

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 3-27-23 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, Janel Sanning, Shawn Thieman

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

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

OLD BUSINESS:

DSP Retention Payments—The payments have been distributed to the DSP's. This has increased the wages to the DSP's. There is some talk about increasing the amount another 3 ½%. This would increase our Medicaid Match. Shawn will keep the Board informed. The ARPA Pandemic decrease is ending in October so the Medicaid Match will go back to the pre-pandemic amount.

DODD Accreditation—We do not have the certificate yet, but we were accredited for 3 years. We will put a copy in the board packet when we receive it.

Early Intervention and SSA Positions—Emily Grieshop has been hired as the new SSA. She is currently working as an intervention specialist. She will finish out the school year and will be starting in June. She is from the Maria Stein area. Amy Meier has been hired for the Help Me Grow Home Visitor position. She is currently working at Head Start. She will be starting on 4/17. Lynn Rupert will probably be retiring this year. Shawn has been in discussions with her and maybe some type of PRN work for her after she retires. Shawn asked the board members if they had any suggestions of who to contact or knew of any pediatric physical therapist that was looking for employment. Shawn will get in touch with Bob Hibner and his Rehab Group. Also possibly reach out to Auglaize Co DD. Dan Muhlenkamp suggested Performance Physical Therapy. Teri Spoltman might know of someone. She will let Shawn know.

NEW BUSINESS

Ten Year Cash Flow Projections— Sarah went over the Ten Year Cash Flow Projections. Discussed Revenue and Expenses. Increase in Levy Revenue and two cost report settlements. Expenses of Retiring employees, contract services, non-waiver spending, waiver match. This should be the last of the renovations. We should be operating in the red until 2026 but there is a lot of variables. **Motion to Approve 10 Year Cash Flow Projections. Motion made by Beth Guggenbiller. Seconded by John Werling. Motion Carried.**

Social Media Report—Janel Sanning— Janel works at WestConn and she is here a couple of days a week. She is in Public Relations/Social Media. She has put together some videos and they have been on YouTube and have went viral. She has updated and continues to update our Facebook page and Instagram. She went over how valuable social media can be to get our message out there and to spread awareness of what Mercer DD can do and what we are all about. Coldwater McDonalds employes one of our individuals and he was featured in a video. Beth Gehret received a call from Celina McDonalds requesting that they wanted an employee like him. The Board was very impressed and felt Janel is doing a great job.

State of Ohio Budget Bill—Shawn gave the board information regarding this. 3 Different perspectives. Shawn went over the highlights. This would make DSP wages \$20/hour. There is not enough budgeted yet, we are not quite there but we are getting them up to \$18/hour. The County Board has funds available to use but we will wait to see how this all comes out. Shawn will keep the Board informed. Shawn feels that we are on a good path now to increase wages and keep DSP's.

Superintendent Discussion— House Bill One—There a lot of unknowns yet. With Levy Dollars/rollback and Homestead monies. There is some discussion of lowering the income tax but increase property taxes, possibly getting rid of the homestead/rollback monies. The taxpayers would save on income taxes but the property taxes would increase. Right now—County Boards are held harmless, but this could change. Shawn will keep the board informed on this Bill.

Levy—will be in the Fall but we need to know more about HB1. Will probably combine the levy's together and possibly reduce them. Will discuss this more later.

Boardroom---We will have our Board Meeting in the Boardroom next month. We had some slight delays with mudding/painting—however it is getting finished up.

Providers—We do have a new Provider—St. Joseph Home Health Care—they are coming to Celina. Greenville Nursing is also providing HPC care.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mike Linton 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 April 24 , 2023.