

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its annual meeting on 2-22-21 at the Administration Building Gymnasium at 7:30 pm

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
 Mike Linton
 Jim Maurer
 Teri Spoltman
 John Werling

Others Present: Tonya Clark
 Kathy Coon
 Rajeane Hedrick
 Shawn Thieman

Board Members Absent:

CONSENT AGENDA (ATTACHMENT):

The Consent Agenda was accepted by a motion from Beth Guggenbiller and seconded by Mike Linton **Motion was carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND VACCINATIONS – We have been working closely with the health department. The Group 1A and 1B vaccinations have been completed. We have had more of a percentage of people that took the vaccine than what the average of other counties had. Staff are not being offered vaccines yet. EI is still using Zoom and working from home. We have discussed with the Health Department to see about vaccines for staff. The Health dept is willing to work with us.

EARLY INTERVENTION EMPLOYEES -- Chloe Steigerwalt, home visitor for EI has resigned. She was living in Jay County and felt that she could not be as flexible as the position required. She wanted to work more with people with disabilities. The job has been posted on Indeed and Hometown Opportunities. We are open to any referrals that the board might have.

SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT-- Molly Dillon (EI) has asked if she could do janitorial work on nights, weekends as secondary employment. Could also do some cleaning of ARC houses. Shawn will put out memo asking staff about any secondary employment. Will bring any others to the Board next month. Motion to approve Molly Dillon's Secondary employment—**Motion by Mike Linton, Seconded by Mona Berning. Motion Approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

ARC RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT/MAINTENANCE—ARC has taken on the responsibility of lawn care/snow removal and other maintenance type items (extermination, tree work) for the ARC houses. This year the expense was around \$20,000. The Board feels this is a vital service. This is a great investment in the upkeep of these homes in the community for the people we serve. This year we have figured the amount the ARC will need is \$30,000. Motion to approve the increased budget for ARC Residential improvement/maintenance for 2021--
Motion made by Jim Maurer, Seconded by John Werling. Motion Carried.

WESTCON COG DISCUSSION—Lynn Wolters is the Director of Westcon COG. WestCon rents space from the Shelby County Board of DD. There are 12 Counties in the COG. Membership in the COG has many benefits. Shawn went over the benefits of being a member of the COG. Shawn included the contract for 2021 to be part of the COG at WestCon. Reviewed all the benefits/costs. They are very beneficial to us for many different services. Shawn will put WestCon COG report in the board's packets on a quarterly basis. Discussed meeting with Budge/Finance Committee, Auditor/Treasurer to talk about finances. Motion to approve 2021 contract with WestCon COG—**Motion made by Karla Butler, Seconded by Mona Berning. Motion Carried.**

SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION

Behavior Support Services—We are seeing more concerning behaviors in the kids we are working with. We need a behavior support plan, a coordinated approach. We can contract with Allen County Board of DD for a Behavioral Support Specialist. This would start tonight if approved. This is on as needed basis. SSA's will be working with the families and determining needs. The Board feels this is a quality service and would also be a very valuable service. Motion made to contract with Allen County Board of DD for Behavioral Support Specialist person for 2021. **Motion made by Mike Linton, Seconded by Jim Maurer. Motion Carried**

County Home—closing, This will not affect us much. We only have 1 person still there. She will probably go to Assisted Living.

Tri Star—Beth & Shawn will be talking to a Career Based Intervention class. They will talk to students that may be a good match for our provider agencies and will let them know what working in our field looks like.

Motion was made to adjourn by Karla Butler and a second by Beth Guggenbiller. Motion was carried. Meeting adjourned.

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