

**THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 14, 2023  
Sarah A. Winters Building, 601 Senior Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764**

I. President Rachel Barnhart called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
Denise Dupler		X	X	
Rachel Barnhart	X			
Kevin Howell	X			
Fritzie Nitschke	Arrived at 5:11 pm			
Matt Sheridan	X			
Karen Chennells	X			
Sky Gettys		X	X	

**Others in attendance:** David Couch, Caley Boyden, Jessica Stroup, Chrissy Berkheimer, Ashley Wollenberg, Shelly Lackey, Ron Spung, and Tabatha Jackson.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Res. 2023-06-01

Karen Chennells moved to approve the June regular Board meeting agenda and any additions submitted. Matt Sheridan seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** No additions submitted.

*Motion approved* by majority vote.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Res. 2023-06-02

Kevin Howell moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2023, PCBDD regular Board meeting, as presented. Matt Sheridan seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None

*Motion Passed* by majority vote.

**V. BOARD REPORTS:**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DAVID COUCH - *Verbal Report***

David's report was included in the packet. David thanked the Board, SLT, and Chrissy for keeping things moving along smoothly while he was out. He thanked the Board for having trust in the directors to do their job without him in the office. Jenny's MUI report was included in the packet. David pointed out that we do not get reimbursed for MUI tracking for the Mount. David shared some of DODD's summary from Appendix K: The President declared the end of the public health emergency on May 11, 2023, which gave Ohio six months to "unwind" the flexibilities contained in Appendix K or to act to make those flexibilities permanent. Two of these changes being considered for permanency are (1) allowing Shared Living and Residential Respite to be delivered on the same day and (2) allowing parents to be paid caregivers of their minor children. Item #1 is an issue county boards have advocated for over many years; item #2 produces a great deal of heartburn for superintendents and business managers. He did credit DODD for seeking input from county boards as to how to manage this unexpected item in the budget (#2). They put a cap on how many family members could collect and the total amount that could be collected. The General Assembly is working on the state budget for fiscal years 2024-2025, effective July 1. The House passed version includes state funds to take Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages to an average of \$17 per hour. David shared he feels this will be around the \$18/hr. mark. The houses will get together to settle the differences. We should know how this will turn out by the July Board meeting. If the Senate version of DSP wages is adopted, it will cost us approximately an additional \$150,000 per year. Caley shared that it would be around \$17,000 more than we currently pay. Ron's retirement is fast approaching, and David reminded the Board that with the assistance of Ashley, Caley, and Shelly that he would be the interim SSA Director. Two things not in David's report that he wanted to touch base on, we helped fund a new shower in an apartment for an individual with Residential, Inc.'s assistance. Hocking County would like us to help pilot a partnership program for services. There would be no difference in commitment on our part, but David and Ashley would like to explore the opportunity. The Board feels the opportunity should be explored.

**B. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – ASHLEY WOLLENBERG**

Ashley's report was included in the packet. No discussion.

**C. SSA ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – RON SPUNG**

Ron's report was included in the packet. No discussion.

**D. COMMUNITY SUPPORTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT - SHELLY LACKEY**

Shelly's report was included in the packet. Rachel commented that she feels the kids feel more at home in the space at the CCC now that we are in our second year of camp. Karen asked if we switched all the "young kids" to doing the same thing and the "big kids" to doing the same things, Shelly shared that they did the switch, and it is working out great. Karen asked how transportation was working out. Shelly shared with a summer camp staff on each route the communication has been wonderful. Rachel seconded that with the communication comment. Rachel shared that the Possibilities Invitational in May was awesome. Matt shared that Crooksville picked up the tab for Miller to attend with transportation. Shelly shared that the schools raised over \$10,000 to help with any additional costs, if Matt finds out that someone was not reimbursed, make sure that he lets us know so we can reimburse the correct school.

**E. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JESSICA STROUP**

Jessica's report was included in the packet.

**VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:**

**Res. 2023-06-03**

**Fritzie Nitschke moved to approve expenditures. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** Caley shared that we received our first half levy rollbacks. Ohio Elks Association awarded us a CP grant and we received reimbursement from the Ohio TechCred program. Operating expenditures, the error was corrected from April and then taken from the correct line. Nothing to report in Capital Revenues. We made our final payment to Lepi Enterprises for the renovations at the CCC. We are on target for everything.

***Motion Passed*** by majority vote.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Draft minutes of the Ethics Committee Meeting from May 17, 2023, were included in the packet.**

**Clarification to Res. 2023-05-05:**

**Discussion:** David shared that his intent is to pay NL no more than \$18,000, which is their estimated cost. If we request additional transportation causing the cost to go over that amount, we can cost settle with them, so they do not lose money. It is possible they will be able to do it within the \$18,000, but no one knows actual costs at this time. The numbers are based on the children we are aware of at this time who will utilize the NL bus. If we add children or outings, I prefer to cost settle rather than renegotiate every change. We have done this with PerCo when they took on services after going private. I do not recall having to settle anything with them to date. Any cost settlement will need to be approved by the Board before being implemented.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Res. 2023-06-04**

**Kevin Howell moved to approve the renewal agreement with Hopewell Health Centers, Inc. for access to occupational, physical, and speech /language services for the Early Intervention program, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** The agreement supports the Primary Service Provider model we began utilizing to assist families with professional services. Due to conversations at the state level and possible changes to how these services are provided, this agreement is only for a six-month period. The main expense is \$3,750 for team meetings. This cost, as well as other rates in the contract, did not change from the previous year.

***Motion Passed*** by majority vote.

**Res. 2023-06-05**

**Karen Chennells moved to approve the agreement between the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Elizabeth Fuchs for cleaning services at the SAW and CCC buildings for a period of one year, as presented. Matt Sheridan seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** Liz has been working with us on a short-term contract since May 1. We are quite happy with her work and would like to enter into a longer-term agreement and at a higher rate of pay. The proposed rate for the new contract has increased from \$1,200 to \$1,800 monthly. Our cleaning rates have not been adjusted since early 2021 and Liz completed a time-study for Caley, and she shared that she isn't sure how anyone has cleaned the building for our old pricing.

***Motion Passed*** by majority vote.

**Res. 2023-06-06**

**Karen Chennells moved to approve the proposal from Ables Heating, Cooling, and Electric for installation of five new thermostats and a mini split unit in the server room, in the SAW building, as presented. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** Replacement thermostats relocated to different areas are needed to help regulate building temperature. This fix *should* resolve current issues and prevent more costly additions and changes to the HVAC system. The server room becomes overheated, which can damage and reduce the life of costly equipment. A mini split was determined to be the most efficient and cost-effective option. Costs for both projects were presented separately, but the sales rep stated they would only charge for thermostat equipment and would not charge for associated labor if they install while on site for the mini split project.

***Motion Passed*** by majority vote.

**Res. 2023-06-07**

**Kevin Howell moved to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Ohio Department of Health, Help Me Grow Home Visiting contract between the Ohio Department of Health and the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities, when received. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** This is a renewal of the Help Me Grow contract for Home Visiting. Contract will be signed/received by June 30, 2023, but is not available at this time. This is money they give us.

***Motion Passed*** by majority vote.

**Res. 2023-06-08**

Karen Chennells moved to authorize the Superintendent to sign the necessary agreements with Perry County Job and Family Services (JFS) for funding of Academy for Leadership Abilities, Help Me Grow, and Summer Camp programs when received, provided the agreements contain no significant changes from the previous year. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** These agreements are renewals from year to year. JFS has provided funding for these services for several years using federal TANF dollars.

*Motion Passed* by majority vote.

**Res. 2023-06-09**

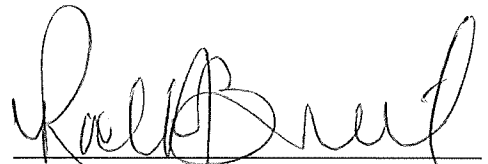
Matt Sheridan moved to approve the contract between the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Perry County Transit (PCT) in the amount of \$30,000 for 2023 Summer Camp transportation services, provided the agreement contains no significant changes from the draft agreement previously provided by PCT. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Transit will remain an option for families for summer camp transportation this year. Costs are projected to be higher than in previous years. Currently about half of the participants want to use PCT for transportation to and from camp. PCT will also provide transportation for camp outings. David shared that we plan on using PCT for outings.

*Motion Passed* by majority vote.

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Fritzie Nitschke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm.

  
Board President – Rachel Barnhart

  
Board Secretary – Denise Dupler