

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 9-25-23 in the conference room at the Administration Building at 7:30 p.m. with **Vice President Mike Linton** presiding.

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

Members Present Mona Berning, Karla Butler, Mike Linton, John Werling

Members Absent: Teri Spoltman, Beth Guggenbiller, and Dan Muhlenkamp

Others Present: Beth Gehret, Shawn Thieman, and Sarah Flenar

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Building/Property Update – Parking lot is done but we currently don't have parking lot lights. We are hoping to have the issue fixed by the end of the week. The Ag building is still looking to be completed by the end of December. Commissioners have reached out to see if we would be interested in sharing janitorial services between the two buildings.

License Div and DMV may move in the back part of the Ag building – only talk at this point.

November Levy Update – Shawn met with Daily Standard last week. The general ads to get the word out about the levy are ready to go. A levy banner will be on the Daily Standard's website. Also plan to post personal ads on social media once it gets closer to voting day. We cannot tell people to vote yes for the levy, but we can educate voters on what they are voting on.

The ARC is working with us on the levy campaign. Twenty-four large levy banners were purchased. The plan is to put signs up double-sided in 12 different locations throughout the county. We need to watch where we put these. OUPS may need to come out and check for lines underground. Fields are the ideal location. Small signs are also available to be put in yards.

Transition Specialist – Karen Leugers is retiring November 1st after 7 years of service. We have been taking a closer look at this position to see where we want this role to go. Karen worked part-time (25 hours/week). The position was advertised as either full-time or part-time and we received 3 great resumes for candidates seeking full-time employment. Jessica Baltus has been hired full-time to fill the Transition Specialist position. Jessica is currently a Transition SSA at Shelby County Board of DD. She has a degree in Early Education. Prior to that she worked at the non-profit as the Bridges to Transition Coordinator (ran SALT meetings) and after privatization she was the Community Employment Coordinator. As the Transition SSA, she made relationships with children and teachers in the classroom.

The goal is to have Jessica teach the Healthy Relationships curriculum in the schools throughout Mercer County. This additional role will justify the position going from part-time to full-time.

NEW BUSINESS:

SSA Position (part-time to full-time) – Transition SSA Stacey Leffler currently works 28 hours/week. Stacey wants to work full-time to help as a back-up for Jessica Baltes in the classrooms teaching the Healthy Relationships curriculum. With the additional hours worked, we want to bolster our Transition Department. Jessica Wenning will be working with our children 4-year-olds until their 12th birthday and Stacey will work with 12-year-olds until they exit school. The transition staff will also participate in the ESC's Crisis Intervention Training to help parents of aggressive children.

Motion to approve both the Transition Specialist and the Transition SSA going from a part-time position to a full-time position. Motion made by Mona Berning. Second by Karla Butler. Motion carried.

Janitorial Contract – Sheila Heintz (ESC) currently works as a teacher in our building. She started working 3hrs/day Mon-Thurs cleaning our building about 3 weeks ago but has since decided it is too time-consuming. Another contract is in the works with Karen Moran. We are hoping she can get started right away if it works. The Ag Department has expressed interest in sharing her services if Karen would be interested in more hours. We will know more at the next board meeting.

Table of Organization – Changes reviewed for 2024.

Superintendent Discussion

ESC is going to have their October meeting here and they may attend our next board meeting as well.

Beth Gehret presented a quick ARC Housing slideshow that was created by Kathy Coon. Kathy will share the slide show at the next SALT meeting on Tues, September 26. The slideshow presents the housing options available through the ARC. Currently the ARC has 15 houses throughout the county: 7 in Celina; 6 in Coldwater; 1 in Maria Stein, and 1 in St. Henry.

Trick or treat reverse parade is coming up Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Cookout for All Mercer DD Staff, Clients, Families, and Providers – Friday, Oct. 13.

Staff Inservice Friday, September 29 to go over required trainings. We will celebrate Lynn Rupert's retirement after the Inservice.

Motion was made to adjourn by John Werling 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 October 23, 2023.