treatment. This could also lead to the termination of drug courts across Ohio, which rely on sanctions to motivate participants to follow the treatment and supports conditions imposed by a judge.

Karen explained that the Board Association had, since the Board mailing, taken an official opposed position against Issue 1. A copy of that position was passed out to the Board. The Clermont Commissioners had also taken a position opposing Issue 1. A copy of that resolution was passed out to the Board. Karen is concerned that if Issue 1 passes, the BCC said they would be forced to shut down the CASC program and the Linkage program in the jail, as that space would be needed for additional inmates. Karen recommended approving her draft of an opposed position on Issue 1 to the Board. A copy of that position was passed out to the Board.

Karen expects there will be legal challenges if Issue 1 passes and early polls show 65% for the Issue. Richard Cordray is 100% pro Issue 1, and Mike DeWine is 100% against it. Clermont's Judge McBride is so against Issue 1, that he wrote an article in the Clermont Sun. Karen shared the article with the Board. Karen said she and Commissioner Painter would be participating the following day in a Facebook Live event regarding State Issue 1 and the official positions of the

- BCC and CCMHRB. After discussion, a <u>motion was made</u>, and unanimously approved, <u>to approve the Board's official position of opposition to State Issue 1 as presented</u>. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Dorothy Glancy).
- 8. <u>Discussion Items</u>: The first discussion item was the <u>Behavioral Health Redesign/Managed Care Update</u>. Karen Scherra reported that the state opinion is that BH Redesign/Managed Care is going well and few complaints have been logged. Karen said providers and the state seem to have differing opinions on the status of the new payment structure. The biggest issues seem to be with providers being unable to pay back the "cash forward" money. Butler County has agencies that are in real financial trouble. Karen turned the floor over to the agencies for their reaction to the current status.

Jeff O'Neil with GCB said it is still too early to tell if the new claims payment structure is going to be problematic in the long run. He said GCB is proceeding cautiously with its claims, as GCB thinks the Managed Care companies were not as prepared as previously expressed. GCB is billing slow and steady to avoid getting behind. Jeff said the other dynamic is that he thinks the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee is furthering the problems that providers are having with billing due to additional rules and regulations. Bottom line is, billing is much slower than in the past. The other agencies agreed, stating that they have had no major problems, but claims are being sent and processed very slowly. Laura Stith said CFI is billing much slower as well and has taken advantage of the "cash forward" option. She said the providers are having issues, but the Managed Care companies need to take some blame too.

Karen Scherra pointed out that a whole new set of changes could come in July because the Managed Care Organizations only had to keep the current set of regulations and rates for one year. Karen asked the agencies if the changeover has remained seamless for the clients. Jeff said he believes it has been seamless for them. Karen advised the Board she would keep them updated.

The final discussion item was <u>Steve Goldsberry's retirement</u>. Karen called Steve Goldsberry's retirement a "major changing of the guard". Steve addressed the room and said it has been a wonderful experience especially working with CCMHRB. He said he has the utmost trust in Karen Scherra and that her efforts have helped CRC tremendously. He said Clermont is a great county and he admires its collaborative efforts. Steve went on to say the timing of his retirement is due to his wife's health problems. He said he still plans to work for CRC/GCB on a contractual basis up to 15 hours a week. Although he says the staff replacing him are so good they probably won't need him. His last day will be December 28, 2018. Karen told Steve he will be sorely missed as he has been the heart and soul of CRC. On a side note, Karen mentioned that CFI's Director Jim Carter, as well as Families Connected Director Jean Houston, are retiring in June.

During a pause, Board Member Carole Cottrill made an announcement. She said Child Focus will be receiving a Chamber of Commerce Pacesetter Award, the Corporate Pacesetter Award which recognizes an organization that has displayed genuine concern for the welfare of Clermont County and its residents by exhibiting outstanding qualities of corporate citizenship

and leadership.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Jeff O'Neil with GCB said his report stands. Jeff added that GCB applied for, and was awarded, the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) grant as well as another grant offered by SAMHSA. He said GCB applied for it to expand the type of treatment to Clermont County that they have in Hamilton County. The grant will be used to treat severely mentally ill clients with more complex needs who reside in Clermont County. The award amounts to about \$600,000 a year for up to five years. Jeff said GCB is very excited about this award. Karen Scherra added that it will be a huge benefit to have GCB's expertise and professional employees running this new program in Clermont.

Jean Houston of Families Connected said her report stands as is.

Child Focus' report stands.

CRC's report stands as is.

Amy Foley of Hope Community Center passed out copies of her report and explained she was on jury duty when report was due.

Julia Saldanha of NAMI said her report stands and reminded everyone of the Evening of Hope dinner on October 10th at which Janie Steele and Renae Butcher of Clermont will be receiving awards.

10. <u>Adjournment</u>: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to <u>adjourn the October 8, 2018 Board of Directors meeting</u>. (Motion-Kelley Costello, second-Peggy Hickman)

Karen Conrad, Chairperson

Karen J. Scherra, Executive Director