

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 4-22-24 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, Teri Spoltman, John Werling

Members Absent: Dan Muhlenkamp

Others Present: Jessica Baltes, Samantha Fledderjohann, 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:

Home Visitor—Kate Scott—She has been hired and has started. She has had orientation and now has to get the proper certification. This is a part time position.

Arc Summerfest—June 15—This will be on June 15th here in the back. We will have the tent up. Teri has a new entertainer coming this year. A ventriloquist/magician. There is always a good turnout for this. Will be carnival games and prizes. Will also have a rain date.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Program—Jessica Baltes is here. She is the new Transition Coordinator. There will be 6 boys and 4 girls in the Summer Program this year. She has been meeting with the students, finding out likes/dislikes. Setting up Job Tours and fun activities for them to do. If anyone has any suggestion of business or things to do, please contact Jessica Baltes. This will start first week of June. Beth Guggenbiller stated the schools have been very happy with Jessica. She has been in contact with them and is a real go getter.

Special Olympics—Samantha Fledderjohann gave a presentation on Special Olympics—what has been going on with them. Volleyball (Unified) is just getting started. It went really well last year so picking up where we left off. Golf is starting shortly—still need 4 men for partners. Bowling—we have 48 bowlers they have went to events and won some medals. Iron Will Powerlifting—growing by leaps and bounds. Will have 2 separate groups going on different days. They will be participating in the USA Power Lifting Meet. One of our Lifters powerlifted 500 lbs. A lot of people were cheering him on. They also received tickets to The Arnold. There will be a Power in The Park lifting event on 6/1 at the Park in Celina. 7 Counties are coming. Equestrian Program is just getting started. This program has made such a powerful change in the riders lives in just a brief period of time. Sam is very happy with this program. There have been friendships formed with the riders/and horse owners. Cheerleaders—we have partnered with Celina Cheerleaders, and this has been great, both are All Star Champs. The Basketball game between the Mercer Co Sheriff's office and the Bobcats was very well attended. It was amazing to see and be a part of. The community participation was great. 3 Athletes participated in a leadership

course. Our Special Olympic group was chosen by the State to help come up with new exercise programs. The Board was extremely impressed with all the achievements of Sam and the Special Olympians. She has really made this program come alive; we are very proud of the Mercer County Special Olympics Program.

Autism Resource Fair—Jessica Baltes is in charge of this. It is on Monday, April 29th, 3—6 pm here at Mercer DD Gym. We are having an open house type event. Will have 14 vendors/booths at the Autism Fair. Sherriff's Office, Equestrian Therapy. Angel Sense GPS Tracking. Remote Supports. We are hoping for a good turnout.

Resilience Conference—We are one of the sponsors for this. It will have a speaker, Michael Unger. This is to help children, families and communities cope with adversity. It is in Van Wert. It would be helpful for staff to attend. It will be in Van Wert on 5/7. There is a registration fee, but our staff can go for free. So Far 60 people from Mercer County have signed up.

Superintendent Discussion—No Wrong Door. This is on 4/30 at Tri Star. This is for Social Services, help for families. New staff usually go to it.

Dayton Childrens Hospital—Dr Mel has alerted us that Dayton Children's Hospital will no longer do Autism Testing for Mercer or Auglaize Counties. This will make the waiting list a lot longer at Nationwide. Discussed options for Mercer County. Discussed Mercer Health and their leadership, maybe collaborating with them and Dr Mel to establish some kind of local resources/autism testing here. Shawn feels the DD board needs to be in front of this, possibly creating local solutions. Have a work group start to create local options/solutions. Teri suggested checking out homeopathic providers for some options.

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 May 20, 2024.