

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its annual meeting on 5-24-21 at the Administration Building Boardroom 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
Mike Linton
Jim Maurer
Teri Spoltman
John Werling

Others Present: Tonya Clark
Sarah Flenar
Beth Gehret
Rajeon Hedrick
Melissa Kaup
Claire Loughrige
Shawn Thieman

Board Members Absent: Beth Guggenbiller

CONSENT AGENDA (ATTACHMENT):

The Consent Agenda was accepted by a motion from **John Werling** and seconded by **Mona Berning**. **Motion was carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Business Director—Sarah Flenar has been hired. She was employed by Auglaize County DD. She has an Accounting and Business Degree. She has worked with Auglaize County Business Director and then worked as QA Manager in SSA Dept. She is from St. Henry and is very excited to be here. Tonya will be training her for 2 months.

EI—Will be getting the 2 new people to attend a board meeting soon. Summer and Casandra.

Summer Staff—Did hire 2 people. Danielle Hesson and Grace Thien. Both are college students. They are helping Karen with Summer Program and Samantha with Special Olympics. They are also available to the SSA's--Would like them to do some R/L and other provider activities.

SSA Positions—There are 2 positions open in SSA Department. Julie Hess has resigned. She is going to Crystal Manor. Since Jessica Heck-Stelzer accepted the QA position, her SSA position is now open. Interviewed 5 people, calling 3 people back for a second interview.

QA Manager—Jessica Heck-Stelzer has accepted this position.

NEW BUSINESS

ESC CONTRACTS—**Agreement Between Mercer County Educational Service Center and MCBDD**—same as in the past. This is to support students with disabilities throughout all 6 districts in Mercer County. Motion to Approve this contract. **Motion made by Jim Maurer, Seconded by Karla Butler. Motion Carried.** **Memorandum of Understanding**—same as in the past, for the classrooms in our building. **Motion made to approve MOU. Motion made by Mike Linton, Seconded by Mona Berning. Motion Carried.**

DYNAMIC PATHWAYS CONTRACT—They will help us with any Behavior plans, —this is on as needed basis. They will consult and train (give new ideas/advice) to the whole team on Behavior plans. This will give us more individualized help and support for behaviors. This will be a great help to families. If we go through the COG, we will terminate this contract. Will keep the Board updated. Motion to approve the contract. **Motion Made by Karla Butler, Seconded by Jim Maurer. Motion Carried**

SANDY DIERINGER CONTRACT—This goes along with the Healthy Relationship Curriculum that we have purchased. Sandy will learn the curriculum and will be available up to 10 hours a month. She has worked with our population before. Motion to approve contract. **Motion made by Mona Berning, Seconded by John Werling. Motion Carried.**

BUILDING PROJECTS

Parking Lot Agreement—There is a big problem with the asphalt in the parking lot. There are deep cracks and dips. Fanning/Howey will oversee this project. They will advise us on what is better asphalt or concrete; and will bid jobs out. Shawn will bring it to the board for approval. This will not be until early next year, possibly in the Spring. Motion to approve Fanning/Howey Agreement. **Motion made by Mike Linton, Seconded by Jim Mauer. Motion Carried.**

Natural Gas Installation—Consolidated Hunter has submitted a contract. We will be going to all-natural gas by this winter. This will be cheaper and better than propane heat. Motion to approve this contract. **Motion made by Karla Butler, Seconded by John Werling. Motion Carried.**

PROVIDER EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT CRITERIA—We are trying to address the DSP shortage. This would be a reimbursement/Scholarship plan, after they have went to college, had training etc. Could get reimbursed up to \$2000 per year. There is a criteria that has to be met. This will be run thru the ARC for now. Karla questioned how we could get the word out about this service. Possibly talk to Civic Foundation, go to the Schools and distribute to Guidance Counselors. Agencies need to promote it to their staff/providers. Motion to approve the Provider Education Reimbursement. **Motion made by Mona Berning, Seconded by Karla Butler. Motion Carried.**

MEDICAID RATE DISCUSSION—Shawn handed out some information regarding this. State is trying to increase rates so the DSP's can get higher wages. No new money in the budget for this so county (local boards) might have to assume some costs. Tonya put together how the percent of increase would impact us on a local level/budget. Proposed 0% this year by 2% next year. However, this is all subject to change. Will keep the board updated on this.

SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION

Special Olympics--Weightlifting at the Park—lots of smiles, incredible day. Golf League—still need to males to help. Special Olympic Cheerleaders (2) can go to Nationals in 2022. Will have June meeting but possibly not meet in July, depending on people's schedules. Will talk more next meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn by Karla Butler and a seconded by Mona Berning. Motion was carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held in the Board Room in the Administration Building at 7:30 pm on June 28, 2021.