

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular Board meeting on 1-27-20 in the Administration Building Board Room at 7:30 pm.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

OATH OF OFFICE – Shawn Thieman read the oath to Board members and Board members all signed the Oath of Office paper.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Phil Fullenkamp

Vice President – Teri Spoltman

Recording Secretary – Jim Maurer

A motion was made to elect these Board officers by Beth Guggenbiller and a second by Mike Linton.

DESIGNATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS – Shawn stated there was a copy of the Board meeting calendar dates in the Board’s packets. All Board members were okay with the calendar. Shawn also asked if the start time of the meeting, which is 7:30pm, is still okay with all Board members. All Board members stated that it worked for them.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP – ORIENTATION AND IN-SERVICE OBLIGATIONS - Shawn passed out the orientation pamphlet for the Board members to look at. Board absences are recorded. Board members should notify Shawn if they are not able to attend a meeting. There will be four hours of in-service together as a Board.

EXPLANATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – The committee assignments were kept the same, except for adding new Board member Jennifer Armstrong. Mike Linton was added to the Budget and Finance Committee

President Phil Fullenkamp called the meeting to order and a roll call revealed that a quorum was present.

- Members Present: Jennifer Armstrong
- Mona Berning
- Phil Fullenkamp
- Beth Guggenbiller
- Mike Linton
- Jim Maurer
- Teri Spoltman
- Others Present: Tonya Clark
- Kathy Coon
- Beth Gehret
- Claire Loughrige
- Shawn Thieman

CONSENT AGENDA (ATTACHMENT):

The Consent Agenda was accepted by a motion from Jim Maurer and seconded by Mona Berning. Motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE COORDINATOR POSITION – Shawn announced the new hire of Molly Dillon, Service Coordinator in the Early Intervention Department, due to the departure of Jenna Braun. Molly previously worked for the Mercer County Board of DD in Early Intervention and we are excited to have her back. Families have always had a good rapport with Molly and she provides a quality service.

MERCER COUNTY ARC UPDATE - The Mercer County Arc recently purchased a 14 passenger handicap accessible vehicle from Tesco in Toledo, Ohio. The vehicle will provide transportation for Sam Fledderjohann’s Recreation & Leisure activities making it much easier for them to attend as a group as well as Arc activities and Independent Providers. The Arc is a 501C3 and Insurance is provided by Stolly Insurance (through the Mercer County Arc).

LOGO - Shawn shared that there is confusion within the Community regarding Cheryl Ann, CA Group, CA Industries, etc. These names have been intermingled and are sometimes used inappropriately. Therefore, felt it may be important to avoid using “Cheryl Ann” and rebrand ourselves with the new logo “Mercer DD”. It will be important this year to educate the community. Shawn shared two examples of Logo’s that the Mercer County DD has narrowed it down to. One design with a larger Lighthouse and Mercer DD next to it and the other with Mercer County being more prominent and the Lighthouse smaller between the letters of “DD”. Shawn asked the Board for their feedback or personal preference on the drawings as far as style at this point.

CA GROUP - CA Group discontinued the Recreation and Leisure services at the end of 2019 which includes medical appointments, grocery store, and sporting events. Though families heard it from CA Group many were confused thinking it came from “Cheryl Ann”. Board staff coordinated family meetings to address the situation and to help families find a solution and figure it out together.

There are no other agencies wanting to do Recreation/Leisure type services. Some CA Group employees that were doing Recreation/Leisure transportation services said they would be happy and willing to become Independent Providers. WESTCON has played a huge role in getting Independent Providers certified through the State and helping them through that process. It takes about a month because of the fingerprinting and BCI/FBI checks that take a month to get back results and other training. We are close to getting our first two certified and won’t be long before we have another two certified.

NEW BUSINESS

6.12 CELL PHONE STIPEND POLICY

The Board reviewed a revised policy that includes a cell phone stipend. Many staff report that they are using their personal cell phone for business use. Our SSA’s use texting to contact families as it seems like it is the way our younger families like to correspond. Early Intervention staff use their cell phone for map functions since it is all home base, which saves from purchasing GPS units. Staff has requested a stipend over the years, and felt it was time to update our cell phone policy and to include a stipend as part of it. The policy allows for reimbursement of up to \$25/month for voice, text and data services.

A motion was made to approve the amendment to section 6.12 Cell Phone Stipend by Teri Spoltman and seconded by Jim Maurer. Motion was carried.

BUILDING PROJECT – Shawn reported at the last meeting that we had one proposal for legal services from Bricker/Eckler. They were proposing a two part process that they will help us select an architect through an RFQ process, and then oversee the bidding requirements. After discussion in November it was tabled with a recommendation to get more information and a second opinion. Amy Ikerd provided Shawn with another firm that specializes in legal support on building projects. Both proposals offered similar recommendations, but the proposal from Bricker/Eckler was determined to be more affordable.

A motion was made for an agreement of legal services with Bricker/Eckler by Mike Linton and seconded by Beth Guggenbiller. Motion was carried

STAFF APPRECIATION DINNER - No date has been decided as yet. Once Shawn has a date he will let Board members know and will discuss it further at the February meeting. It's usually a Thursday in late March or early April. Shawn asked the Board members to check their calendar and if they knew of any conflicts to email him.

BOARD IN-SERVICE - DODD "Department of Developmental Disabilities" did say we could do it like last year and that we can be flexible with what we are training. MUI training will be done all on the same night, therefore all 4 hours together. No dates have been decided on as yet.

SUMMER PROGRAM – Beth shared information on the Summer Program for ages 14-17 with Karen Leugers. They are speculating 14 kids to participate and 3 would require one on one. Karen is planning on meeting with the families to discuss what they would like to receive from the Summer Program. The Summer Program for ages 18-22 there could be 26 kids and they receive a free choice of Provider Services 2x a week. The Provider Fair will be held on March 31ST at Mercer DD.

SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION – A client living in one of our Arc homes passed away. The individual at the Providing Agency that worked with the individual has requested grief counseling. We have contracted with Topp Counseling for the individual to seek grief counseling for a maximum of five sessions costing \$500.00.

With all the capital improvements we have going on this year we will also be pursuing improvement on the gymnasium. We will talk about the space and making it more functional for Sam Fledderjohann's activities. It was mentioned that Riverside in Troy recently held the Iron Will weight lifting competition and that we could get a lot of ideas from their facility.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mona Berning and a second by Jenny Armstrong. Motion was carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held in the Board Room in the Administration Building at **7:30pm** on **February 24, 2020.**