

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on November 24, 2025, 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, Beth Guggenbiller, Mike Linton, Dan Muhlenkamp, John Werling

Members Absent: Teri Spoltman

Others Present: Sarah Flenar, Tori Heck, Shawn Thieman

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

The Consent Agenda was accepted by a motion from **Dan Muhlenkamp** and seconded by **John Werling** Motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building project (maintenance garage) The driveway has been completed, and Baumer Construction is scheduled to install the steel reinforcement for the garage door openings before the end of the year. Quotes are currently being collected from three suppliers for the actual garage doors themselves. The goal is to finish this “Phase 1” portion by year-end so the building can be used for its intended purposes. Additional interior work, including floors and drains, is planned for next year.

2026 Board Membership Two new members will be joining the Board in January pending appointments by the County Commissioners or Probate Judge.

Budget Discussion There have been no changes to the 2026 appropriations since last month’s approval, and the Board had no concerns. While the budget remains tight due to increased Medicaid match requirements, the year is still expected to end close to a balanced budget, even with ongoing projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Evaluation Evaluations received (three to four completed), along with the Board President’s, have been collected. The email will be resent to any members who did not receive the initial email. The Superintendent also expressed a willingness to discuss his salary openly rather than move into executive session unless the Board preferred a private discussion. No concerns expressed by board members.

Superintendent is now entering year four of a five-year contract, noted that the statewide salary range for comparable positions is \$101,000–\$150,000. A modest 0.65% pay increase was requested explaining that he wished to remain conservative given ongoing financial uncertainty. He also emphasized that staff raises this year were limited to 1–3% and expressed a desire to stay aligned with overall compensation patterns.

Motion was made to approve Addendum A to the superintendent’s contract by Karla Butler and seconded by Beth Guggenbiller. Motion was carried.

Putnam County Shared Services Agreement Putnam County's Superintendent has requested help with Medicaid oversight and congregate site budgeting. Tarra, Mercer County's Medicaid Services Manager, can provide up to 10 hours of support per week, mostly done remotely. Mercer DD will bill Putnam County monthly for her time at a rate covering her salary and benefits. Tarra can work up to 20 hours of overtime per pay period and will receive a \$100 stipend for any pay period she works for Putnam County. The contract can end with 30 days' notice.

Motion made by Dan Muhlenkamp and seconded by Mona Berning to approve the shared Medicaid Services agreement between Mercer County Board of DD and Putnam County Board of DD. Motion carried.

Board Accreditation State accreditation is scheduled for January 14–15, and required documents are currently being gathered and uploaded. The process typically includes a meeting with the Board President, schedule to be finalized. The Superintendent expects the standard three-year reaccreditation.

Superintendent Discussion – Coaching Update & Property Tax

The Superintendent is coaching the freshman girls' basketball team and expressed appreciation for the Board's flexibility.

There are ongoing statewide discussions regarding the potential elimination or adjustment of property taxes. A local public awareness campaign is underway, with Mercer DD being the first organization featured, and board members are encouraged to share and engage with related posts. Local legislators are increasingly aware of the \$25 billion statewide reliance on property taxes, and attitudes are shifting toward protecting essential services.

Motion was made to adjourn by Dan Muhlenkamp and a seconded 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 January 26, 2026.