



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

MINUTES of October 14, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bateman, Jacki Block, Carrie Brown, Karen Conrad, Kelley Costello, Carole Cottrill, Laura Esslinger, Dorothy Glancy, John Kelly, Geoff Schwerzler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Erica Koe-Krompecher, Patty Lawrence, Katie Shepard, Greg Varner

ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESENT: Richard Chaney

GUESTS PRESENT: Nikki Bisig, Heather Cokl, Alicia Fine, Amy Foley, Susan Graham, Patty Hassel, Pamela Lindeman, Emily Neal

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

1. Chairperson Karen Conrad welcomed everyone, and the meeting proceeded.
2. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda for the October 14, 2019 Board meeting. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-John Kelly).
3. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the September 9, 2019 meeting minutes. (Motion-Carrie Brown, second-Kelley Costello).
4. Review Materials/Correspondence Folders: Executive Director Karen Scherra brought attention to the folders being passed around and specifically mentioned a few of the items from each.

In the Correspondence folder, Karen said there was a letter from the Clermont County Administrator, Tom Eigel, expressing the county's wish for our Board to support the "Handle with Care" initiative. Karen said the Board is already in the process of finding someone to coordinate this project in Clermont County, with assistance from the ENGAGE grant. The program, once in place, will alert school personnel that a student has experienced trauma the previous day, sent by first responders.

Also, in the correspondence folder, was a thank you note from "Artsy Fartsy Saturdays" thanking the Board for its mini-grant support. Artsy Fartsy Saturdays is a free program in Milford that provides art exploration and creativity for low income children in a safe environment.

In the Local Issues/Articles folder, Karen said there was an article about Rhonda Birkhimer, who is a certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist at the Hope Community Center. Rhonda works with families in the Family Recovery Court and provides supportive services to parents who have lost custody of their child(ren) and are dealing with addiction.

In the State/Federal Issues/Articles folder, Karen mentioned the article discussing the possibility of the federal appeals court eliminating the Affordable Care Act (ACA). According to the article, 29% of non-elderly adult Ohioans, approximately 2 million people, would lose their insurance if the ACA was struck down.

In the Adult Mental Health folder and the Youth Mental Health folder, Karen said there were several articles about suicide and suicide prevention, as September was Suicide Prevention Month.

In the Adult Mental Health folder, there were many articles about gun violence and mental illness. One article discussed Governor DeWine's "Strong Ohio" plan to address gun violence. The plan focuses more on access to state hospital beds than a stance on either side of the gun control issue. Governor DeWine believes non-violent patients with misdemeanor charges are taking up the majority of the beds in state hospitals, resulting in lack of access to the state hospital. Part of the state's plan to address lack of hospital access is to require that competency restoration for misdemeanor charges occurs in the community.

In the Addiction folder, Karen shared that there were articles pertaining to the overdose rates throughout the country, and the recent settlements of lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies for their role in the opioid epidemic.

Karen also mentioned an article highlighting the television show "Sesame Street" and its attempt to tackle the addiction crisis in a way that children can understand. The show now has a character whose mother is battling addiction.

Karen closed by mentioning the case against Wade Winn in the shooting death of Officer Bill Brewer. A new plea of "guilty" was entered by Mr. Winn and he received a life sentence without possibility of parole. He did this to escape the death penalty. His alleged mental health and addiction issues were not considered in this case.

5. Executive Director's Report: Karen Scherra presented a few highlights from her Executive Director's report. At the Hospital Services Committee meeting, which she chairs, the group discussed the growing problem of forensic clients taking up most of the beds in the state hospitals, thereby leaving few beds for civil clients. The new Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) Hospital Director, Merissa McKinstry, attended that meeting. Karen stated she seems to be listening to the concerns and attempting to find solutions. Ms. McKinstry started the new IMD Committee which had its first meeting on September 25th. The committee will focus on a collective sharing of information across the state regarding issues impacting hospital access, among other things. The group will collaborate to gather data from state and public hospitals, including the Medicaid clients being served there, and use that information to come up with solutions for the current hospital access issue. Karen will be serving on that committee.

With regard to the OACBHA update, Karen attended the OACBHA Executive Council meeting on September 26 and the OACBHA Membership Meeting on September 27. The Council meeting included a discussion on a set of draft principles for OMHAS to follow as they proceed with changing the formula used to allocate funds to Boards. Karen said the discussion was very contentious and illustrated how difficult it will be for OMHAS to create a new funding formula. The group did finally reach consensus on the principles, but when the rest of the OACBHA

membership has a chance to provide input on the principles, Karen expects that there will be many changes.

On September 30, Karen attended the 1st meeting of the OACBHA Criminal Justice Quick Hit Committee. After the OACBHA Executive Council Retreat Karen attended in July, it was decided that several “quick hit” committees would be formed to deal with specific issues facing the Boards/state in order to work collaboratively with other partners to seek implementable solutions. Currently, sentencing reform, misdemeanor competency restoration, the CTP program (prison re-entry), and some developing proposals from the County Commissioners Association are all criminal justice topics for input from the Committee. Karen plans to stay well involved in that committee and keep Clermont’s Commissioners in the loop as well.

Under OMHAS related activities, Karen said that the Southwest Collaborative Boards participated in a conference call on September 16 to review the current status of the funding and the requirements for FY 2020. Although three of the Boards were not on the call, the group was able to collectively decide on next steps and prepare for their Collaborative meeting on October 9th with Summit CEO Liz Banks and OMHAS’ Merissa McKinstry. Karen stated that the meeting on October 9th ended up being very productive, although Liz Banks was unable to attend.

On criminal justice activities, Karen recently spoke with Beth Gersper from OMHAS about postponing a meeting that Beth had agreed to facilitate for Clermont’s Sequential Mapping planning process. Karen thought it made more sense to hold that Mapping meeting after the OMHAS Crisis Academy on October 28th as that meeting should provide information on funding that will help inform follow-up and next steps.

During the month of September, Associate Director Lee Ann Watson was involved in several calls and meetings with the state correctional system and the Adult Parole Authority to plan for the release from prison of a high needs Clermont County resident. Lee Ann said the resident has been incarcerated most of his life and is essentially “institutionalized”. The resident has many risky behaviors and has not been successful at living in the community the last two times he was released from prison. The individual needs 24/7 supervised housing to be successful in the community. Unfortunately, due to his mental illness, the criminal justice system believes he is too risky to be placed in their halfway houses. Similarly, due to his criminal behavior, the Board believes he is too risky to be placed in any group homes. The only option is independent living in the community. Lee Ann will continue to work with GCB, the Adult Parole Authority, and the prison to develop a release plan that can hopefully provide the individual a chance to succeed in the community. This issue is of particular importance to the Board members since the cost of care for this individual may deplete the Board’s re-entry funding, as well as the funding for the CTP program, which is transitioning from CareSource to the boards, as these programs are now merged under the boards..

Karen informed the Board members that she attended the monthly WIB Executive Committee meeting on October 4th. There were several deadlines imposed by the WIB Board on the WIB staff that were not met, and there are multiple issues between the two staff that have not been resolved. As a result, the WIB Executive Committee may need to have additional meetings/calls to determine how best to move forward.

With regard to suicide prevention activities, Lee Ann Watson informed the Board members that the 18th Annual Suicide Prevention Coalition's Candlelight Vigil was held on September 10 at Riverside Park in Milford. This year the Coalition partnered with the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) in order to expand the audience of those who might want to participate in the event. Approximately 75 individuals attended this year. It is anticipated that the Coalition will partner with AFSP again in the future to continue the vigils.

Lee Ann also shared that as part of the statewide "Stepping Up to Suicide" campaign to increase awareness during the month of September, Child Focus held two QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainings and the Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County held one QPR training. This training is designed to teach participants the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond.

Under federal activities/legislation, Karen reported that both chambers of Congress agreed to a stopgap funding bill that will keep the federal government open through November 21, giving legislators more time to finalize Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) funding levels.

Also, Karen mentioned that Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is one step closer to opening a safe drug consumption site. The mayor and health department of Philadelphia support plans to open the site, which would provide community members with a safe place to use illicit substances under medical supervision. In late September, U.S. District Judge Gerald Austin McHugh ruled that the plan to open a safe consumption site did not violate federal law as the U.S. Department of Justice had previously argued.

Karen further reported that bi-partisan Legislators are considering a 21st Century Cures 2.0 bill. The first version of the act, which was signed into law in 2016, spurred medical innovation and established \$1 billion in grants to help states combat the opioid crisis. Federal Representatives are now in listening sessions to determine how to best improve the existing law.

Lastly under federal activities, Karen reported that Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley sent a letter to the Health and Human Services agency asking them to better coordinate federal resources to support effective behavioral health programs. Sen. Grassley specifically encouraged investments in services to prevent and treat the effects of childhood trauma.

Karen wrapped up her report highlights with an update on Ohio activities/legislation. House Bill 354 was recently introduced to Legislators. This bill includes a number of provisions related to the weapons under disability data portal. It also redefines "mental illness" in ORC 5122 to include someone with moderate or severe substance use disorders for the purposes of civil commitments. OACBHA staff have meetings scheduled to get more information about the proposal and share preliminary concerns about the stigmatizing impact of some of these changes and the impact on the boards, providers and Probate Court.

6. Committee Reports: Jacki Block, Finance Committee Chairperson, presented to the Board members the discussions from the earlier Finance Committee meeting. The first item was the CY 2020 County Appropriations Budget. Jacki reported that Board staff had submitted CCMHRB's CY2020 budget to the County for approval; this is necessary as the County

operates on the calendar year, not state fiscal year. Board staff expects the budget to go before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) by early December for approval. Once approved by the BCC, Board staff will bring the Budget in front of CCMHRB for review and approval.

The next item Jacki discussed was the reconciliation for overage of services at Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB), Clermont Recovery Center (CRC, a division of GCB), and Child Focus, Inc. (CFI). Board staff distributed a handout containing overage amounts and the Board staff recommendations regarding payment of those overages. The Finance Committee agreed to the staff recommendations, as follows:

CRC – \$122,000 for medication costs for clients receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services;

GCB – \$68,000 for increased case management services, as a result of referrals of clients from the Linkage and PATH programs; and

CFI – \$10,000 for prevention units provided.

Jacki explained that the total amount recommended by the Finance Committee to cover the overages for all three agencies was \$200,000. If approved, the amount would be paid from the \$136,612 in unspent 2019 funds and \$63,388 from the Board's free reserves.

Jacki also presented to the full Board a proposal to revise the policy for Board required reserves. Currently the required amount for the reserves is \$750,000. The Finance Committee recommended raising the required reserve amount to \$800,000.

Jacki explained that taking \$63,388 for agency overages and \$50,000 for required reserves, a total of \$113,388 from free reserves, would still leave free reserves at over \$1 million. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the Board paying agency overages in the amount of \$200,000 for FY2019 as presented. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Andy Bateman). A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the revision of the Board's policy on required reserves, increasing the amount from \$750,000 to \$800,000. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-Carole Cottrill).

The final item Jacki discussed on behalf of the Finance Committee was the Juvenile Court project. Jackie explained that at the last Board meeting, the possibility of the need for additional funding from the Board for the Juvenile Court Project, a team created to provide treatment and support to families involved in the court system in crisis and for Mobile Crisis expansion was discussed. However, the OMHAS crisis flex funding in the amount of \$107,000 will now be used for the two aforementioned projects and no approval of additional funding from the free reserves is needed.

7. Action Items: The first action item was the FY 2020 POS Addendum with GCB/CRC for the CTP program. OMHAS, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, launched the Community Transition Program (CTP) in May of 2016 to support successful recovery and positive long-term outcomes for individuals with a substance use disorder as they transition from prison to the community. CTP provides linkage statewide to drug and alcohol treatment services and recovery supports for program participants. CTP was operated by CareSource, one of the Medicaid managed care companies. Management of the CTP program is now being transitioned to interested county Boards. The eligible population for the programs will be identified by prison mental health workers. The referrals will include:

- Individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD) released on or after 11/1/19 from an ODRC institution, having participated in recovery services programming or a therapeutic community while incarcerated; and
- Individuals that ODRC has diagnosed with a serious mental illness (SMI) and who were placed on the mental health caseload while incarcerated.

The Board has a total of \$78,521.25 available in FY 2020 for these programs for those being released from prison; \$63,521.25 is carryover mental health re-entry funding from FY 2019, and allocations of \$5,000 and \$10,000 from two sources for the new CTP.

The Board will be contracting with GCB/CRC to provide these services. GCB has been providing services for those individuals released from prison who have a SMI for many years, and CRC/GCB has been providing the CTP services for CareSource since that program started. Karen Scherra said she was told by OMHAS staff that GCB/CRC's CTP program was the best in the state.

CRC/GCB staff have estimated the costs of providing CTP services for individuals with a substance use disorder, based on their services under CareSource. The breakdown of these costs is noted in the chart below:

Peer Staff .50 FTE	<u>\$32,300.00</u> (In-reach, case management and individual/group peer services)
Outreach Recovery costs	<u>\$8,500.00</u> (Gas cards, bus passes, birth certificate, ID's, transportation, etc.)
Employment and Job Coaching	<u>\$3,200.00</u>
TOTAL CTP Budget	\$44,000.00

Karen said she intends to have GCB/CRC provide the same level of services under the Board's oversight as they did for CareSource, and the Linkage/Mental Health portion of the program will also continue as it has in the past. Karen said it is difficult to predict the number of individuals who will need the services and the cost of those services. OMHAS has estimated that 43 inmates may need CTP services during the fiscal year. The amount of funding the Board received may not cover the needs of the individuals identified. As was illustrated during the earlier discussions, one returning inmate with intensive needs can be very costly. Board staff will be closely monitoring costs to assure that the Board stays within the funds allotted. Board staff will also stay in communication with OMHAS regarding the possibility of additional funding becoming available. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2020 POS addendum with GCB/CRC for the CTP program as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the POS Addendum. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-John Kelly).

The second action item was the FY 2020 Agreement with Butler County Educational Service Center (ESC) for the ENGAGE Grant. The OMHAS ENGAGE program is a home-based crisis intervention program. The Board previously used the grant funds to support a program for families involved with Juvenile Court, but the program is transitioning to an expansion of

mobile crisis services dedicated to working with youth/families. The Board has previously approved agreements with the Butler County ESC for its participation in the ENGAGE project during the first two years of the grant. The current agreement would cover year three of the project which begins October 1, 2019 and runs through September 30, 2020. The Board must enter into an MOU with the Butler County ESC for its continued participation in the ENGAGE grant project and to allow the flow of funds to the Board during the third year of the grant. If additional funding is needed for the ENGAGE project during the third year, the OMHAS crisis flex funding can be utilized, as discussed previously. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the FY 2020 MOU with Butler County Educational Service Center for the ENGAGE grant Mobile Crisis program as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board. (Motion-John Kelly, second-Laura Esslinger).

The third and final action item was the appointment of an additional FY 2020 Health Officer for CFI. It is necessary for the Board to officially approve the designation of Health Officers each fiscal year. Health Officers are responsible for approving involuntary admission of Clermont County residents to state and local hospitals for psychiatric inpatient services. Health Officers for FY 2020 were previously approved by the Board. Child Focus (CFI) has an additional staff person (who was hired for the ENGAGE MRSS position) who needs to be added to the list. This individual meets all credentials for appointment as a Health Officer and her resume was included in the Board mailing. A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to approve the additional FY 2020 Health Officer for CFI as presented. (Motion-Dorothy Glancy, second-Laura Esslinger).

8. Discussion Items: The first discussion item was the FY 2020 Crisis Funds/Crisis Academy. Karen Scherra informed the Board members that OHMAS will be distributing a total of \$12 million in funding throughout the state for developing and/or supporting crisis services. In order to provide direction to the Boards on how to best utilize this funding, OMHAS plans to hold a Crisis Academy training on October 28 highlighting best practice crisis models throughout the country. Lee Ann Watson, Karen Scherra, a representative from Mercy Hospital, Chief Deputy Chris Stratton from the Sheriff's Office, and Cathy Krieg, Assistant Director of Crisis Services at CFI will be attending the training. After the training, time will be set aside to develop a county plan. Karen Scherra stated that she will report back to the Board on the Crisis Academy and Clermont's funding plan. Karen is hoping the funding plan will include a crisis stabilization center, which has been at the top of Clermont's list of needed services for a long time. Karen also mentioned that it is possible that Clermont may have the opportunity to participate in a pilot project with a foundation as a means to address the need for a crisis stabilization unit.

The second discussion item was the FY 2020 Board Prevention Funds. Karen Scherra stated that the State recently announced that there is \$12 million in the State budget for school-based prevention services. The money has not yet been allocated, and the Governor's office has not yet said whether the money will go directly to the schools or to the Boards. Karen mentioned that the funding would be much better utilized if it is allocated to the Boards and would allow our Board to support expanded school-based services.

The third discussion item was the Grants Update. Karen Scherra said Board staff are currently working on two grants to generate more revenue for the Linkage jail project and expanded SUD

services. The Board was recently notified that they were invited to submit a full grant proposal to a national foundation. The grant proposal is due October 31. Karen said she will keep the Board apprised of any new grant activity and awards.

The fourth discussion item was the Capital Plan submission. Karen Scherra informed the Board that Clermont's capital plan was submitted to OMHAS last Thursday. The capital plan is for a six-year period (FY 2021-2026). Karen said the Board included six requests in its Capital plan. The requests are as follows:

- a. An expansion of CRC's building: CRC is at maximum capacity as far as space and needs to expand the building. Karen said the building was designed for expansion when it was first built;
- b. An expansion of space for CFI: CFI is also struggling with limited space to provide services;
- c. Two Crisis Stabilization Centers: The long-term hope is that there will be one center for adults and one center for children;
- d. Supportive Housing: This request is tied to the national company looking to build supportive housing in Clermont County; and
- e. An extension on a submission for Recovery Housing: Karen stated that there is a family in Clermont County who has talked with Board and GCB/CRC staff about donating funds for a new recovery house.

The fifth and final discussion item was the Levy Update. Karen Scherra said she has put a great deal of thought into when the Board should be on the ballot for its levy. Karen said she believes that requesting to be on the March ballot would not give the Board enough time to complete all the work prior to being placed on the ballot, as the deadline for the March ballot is December 18. Karen did notify Patty Lawrence, who agreed to be the Levy Committee Chair, about this decision. Karen also stated that bad weather could hinder campaigning as well. Karen has reached out to Tim Dick at DJFS/Children's Protective Services (CPS) about his thoughts about the March ballot. CPS has traditionally been on the ballot with the Board. Tim has not yet gotten back to Karen to discuss the issue. Karen believes that CPS may also not want to request placement on the March ballot since DJFS is still in the process of hiring a new Director. Karen also advised the Board members that she believes asking for a renewal rather than an increase would be in the Board's best interest. The Board agreed on both points and consensus was to ask for a renewal on the November 2020 ballot. The final decision on what month the levy will be on the ballot, and whether the levy is a renewal, will be made by the Commissioners.

9. Agency Directors' Reports: Amy Foley of Hope Community Center (HCC) said her report stands. Amy added that HCC held a Resiliency Training class at the end of September and 27 First Responders attended. Amy said the class was a success, earning a 9.2 out of 10 points on the after-class survey. Amy also said that all of HCC's Parent Support Partners will be going through a 6-month trauma training program, which started the previous Wednesday. Amy closed by announcing she is part of a grant that has provided HCC with funding to support one additional full-time Parent Peer Support Partner.

Pamela Lindeman of CFI said her report stands and presented a few of its highlights. CFI was recently awarded the Friends of Education Award from the Ohio School Board Association. Pamela said that CFI's former CEO, Jim Carter, attended the award ceremony with her as she

though it was fitting that he be there. Pamela also said that CFI is in the process of applying for a grant for Phase 2 of the Carter Center expansion. Phase 2 will include renovations to the gym, cafeteria, and other areas. The grant application is due October 18th. Pamela closed by adding that CFI recently received a juvenile sexual offense counseling certification on September 18. CFI is also getting ready for its audit by CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Alicia Fine of GCB said her report stands and provided information on the recovery housing program and the vocational programs. The men's recovery house is at full capacity with all residents working full-time except one who is working part-time. Alicia said that the Manager at the Skyline down the street from the recovery house has reached out to the residents with an offer of employment. Alicia informed the Board members of GCB's two job placement programs: one for mental health clients and one for clients in recovery from addiction. The programs have been successful due to the current job market and employers seem to be very open to offering jobs to clients needing a "second chance". Alicia said 45 people have found jobs as a result of the program at CRC and there is a 75% retention rate at 90 days on the job. Alicia said the women's recovery house is also doing well with four residents and another one moving in very soon. The house has a capacity of seven residents. Alicia said she has seen a great need for recovery housing in the community. Alicia closed by responding to a Board member's comment from earlier in the meeting. The question posed was whether agencies were being proactive in making sure Medicaid-eligible clients were applying for the benefit, thereby saving Board funding. Alicia said that GCB has a full-time benefit specialist, which is funded by the Board, who is devoted to making sure clients are receiving and obtaining all applicable benefits. The specialist also works with DJFS staff to assure that clients are signing up for and receiving Medicaid. Alicia said that once Medicaid is approved, services provided to that client are paid by Medicaid, retroactive to three months prior, or sometimes even more than that depending on the length of time for approval.


Emily Neal of NAMI said her report stands. Emily added that NAMI has had good attendance at its family groups in the last month. However, NAMI canceled a recent peer class due to non-attendance. Emily closed by saying NAMI's Hope for Recovery class in September had full attendance of 20 people, two of which were from Clermont.

Before adjournment, Karen Scherra added that Governor DeWine announced a new \$31 million program last week. The program will provide funding to Family and Children First (FCF) agencies in Ohio to address some of the critical issues impacting multi-system youth. Clermont's FCF would receive some of the funding, but what purposes the funds are for is not yet determined. Karen is hoping that she will be able to get involved in some of the committees planning for this initiative.

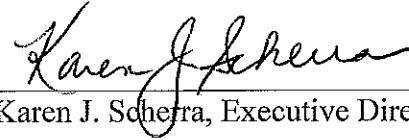
Karen also reminded the Board members that the November meeting was pushed back a week from its original date of November 11. Due to the conflict with the Veteran's Day Holiday, the November meeting was rescheduled to November 18.

10. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, and unanimously approved, to adjourn the October 14, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. (Motion-Jacki Block, second-

Kelley Costello).



Karen Conrad, Chairperson



Karen J. Scheera, Executive Director