

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 4-24-23 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, Beth Gehret, Rajeon Hedrick, Shawn Thieman

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Building/Property Update— The Boardroom is back in use. It is almost done, just needs some finishing touches. It turned out great. We made part of the old Boardroom into an office—Primarily for EI—zoom meetings, infant massages, and family meetings. The board thought it looked very nice and commended Jay for all his hard work.

Parking Lot—the one on the side by the old CA Group building will be torn up shortly, by early summer. That building will be the new AG Center for various Mercer County Ag offices. The parking lot needs redone. We have agreed to pay ½ of ½ split with Commissioners. They were only going to do ½ of the parking lot. Shawn suggested just redoing the whole thing. Shawn to meet with the Commissioners on Wednesday.

Ohio Budget Bill—Shawn discussed how this had helped with DSP wages. If passed the wages will go up to \$17 the first year and \$18 the second year. The County Boards will also be adding \$1.00 on top of this. Hopefully, this will get wages close to \$20/hour. This is going to the senate next. Shawn feels that this will really help with the DSP crisis. This is really good news.

DSP Retention Payments—These have been going out. It is very appreciated by the DSP's. They are getting around \$1.50 per hour at the end of the quarter. People are staying at their jobs. Retention payments goes away when the budget bill gets passed but the wages will have increased. We have really accomplished something with the DSP wages and increasing the number of DSP's that are working.

Mercer County Fair—Adult Changing Table, "Share the Ring"---We have purchased an adult changing table. This will be used during the fair. It will be in the family restroom in the commercial building—we are sponsoring this. There is a Changing Spaces Campaign to bring awareness for the need for changing areas for adults. Our building is open during the day if it is needed. Discussed other options if the table is needed, another space/place in the community that would be open to use if needed. Coldwater Park does have one. Would be nice to have a list of Adult Changing Stations.

Share The Ring—Flyers are available now/application forms. Please give this to anyone in our program that might be interested in participating. This is showing of rabbits, dairy or sheep. They will be partnered with another 4-H person. There are certain dates/times—the information is on the flyer. We

would like people with disabilities to get involved. We will have judges/awards. If anyone would like to be a part of this, let Shawn know. 4-H/Fair and Mercer DD are very excited to be a part of this.

NEW BUSINESS

Medicaid Rules for Children--- County Boards have not offered Medicaid waivers until 18 years old or leaving school system. During pandemic—schools/day care shut down—Medicaid changed rules—said family member can provide services because there was no place for the kids to go. Possibly get paid to stay at home and get paid to take care of your loved one. This was all supposed to be temporary. If the rule is changed—you have the right to quit your job and get paid to stay home and take care of your child. This could be a tremendous cost. SSA's don't have to write plans for kids—would have to write plans—maybe hire another SSA. We would have to come up with money that is not planned or budgeted for. Calling it Extraordinary Care---this would have to be determined what that means. **There would have to be strict/clear parameters involved in this.** ISP's would have to be clear. We do not have enough information currently to form an opinion yet. There is a lot yet to be figured out. Possibly make it something that you would age into possibly 6 years and up. Already been called by 3 individuals inquiring about this. Shawn feels this will happen by November 11th. Shawn will keep the board updated. **Pandemic Unwinding Period—** The State of Ohio is saying that this might be a good thing, pay the families to be caregivers while kids are kids—this was just during pandemic but was going to end when the pandemic did. But if it is kept on—this is a game-changer.

Medicaid Match—Will go back to pre-pandemic levels in November.

HPC/Shared Living Billing—This is going away after pandemic. HPC/Shared living can't be billed on same day after pandemic has been lifted. Maybe changing HPC into more respite so it can be billed.

Levy---Need a resolution from the Board to put 5 year 1.94 Mil Levy that needs renewed. Need to put this on Fall Ballot. **Motion to Approve to put the 5 year 1.94 Mil Levy on the Fall 2023 Ballot. Motion by Mike Linton. Seconded by John Werling. Motion Carried.**

SSA Policy 3.45---just a few changes. Did not change the intent of the rule—just clarified states ISP Policy. **Motion made to Change SSA Policy 3.45. Motion by Mona Berning. Seconded by Dan Muhlenkamp. Motion Carried.**

Early Intervention Staffing—Melissa has had surgery---she will be out for a little while. Emily (the new hire) worked 2 days then quit. The position is open again. Emily felt she didn't have enough computer experience and didn't like going into the homes. Lynn R—possibly retire/rehire—not sure. Shawn talked with Hibner Group and will get with Jackie's group soon.

Superintendent Discussion

Accreditation Certificate—Shawn gave each board member a copy. We were accredited for 3 years. Definitely appreciate all the hard work Beth put in.

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 May 22, 2023.