

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its annual meeting on 1-25-21 at the Administration Building Gymnasium 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 – Teri Spoltman**

**Vice President – Mike Linton**

**Recording Secretary – Jim Maurer**

**All in favor - Motion was carried.**

**DESIGNATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS** – Shawn stated there was a copy of the Board meeting calendar dates in the Board packet. He also asked if the start time of the meeting, which is 7:30pm, is still okay with all Board members. 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 members Karla Butler and John Werling. The Finance and Budget Committee meets a couple times a year or as needed.

The meeting was called to order with **President Teri Spoltman presiding** and a roll call revealed that a quorum was present.

Members Present:   Mona Berning  
                          Karla Butler  
                          Beth Guggenbiller  
                          Teri Spoltman  
                          John Werling

Others Present:     Tonya Clark  
                          Kathy Coon  
                          Beth Gehret  
                          Rajeon Hedrick  
                          Claire Loughrige  
                          Shawn Thieman

**Board Members Absent: Mike Linton and Jim Maurer**

## **CONSENT AGENDA (ATTACHMENT) :**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND VACCINATIONS** – Shawn reported that staff is working closely with our local Health Department. As of 4 weeks ago we were able to vaccinate individuals who live in Congregated homes, which was huge for us because not only do you have people that are living together, but multiple providers that are going into these homes every day that were offered the vaccine due to being a healthcare provider. This week anyone with a Developmental Disability and an approved medical condition can be vaccinated. As far as a staff perspective we are mostly working from our offices, however there are a few in the Early Intervention Department working from home providing services to families via video chat on Zoom.

**BUILDING PROJECT** – Shawn reported the new front entrance has been completed and looks beautiful. The total cost of the new building project which consisted of a new front entrance, new material around the exterior of the building and removal of the mounds of dirt was \$401,000, which came in at the budgeted cost.

**2020 MERCER DD AWARDS DINNER** – Shawn shared that in November a small group was brought together in the Mercer DD Gymnasium to present an award for DSP of the Year, the Albert Heckler Award , and years of service awards for staff. Ed Keefer received the Direct Support Provider award and Jan Tindall the Albert Heckler award. Video of the presentation may be viewed on our Facebook page at Mercerdd.org.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE COORDINATOR POSITION** – Shawn invited new hire Summer Hauenstein, Service Coordinator and Chloe Steigerwalt, Home Visitor in the Early Intervention Department to the Board Meeting. However, they were unable to attend due to other commitments.

**FFCRA EXTENSION** – The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was extended to employees due to the ongoing issues involved with the COVID-19 Pandemic. As the year ended, the Federal Government extended the FFCRA benefit to March 31, 2021; but it is our choice on whether to extend for our employees.

**A motion was made to extend the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) to March 31, 2021 to employees by Karla Butler and second by Mona Berning. Motion was carried.**

**SUMMER PROGRAM** – Beth shared information on the Summer Program that takes place every year. Individuals in the 14-15 age group will learn more about their community and the work skills needed for jobs with Karen Leugers our Transition Specialist. Beth speculated 10 kids to participate. The 16-17 age group focus on a variety of work skills with Karen and this is communicated back to their classroom teacher. There are 9 kids speculated to participate. The Summer Program for ages 18-22 are offered 20 total days, usually 2 days per week x 10

weeks. This age group can access different work opportunities in the community depending on skill level or DAY Services. The cost for this program is \$12,000 which is a good investment in their future as well as their community.

**OACB MEMBERSHIP** - Shawn shared that our board members all have a membership to the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). They will receive newsletters and emails from them as they offer support to Board members.

**SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION** – Shawn shared that we have more building issues. The sanitary system in the building has old cast iron pipes that run underneath the concrete and are disintegrating. We will be addressing this by updating the bathrooms which were used for (pre-school bathrooms) this summer. Estimates have been received from Baumer Construction, Minster and Consolidated Hunter, Celina. The scope for these contractors is to take out concrete walls / floors, put in new plumbing and put new floors and walls back in. There will likely be other work that will need to be addressed as a part of these repairs.

**Motion was made to adjourn by John Werling and a second by Karla Butler. Motion was carried. Meeting adjourned.**

The next meeting will be held in the Board Room in the Administration Building at **7:30pm** on **February 22, 2021.**