

THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2024

Sarah A. Winters Building, 601 Senior Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764

I. President Rachel Barnhart called the meeting to order at 4:58 pm.

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

Others in attendance at the meeting: David Couch, Chrissy Berkheimer, Ashley Reed, Carter Barnhart, Doan Livingstone, Steven Reeves, and Krystal Misner. Doane, Steven, and Krystal left meeting at 5:11pm.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Res. 2024-02-01

Kevin Howell moved to approve the February regular Board meeting agenda and any additions, as submitted. Matt Sheridan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IV. RECOGNITION:

Res. 2024-02-02

Karen Chennells moved to recognize the “DD Awareness Month Proclamation,” as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: David shared we do not focus much on just March as we focus on DD awareness all year long. David shared that Commissioners approved the proclamation.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Res. 2024-02-03

Karen Chennells moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2024, PCBDD regular Board meeting, as presented. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2024-02-04

Matt Sheridan moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2024, PCBDD Organizational Board meeting, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VI. BOARD REPORTS:

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

David's report was included in the packet. Karen asked where other Director's were, David shared about the club volleyball teams going to a professional volleyball game in Columbus. Jenny's MUI report was included in the packet. David shared the breakdown she does for Mt. Aloysious. She is also keeping a running total. Fritzie asked about the unapproved behavior support, and if that is a bad thing. David shared that it is not, it was more about keeping the individual safe. Rachel shared that things like those also can help with an individual's plan. Vicki Waymire is refining the SSA report. January's report was included in the packet. David feels it will keep getting easier for her the more she does them. David shared that he submitted a letter supporting the review of the "peer to peer" categories, following the recent appeal. DODD accreditation will take place on Wednesday, February 28 and Thursday, February 29, 2024. David invited all Board members to attend the entrance on Wednesday and/or the exit on Thursday. David shared that there are programs that we could expand on, as opportunities present themselves. A state funded program to expand employment opportunities. This is not specifically for DD; it is for all of Perry County. A local farmer is interested in helping youth experience nature. Karen shared that she knows of the farm, and it is a wonderful opportunity as her children have participated. Both programs are not DD specific, and David feels this is a stronger approach for relationships to develop naturally. Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Licking and Perry Counties want to expand. The opportunity to expand though the school districts in Perry County is there and we can assist them in getting a foot in the door at the schools. Denise knows they are in Somerset, and Rachel shared they are in Glenford. Fritzie and Karen both stated their kids were involved with the group and it was a wonderful experience. Not in David's report, there is also an opportunity for an Equine Engagement for kids. So, children could get some experience with horses.

David shared a list of activities for March Awareness. Brad Kennedy came to Perry County in place of Mark Johnson, but the Johnson's have already scheduled a make-up visit for Friday, March 1, 2024, at 2pm. David also shared he got a response about waiving Caley's requirements for Superintendent. If something were to happen, the Board would need to make an offer of employment to her for that to take effect. David did share she will be certified around the end of the year. Rachel questioned the relationship between Jessica and Caley (sisters-in-law) and if there would be any conflict of Caley becoming Superintendent. David shared he did research, and it is not a conflict, also he assured the Board that they are both ethical people and he does not feel there would be any issues.

B. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT – ASHELY REED

Ashely's report was included in the packet. Rachel shared that it was exciting to see that a physical therapist was hired. Ashely shared that a speech therapist was recently interviewed, and she looks like a promising candidate for that position.

C. SSA ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR REPORT – N/A

D. COMMUNITY SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT - SHELLY LACKEY

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

E. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT – JESSICA STROUP

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

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Res. 2024-02-05

Matt Sheridan moved to approve the expenditures. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: David presented Caley's financial reports. January is a typical low revenue month, with the expenditures high for paying out contracts. No need for concern. TCM billing for November was submitted late and will be caught up next month. MEORC accounts are for emergency situations. Although we have none currently, they can occur at any time. No discussion on voucher report.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 2024-02-06

Kevin Howell moved to approve the 2024 Superintendent's Professionally Development Plan, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ohio DODD certification rules were revised effective July 4, 2013, to require the Board to annually approve a Professional Development plan for the Superintendent. The certification for Superintendent David Couch was renewed at the end of 2021 and will not expire until January 5, 2027.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2024-02-07

Karen Chennells moved to approve the out of state travel expenses for Shelly Lackey for participation as a Baldrige examiner in March, for expenses not to exceed a total of \$2,000.00, all costs are to be paid by Board of DD funds. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: Providing examiners for The Partnership for Excellence is a requirement of submission of the 50-page application. Our application was submitted in November, the on-site will be March 25-27. The three examiners, Shelly, Ashley, and David have been working on an application for an entity in Illinois. Shelly will be in an on-site role the week before our on-site visit. The expenses are for mileage, meals, hotel, and misc. costs. If approved by the Board this motion will be submitted to the Commissioners for their approval.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2024-02-08

Kevin Howell moved to approve the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2024 Annual Conversion Plan, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board approval is required annually. The conversion plan has been in place for many years allowing contract employees to convert some leave to cash payment. It is a benefit to the employee as well as the Board.

The following are changes included in the 2024 OPERS Conversion Plan:

- Plan: Increased frequency of cash in's from annually to twice annually.
- Addendum: Finance Director – vacation compensation can now be requested up to 80 hours
- Addendum: Children's Program Director – no leave can be cashed in at this time.
- Executive Assistant - May annually request compensation, at the current hourly rate, for up to forty (40) hours unused sick leave if a sick leave balance of two-hundred forty (240) hours is maintained.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2024-02-09

Matt Sheridan moved to table resolution 2024-02-09 in reference to the contract with the Ohio Network for Innovation (ONI) for guardianship and supported decision-making services for 2023 – 2024 for \$21,900, until next month when the contract can be presented. Denise Dupler moved to second the tabling of the motion.

Discussion: These services began as a result of Perry and Hocking pooling funds about 3 years ago. A considerable number of county boards signed on, once we took the initial step to get this set up. Our costs were adjusted as more counties joined the service. Neither ONI nor us noticed we received the service without an agreement in place. This corrects the oversight and includes the current year. Guardians are exceedingly difficult to locate; ONI provides the service with people trained in guardianship. Supported decision making refers to supports to assist a person to make decisions without establishing guardianship. ONI has been in all the ALA classes to help people learn about options. Karen shared that supported decision making has been instrumental in helping her daughter make choices that benefit her life. David will have the contract to present at the March meeting. This will go under old business on the agenda for approval.

Motion Passed to Table Resolution 2024-02-09 by majority vote.

- X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Carter Barnhart thanked the Board for allowing him to sit in on the meeting.
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:**
Karen Chennells moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 pm. Denise Dupler seconded.


Rachel Barnhart – Board President


Denise Dupler – Board Secretary