

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on 8-25-2025 in the Board Room at the Administration Building at 7:30 p.m. with **President Teri Spoltman**. 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,

Members Absent: John Werling

Others Present: Sarah Flenar, Beth Gehret, Tori Heck, Rajean Hedrick, Shawn Thierman

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:

Special Olympics MOU—Shawn has talked about this before. Shawn is still not comfortable with signing this. He sent a response to State of Ohio Special Olympics letting them know we are not going to sign it. We will just keep in contact with State of Ohio Special Olympics. If anything changes it will be on agenda in the future.

Mercer County Fair--- It was a great fair. We had sensory trailer and a universal changing station. We were able to educate people on what they were and why they were needed. Very well received. The sensory trailer was used more than the restroom trailer. **Share the Ring**—those went very well. Very well attended. Thank you, Teri, for all your help with this and the Superhero Project. Every year gets bigger and better. Another Successful Fair...

NEW BUSINESS

Policy 320 Addressing MUI's-----With the new training in June, changes were made. There were State changes in the MUI rule. Some guidelines were changed. We just needed to update the policy to reflect these changes.

Motion to Approve Policy 320 Addressing MUI's. Motion made by Mike Linton

Seconded by Beth Guggenbiller. Motion carried

Policy 330 Waiting List---- The Department instituted a new tool, Waiting List Assessment. This is the process we must go through to get someone set up on a waiver. This makes sure the waiver is the funding of the last resort.

Motion to Approve Policy 330 Waiting List . Motion made by Dan Muhlenkamp

Seconded by Karla Butler. Motion carried

Policy 335 Employment First---- This is just cleaning up the language of the Policy. Identifying the person's path on the place to employment. That the Person is working towards competitive employment.

Motion to Approve Policy 335 Employment First. Motion made by Mona Berning

Seconded by Mike Linton. Motion carried

Policy 365 Locally Funded/Self Determination Budgets---- This is our policy for locally funded/self-determination budget. We have some folks not served well on some Medicaid Waivers—not as flexible as we need. More Community Employed people need help with in home tasks and transportation to maintain employment. We try to be as flexible with those dollars as possible. We feel this needs to be increased to \$5000. If they need more than that, we will look at Waiver Enrollment. This is a small number of people. We feel it would be best to serve them in this way—using local funds.

Motion to Approve Policy 365 Locally Funded/Self Determination Budgets . Motion made by Karla Butler Seconded by Beth Guggenbiller. Motion carried

2026 Board Membership----Beth Guggenbiller and Dan Muhlenkamp will be off the Board by the end of the year. Tori Heck will be on the Board starting in January. She will take over one of the positions in January. Beth Guggenbiller talked to someone in Ft. Recovery that might want to be on the board. When Beth gets an answer, she will get with Shawn. If it is a no, then Shawn will email the Board members to let them know.

Building Discussion-----We need more storage/maintenance building. Biggest issue is snowplow/salt spreader does not fit in garage when on the truck. Talked about building something from ground up—big expensive endeavor. We started looking at other building (original workshop building—Serentiy Springs). This is open/accessible, very good option to use this. We do have some drawings from Baumers. Possibly use some of it for Autism Activity Center. We could create an accessible restroom, possibly have a shower. Met with Commissioners—they are fine with it. Would just have to change our MOU with them and use that building. The Board took a tour.

Superintendent Discussion— Super Hero Project. Shawn had some of the artwork and the story cards in the boardroom. They were on display at Brew Nation. They will be displayed at the Celina Library for a few weeks. Then they will be displayed at the community library where the Superhero lives. We have the artwork here also and have some ideas how we want to display them. The artists were matched with people from Mercery County with Disabilities. This was paid for by a Grant from Ohio Arts Council. The parents got a copy of the artwork. An anonymous person donated so the families could get the Movie Poster sized artwork. This display was very well received and attended at Brew Nation.

John Werling's son had a football injury on Saturday. He is fine

Shawn's mother-in law passed away this morning. Thanks for condolences.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mike Linton and seconded 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 September 22, 2025