

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 08, 2015, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, ROBERT L. PROUD, AND DAVID H. UIBLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.**

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE JULY 08, 2015 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <https://www.youtube.com/user/clermontcounty/playlists>**

**INFORMAL SESSION STARTED SHORTLY AT 3:05 P.M.**

**THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:**

**1. Issue - Levy Discussion – Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Dan Ottke, Superintendent and David Sininger, Director of Business Operations, Rex Parsons, Board President, Greg Carson, Board Member...06-0516-001**

**Discussion** - Mr. Ottke provided a PowerPoint presentation and an update to the Board regarding the budget of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCDD) Finance Committee. The CCDD financial forecast included a freeze on offering new services. Mr. Ottke stated forecast projections regarding House Bill 66 (Personal Property Reimbursement) and Senate Bill 287 (Electric Deregulation) were estimates and could drastically change as the State had not yet allocated these funds to CCDD.

Mr. Ottke reviewed Page 3 of the presentation, which showed the CCDD levy history. There are currently five CCDD levies in place for 3.25 mils. The most recent of which was a 5-year operating levy, which passed in 2003 at 0.75 mil and was renewed in 2013. The chart provided a detailed overview of the millage for each levy, the projected revenue generated, and the increase in revenue if each levy were replaced.

Mr. Ottke provided some discussion of the CCDD Board's plan to address the forecasted deficits. Mr. Ottke discussed each service level that CCDD offered throughout each of the following levels:

- Early childhood – birth to age 5
- School age – ages 6 – 13
- Transition – ages 14-22
- Adulthood – ages 23 – 65
- Retirement – the transitional period after an individual stops working but still has the ability to be active
- Aging – the period when an individual's disabilities begin to require a higher level of care

Mr. Ottke noted since 2013 CCDD had seen a dramatic increase of requests for services as well as the number of individuals made eligible for services. The in-home support services have almost doubled between 2012 and 2014 to a point where there has been a waiting list since 2012. Prior to 2011 there was no waiting list.

Mr. Ottke stressed that with the freeze on services offered due to limited funding, the waiting list numbers will continue to grow while the number of individuals being serviced will stay stagnant through 2016.

The CCDD Board is requesting that the .40 mil levy, which passed in 1979, and the 1.00 mil levy, which passed in 1980, be replaced with a single levy and placed on the November ballot. Mr. Ottke noted that ORC 5705.192 entitled "Replacement Levies," may only be placed on the ballot once per calendar year. The replacement levy would approximately cost an additional \$56.00 per year for the average homeowner based on \$100,000 home value.

Commissioner Humphrey stated he did not have any questions.

Commissioner Uible stated that even if the replacement levy passed it would still appear to leave CCDD in the red every year as far as expenses. Mr. Ottke stated they would not be in the red but they would indeed need to keep a close eye on expenses.

Commissioner Proud asked how Medicaid and Medicaid expansion affected services. Mr. Ottke stated that the expansion has not really affected them directly other than the fact that some individuals that previously may not have been eligible for services, may now qualify for services. Mr. Ottke did note the State was still working on the Medicaid waiver issue, which addressed individuals in the State of Ohio that are institutionalized, which is not looked upon favorably.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – The Board will discuss the levy proposals at the end of the informal regular session and provide direction to staff for preparing materials for session on 07/15/15.

2. **Issue - Clermont County Senior Services, Cindy Jenkins-Gramke, Executive Director...Bob Manning, Clermont County Senior Services Board Member, Tom Rocklin, Clermont County Senior Services Board Member, Mick McLaughlin, Associate Director, Greg Carson, Chief Financial Officer, Sam DeBonis, Chairman of the Strategic Levy Committee for Clermont Senior Services ...10-0316-001**

**Discussion** – Mr. DeBonis stated the Clermont County Senior Services (CCSS) Board does not have a presentation to provide to the Board today. Mr. DeBonis stated that their position is the same as they gave the Commissioners in April.

Commissioner Humphrey asked when CCSS would like to be on the ballot. Mr. DeBonis stated it was CCSS desire to be placed on the March 2016 ballot.

Commissioner Proud asked Mr. DeBonis to refresh the Board's memory on their position as far as the levy request. Mr. DeBonis stated CCSS was requesting a renewal of the current 1.3 mil levy with an additional 0.2 mil increase. Mr. DeBonis noted that CCSS would finalize their proposal in the next few months.

Commissioner Proud asked what the increase would mean to the average homeowner. Mr. DeBonis state the increase to the average homeowner based on a \$100,000 home value would be about \$7.00 per year.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – The Board will discuss the levy proposals at the end of the informal regular session and provide direction to staff for preparing materials for session on 07/15/15.

3. **Issue - Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Karen Scherra, Executive Director, LeeAnn Watson, Associate Director...05-0413-001**

**Discussion** – Karen Scherra provided a PowerPoint presentation and some discussion regarding the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB) Levy, stating the position of MHRB had not changed since the first presentation in April. MHRB is requesting to be on the November 2015 ballot for a renewal of the 1981 0.5 mil levy with a 0.25 increase as projected in April. Ms. Scherra provided a slide with an updated financial

projection through State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018. Ms. Scherra noted their financial situation had changed. There have been cuts of approximately \$30 million to the State budget in Mental Health and Addiction Services in SFY16 and MHRB is unsure of what impact that will have on them.

Medicaid expansion has helped the behavioral health system a little bit, however, services are being provided under the assumption that either everyone has private insurance or Medicaid and MHRB is not being paid for services. Due to the opiate epidemic MHRB is required to provide a full "Continuum of Care" by September 2016 or lose all state and federal funding. Continuum of Care services must include:

- Regional Basis
  - Residential Detox
  - Inpatient Detox
- Within the County
  - Ambulatory Detox
  - Non-intensive outpatient
  - Intensive outpatient
  - Medication assisted treatment
  - Peer Mentoring (we do not have this now)
  - Recovery Housing (we do not have this now)
  - Sufficient 12-step programs (currently MHRB does not fund these programs)

Ms. Scherra stated the MHRB has a very lengthy waiting list. For example, the waiting list for an initial psychiatric service can be as long as 6 months. There are currently 900 individuals in Clermont County that are receiving treatment at the Clermont Recovery Center mostly for heroin addiction. Only 250 of those are receiving medication assisted treatment that will be required by the Continuum of Care program in 2016. The MHRB currently does not have the funding to provide medication assisted treatment to the number of people who actually need it.

Ms. Scherra stated she did not currently have the totals, but estimates year to date 2015 deaths from overdose are already equal to all in 2014. Clermont County Sheriff Officers (CCSO) are currently carrying NarCan, which is a drug that counteracts the effects of a heroin overdose. The CCSO has been credited with 23 saves in 2015. Those numbers are still too high.

Ms. Scherra stated grants are becoming harder to apply for due to portions of the applications where we are required to complete the sections regarding matching local funds or the plans for sustainability to support the programs with the outlook on the financials the way they are right now.

MHRB is seeing a caseload increase in children who are staying in the system for a longer duration of time. Ms. Scherra stated they are also seeing an increased caseload in adult mental health services. The caseworker's caseload is beyond what is recommended and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services has stated that they would need an additional \$150,000 in funding to bring that caseload number to the range where the caseworker to client caseload numbers would be in the recommended range.

Ms. Scherra stated that if Mental Health does not provide the appropriate services to individuals who need it there will be impacts on other systems such as the courts, law enforcement, jail, fire/ems, and school districts, Children's Protective Services, Department Of Jobs And Family Services, CCDD Board and Senior Services.

Ms. Scherra stated MHRB would like to be on the ballot in November 2015 for a renewal of the 0.5 mil levy and are looking for an increase of 0.25 mil due to the fact that the opiate epidemic is affecting so many people and the funding is not there to fund programs and services locally.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – The Board will discuss the levy proposals at the end of the informal regular session and provide direction to staff for preparing materials for session on 07/15/15.

4. **Issue - Supporter of Mental Health & Recovery Levy, Marcia Oganowski, Citizen...2015-0518-001**

**Discussion** – Ms. Oganowski, a resident of Batavia, provided the Board with a presentation and some discussion regarding her views on the threats of the opiate epidemic as well as the necessity for funding treatments and recovery options.

Ms. Oganowski identified the reason she became involved with the Opiate Task Force was due to a meeting she attended in March 2014 when the budget for MHRB was \$8M and cited 53 deaths from heroin overdoses. The budget for MHRB has now dropped to \$5.1M and deaths are well on the way to doubling in 2015. The State of Ohio Rainy Day Fund balance at that time was \$0.89 and as of April 2011, the Rainy Day budget now has a balance of \$2B. Ms. Oganowski feels some of these funds should be diverted to the emergency facing so many of the citizens battling the disease of heroin addiction.

Ms. Oganowski surveyed individuals at a grocery store in Goshen for 3 hours on Saturday, June 13, 2015, asking if they would sign a petition favoring a tax increase to fight the heroin epidemic. She was able to obtain 35 signatures during that period.

Commissioner Proud stated that the community has concentrated on Heroin but must not forget Methamphetamine abuse is still an issue as well.

Commissioner Humphrey stated that mental health issues would benefit from the increase as well.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed -**

The following discussion ensued: Commissioner Humphrey indicated he was supportive of the presentations by all three organizations and felt they should be able to present the citizens of Clermont County with renewal or replacement levies at the time and amount each of the Boards wished to do so.

Commissioner Proud indicated his preference would be to have Children's Services and Mental Health only on the November 2015 ballot. Indicating that CCDD had more options such as being placed on the March 2016 or the November 2016 ballots. He indicated that he was supportive of the amounts and the combination CCDD has proposed.

Dan Ottke stated the issue for CCDD is that they can only do a replacement levy once a calendar year so if they are not placed on the November 2015 ballot and instead are placed on the March 2016 ballot, if the levy were to fail they will not be eligible for placement on another ballot again until calendar year March 2017.

Commissioner Uible inquired if Children's Services will be on the November 2015 ballot, since they did not make a presentation. Mr. Rabolt stated they were asking for a renewal on the November 2015 ballot.

Discussion ensued about the number of issues the Commissioners felt would be feasible and possibly successful to consider during one election cycle. Commissioner Uible said he was unsure what the history was for having three levies on one ballot. He further stated he was supportive of what the CCDD and MHRB organizations had suggested as far as the millage. As far as CCSS, he was unsure at this time. Since CCSS was not asking to be on the ballot until March, there would be some additional time to review that request. Additional discussion ensued regarding the periods for other questions/levies such as

energy aggregation, public safety, fire and EMS.

The Commissioners instructed staff to prepare resolutions for Children's Services and the Mental Health and Recovery Board. The Resolutions would instruct the Auditor to certify current tax valuation for the requested levies to be placed on the November 2015 ballot.

**Adjournment**

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

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**EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT**

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**ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT**

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**DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER**

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**STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

07/22/15  
**DATE APPROVED**