The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on September 21, 2026, 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, Jacque Leverette, Mike Linton, John Werling

Members Absent: Teri Spoltman Tori Heck,

Others Present: Sarah Flenar, Beth Gehret, Shawn Thieman

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Statewide Medicaid Waiver Update Superintendent reviewed the statewide proposal to modernize Medicaid administrative services. The proposal is intended to address fiscal volatility and inequities among counties, statewide compliance and financial risk, and potential conflicts between service coordination and Medicaid administrative authority. The Board will continue to receive updates as discussions progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

2027 Meeting Time. The Board discussed moving regular meetings to an earlier time while continuing to meet on the fourth Monday of every month. Members present expressed support for an earlier start time. The matter was tabled until the October meeting so absent members could provide input.

Revised Policy 340 Distribution of Community Assistance Funds Superintendent presented revisions aligning the policy with updated state language. The revisions do not materially change current local practices. The Board also reviewed how Community Capital Assistance Funds support the acquisition and renovation of community housing.

Motion was made to approve revised Policy 340 Distribution of Community Assistance Funds by Karla Butler and seconded by Mona Berning. Motion carried.

Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Superintendent's five-year contract remains in effect through the end of 2027. In accordance with the contract, Board members will complete the annual performance evaluation electronically. The Superintendent will distribute the evaluation form, with completion requested before the October meeting.

Staff In-Service and Years of Service Awards The annual staff in-service was held September 18 at Celina First Church of God. Craig Flack presented on burnout, boundaries, and sustainable service. Staff feedback was highly positive, and presentation materials were shared with employees who could not attend. Years of service awards were presented at the in-service to employees celebrating 5, 20, and 25

years of service. The Board also discussed presenting the Heckler Award during the Special Olympics law-enforcement basketball game in January to provide broader community recognition.

Superintendent Discussion

New Employee Holly Eischen began employment on September 21 as the replacement for Rajean Hedrick, Administrative Assistant-A/P. She is expected to attend the October Board meeting for introductions. As her training progresses, the position may assume additional responsibility for Board correspondence, packet distribution, and meeting minutes.

Medicaid Cost-Containment Guidance. Superintendent reviewed emerging state guidance intended to strengthen oversight of Medicaid service authorization and contain costs. Staffing above a one-to-one ratio will require additional approval. Also discussed anticipated changes affecting community-based day services, including closer review of whether activities provide meaningful community integration. The Board noted the need to balance fiscal responsibility with the health, safety, and needs of individuals and families served.

Motion was made to adjourn by John Werling and seconded by Jacque Leverette. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on October 26, 2026, in the Board Room of the Administration Building. The Finance Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m. to review the 2027 budget, wages, and appropriations. A one-hour Board in-service will begin at 7:30 p.m., with the regular Board meeting immediately following.