

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 8-28-23 in the conference room 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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Sarah Flenar, Beth Gehret, Rajean Hedrick, Melissa Kaup, Shawn Thieman, Deb Matthews, Greg Shema, and Drema Myers

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 parking lot by the old CA Group building is almost finished. It has been blacktopped and just needs striping done. We have a nice big parking lot that connects both buildings. We are going to move the dumpster more to the side of the building and put a fence around it. We will take care of the snow removal and the Ag Center will take care of the sidewalks. It was remarked that the parking lot looks very nice.

**November Levy Update**— Shawn gave the board members a fact sheet regarding the levy. All information is on there in case there are any questions. Shawn also said that there has been an increase in property values. All properties in Mercer County have been re-evaluated and taxed at a higher level next year. This has no impact on our renewal levy. We will get the same amount no matter the tax increase. Our levy does not go up with the value increase of the property. We will bring in the same amount of money as before. Also discussed yard signs, possible sizes, and placements. Discussed on Spoltmans farm, Leverettes, Preferred Insurance. Please let Shawn know of any locations that would work. Karla will check for sites in Rockford.

**Board Inservice**— Everyone thought this worked out very well. It was decided to keep the Board in-service in July. Teri stated that Beth G did a good job. It was very well done and informative.

**Mercer County ESC Building Use MOU**— This was tabled in previous meeting. Shawn did talk to Shelly V at the schools and Chad S. If they continue to grow, possibly look for another space to house part of the program. Otherwise, will continue as is for now. **Motion to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for ESC Building Use for 1 year. Motion made by Mike Linton. Seconded by John Werling. Motion Carried.** (Beth Guggenbiller abstained)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Transition Specialist Position**—Karen Leugers is retiring. It is going to be tough to replace her. We have some resumes that came in. This person needs to have experience dealing with the school system—Mercer County Schools, especially Celina. If you know of anyone, please let Shawn know.

Would prefer a Bachelor's Degree but open to other possibilities, there will be flexibility with hours and schedule.

**Janitorial Duties**---Hired a new janitor, Kirby Kellermeyer. He is interested in being a janitor here. He will have a job coach for a few weeks. Austin (our other janitor) quit. This is a trial work period for a few weeks. Jay will be supervising.

**Mercer County Fair**—It was a Great Fair. The Adult Changing station was very well received. Heard a lot of positive comments regarding this. Our booth looked very nice. Thanks to Sarah, Jay, Beth, and Rajean for getting all the things together. We gave away a nice backpack and food vouchers/fair passes to DSP's.

The Showmanship Event was for rabbits, sheep, and dairy. It went OK. It was our first year trying this out so there were a few issues but overall, it went great. All 3 were awesome shows. We will work more closely with a 4 H Group next year. We will have people sign up later that want to participate. The participants got a big ribbon. The participants were very happy and joyful. Teri received a lot of compliments from the people that attended the shows, and said it was the best show they had seen all week. Teri felt we should also get some of the adult day hubs involved. Have a bulk of Ribbons there. Teri shared that one of the kid's mom's (daughter that helped) wanted pictures of individual and animals because she had to write a report on something that has greatly impacted her or changed her life and she wanted to write about that. How Awesome!!

**Synergy Conference**---Shawn introduced Deb Matthews, Greg Shema, and Drema Myers. They are from People First of Auglaize County. People First also includes Mercer, Allen, and Shelby Counties. This conference is held every year. It is for 3 days. 95% of the speakers are people with disabilities. It is for self-advocacy for our individuals with disabilities. People First of Auglaize County is requesting some financial help to sponsor 5 Mercer County individuals for registration and rooms for this conference. We did this last year. Deb and Greg spoke about how important this is to them, how much they got out of it. they break up into small groups and have various seminars/activities for them to do. They make friends and learn life skills. People First does have fund raisers to help with the cost. **Motion to Approve Donation for Attendance at Synergy Conference. Motion by Mona Berning. Seconded by Karla Butler. Motion Carried.** The board felt this was very worthwhile—very refreshing.

### **Superintendent Discussion**

**Ohio Budget Bill Status Report**— This came back good. A big increase for DSP's—starting in January.

**Medicaid Rules for Children**— Still in works, parents being paid caregivers still being talked about. This has been extended until January 1<sup>st</sup> to finalize the rules. Should know more by end of the year.

**Staff Appreciation Dinner**—will be held on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the backroom at Romers in Celina. Please save the date. More info will be coming later.

Motion was made to adjourn by Beth Guggenbiller and a second by John Werling. Motion was carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held in the Board Room in the Administration Building at 7:30 pm on September 25, 2023.