

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 8-23-21 in the gymnasium in the Administration Building at 7:30 p.m. with **President Teri Spoltman presiding.**

The meeting was called to order and a roll call revealed that a quorum was present.

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

Board Members Absent: Mike Linton

Others Present: Sarah Flenar, Beth Gehret, Rajean Hedrick, Melissa Kaup, Rachael Marchal, Jamie Thobe, Shawn Thieman

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

The Consent Agenda was accepted by a motion from Karla Butler and a second by Beth Guggenbiller. Motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

DSP Recruitment and Retainment – Grant Video—This video was created for students at WSU to promote DSP awareness. We will be having more of a presence on Instagram and Facebook. Will be doing Agency Spotlights. After the meeting, the board watched some videos. One of Shawn explaining the Educational Grant for Students going to college if they meet the criteria (IP/DSP) Another was of a DSP discussing her job and how she feels about being a DSP.

Building Projects—Things went wonderfully. The ESC classrooms are ready. Things were done within budget, and we had great contractors. The bathrooms were totally redone. ESC Staff are really thrilled with the renovations. The board took a tour after the meeting. All were in agreement this remodel was really needed and was very nicely done.

New Employees—2 New SSA's – Rachael Marchal—she is from New Bremen and worked at JFS at Allen County and Jamie Thobe who is from Coldwater and a worked as a therapist in Portland. EI has a new employee—Megan Decker—she was unavailable this evening but will come to another board meeting in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recreation Support Program—The Summer Program is over. Danielle became an Independent Provider. Discussed making this a year around program. This program was really well received by the parents. Discussed possibly hiring 2 employees that would possibly become a DSP/IP, moving through our system. This would not be long term employment. Just to help them get started in this process. The goal is for them to become an IP or to work through an agency as a DSP. They could help Special Olympics and Sam Fledderjohann. **Motion to approve the hiring of 2 Intermittent employees/Subs as needed for Recreational Support Employees. Motion made by John Werling, Seconded by Mona Berning. Motion Carried.**

HVAC Systems— Our electric furnaces/air conditioners are out of date. We are replacing them with Natural Gas. This is more efficient and saves money. Will do the replacements over the holidays.

Motion was made to approve Consolidated Hunter bill for the new HVAC system. Motion by Karla Butler, Seconded by Jim Maurer. Motion Carried.

Board Inservice—The board needs 4 hours by the end of the year. Administration will be hosting this Inservice. This will be approximately 4 hours, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We will tentatively set the date for Monday, October 4, 2021. Shawn will check with Mike L. If this date does not work, we will try for Monday, October 18, 2021. Shawn to let the board know.

Levy Discussion—Sarah and Shawn met with Courthouse staff/Randy Grapner. Will be asking to combine levies/reducing millage. We need to come up with a number to ask for on the Millage. The first time we can put a levy on the ballot is the Fall election. Will be discussing this more in the Inservice

Superintendent Discussion—Staff Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 4 at Romers in Celina. Please email or call Rajean to let her know if you will be attending.

Locally Funded Budgets—went over that policy, Self-determination and the amounts of money that goes with each type. Still have the old IRO program—that is a legacy program. People on Waivers are not eligible for these programs. Shawn distributed a report from Westcon on how the money was spent for individuals.

Medicaid Services Report---will be in packet quarterly, Shawn discussed this with the board.

The board expressed their sympathies to Karla Butler in the loss of her father.

Motion was made to adjourn by Beth Guggenbiller 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 7:30 pm on October 25, 2021