

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 2-27-23 in the gymnasium at 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, Mike Linton, Dan Muhlenkamp, Teri Spoltman, John Werling

Others Present: Sarah Flenar, Rajean Hedrick, Melissa Kaup, Shawn Thieman

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Oath of Office—Teri Spoltman and Karla Butler needed to sign the Oath of Office. They signed it and it was returned to Shaw Thieman.

DSP Retention Payments—There have been some payments made—(2 payments). Getting ready for the 3rd payment. The DSP's are receiving the increase. This should increase their wages/salary and hopefully we will be getting more DSP's.

DODD Accreditation—Accreditation went very well. They were very impressed with all we had done and the improvements that were made. We received a 3 year accreditation with 2 cites. They were very complimentary and were able to wrap everything up early.

Early Intervention Positions—There will be some staff changing positions. Megan Wilder will be training with Chris Schulte and will be taking her position when Chris retires (Developmental Specialist). Mandy Rinker will be assuming Megan Wilder's position as a Service Coordinator. We will be hiring for a new Help Me Grow Home Visitor. Melissa is conducting interviews.

NEW BUSINESS

SSA Positions—Jessica Heck-Stelzer (Quality Assurance Manager for SSA Dept) will be retiring at the end of May. Erica Lange has accepted her position, so we have an open position for an SSA. Beth has a lot of great resumes coming in and will be conducting interviews soon.

ARC Housing Annual Contribution—Shawn brought up an invoice for the ARC houses. Every year the Mercer County Board of DD approves an annual contribution towards the maintenance/upkeep of the ARC houses. It averages \$2500 per house, and we have 15 houses now so it would be for \$37,500. The board feels this is a good investment. Beth Guggenbiller commented how she was told that a person from New York relocated to this area because they had heard such good things about the ARC housing. They wanted their loved one with a disability to live in an ARC home. **Motion to Approve the ARC Housing Annual Contribution. Motion made by Dan Muhlenkamp. Seconded by Beth Guggenbiller. Motion Carried.**

Medicaid Match—During the Pandemic, the Medicaid Match was lowered. They have decided to extend this. As of October 11th, it will be finished so the Medicaid Match will go back to what it was (increase). Just wanted the Board to be aware of this.

State of Ohio Budget Bill—This will increase the DSP wages. They DSP's wages should be \$16 by end of the year. The Slogan for this is "Lives are at Stake" The biggest part is still in the bill, hopefully it will remain in the bill. They needed to increase the Medicaid rates so the DSP's wages could be increased. This includes our 6 ½%.

Agriculture Building—The old CA Group building is going to be turned into an Agricultural One-Stop Center. The County Commissioners have approved this change and the updates needed to the building. There was some question since it was an old DD Building and is now becoming an Ag Center, what was going on with the Mercer DD Levies. Shawn checked into the levies and they were all written with the language supporting the voters approving them for people/services not building/maintenance. Shawn included a letter that he wrote to Amy Ikerd. The Ballot language is appropriate, and we will continue to receive levy funds.

Superintendent Discussion—Mercer County Fair would like to offer our individuals a showmanship opportunity during the fair. Three separate days with rabbits, sheep, and dairy. They would be paired with a 4-H volunteer. Will have more info coming soon.

Adult Changing Area at Fairgrounds---The Mercer County Fair does not have this now. We are discussing buying and adult changing bed (approx. cost \$3400—5000). We would keep it here and then bring it to the fair during fair week. Teri Spoltman brought up that they need family bathrooms at the fair. Also discussed sensory room but Shawn feels they are not there yet. They might do that on their own with input from us.

OACB—Shawn was asked to run for Treasurer for the OACB. Shawn feels this would be a great opportunity. He feels he might have to be in Columbus more but that would not be a problem. He feels he is ready for it. The board felt this would be beneficial to our county, have our voice heard in Columbus. The Board supports Shawn running for Treasurer.

Special Olympics—The Bobcat Basketball team and the cheerleaders are going to state at Bowling Green. There was a pep rally here that was really well attended. Hopefully Sam will give us a report when she returns from Bowling Green.

Motion was made to adjourn by Karla Butler and a second 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 March 27, 2023.