

**THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2025
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
Rachel Barnhart	X			
Kevin Howell		X	X (entered meeting at 6:48 pm)	
Fritzie Nitschke	X			
Linda Whetstone		X		
Denise Dupler	X			
Karen Chennells		X		
Sky Gettys	X			

Others in attendance: David Couch, Chrissy Berkheimer, Jessica Stroup, Caley Boyden, Ashley Reed, Chuck Davis, Shelly Lackey, and Carter Barnhart.

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Res. 2025-03-01

Sky Gettys moved to approve the March regular Board meeting agenda and any additions, as submitted. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Roberts Rules of Order stipulate such a motion for each meeting agenda. There were two hand-out motions given to Board members upon entering the Board meeting.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IV. **COMMITTEES:** An Ethics Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2025, immediately following the Regular May PCBDD Board Meeting.

V. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Res. 2025-03-02

Karen Chennells moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025, PCBDD regular Board meeting, as presented. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Denise Dupler abstained)

VI. BOARD REPORTS:

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

David's report was included in the packet. Board training will now be at the April Board meeting with March having an Executive Session. Jenny Keister, our MUI Coordinator, will provide training on Major Unusual Incidents. Jenny's report was included in the packet. David noted that our MUI count is high but the majority of those are from Mt. Aloysius. David reminded the Board that an Executive Session is scheduled for interviewing the candidate for the Transitional Assistant Superintendent position. A committee of employees interviewed the candidate in two separate groups. Their thoughts have been shared with the Board President to utilize as she chooses in your discussions. The OPRA visit went well. Providers attended and Casey Coffey toured them through the new Workforce Development building. David attached an email and invoice from the Village of Glenford. We have assisted them financially for some accessibility improvements, promoting our vision of "Community Without Barriers." This seems to me to be a good example of how to promote our vision. The village is also interested in redoing some bathrooms at a baseball park so they will be accessible. David wanted to share that March 15th marks two years since his liver transplant. He is thankful for the support the Board and employees have shown him in adapting to the changes in my life. He appreciates being able to finish out his career and doing so with a great agency. The rest of David's report was concerning the levy. Commissioners have given the go ahead for us to do what we choose. We engaged the services of Rebecca Princehorn, a partner in the firm Bricker Graydon (formerly Bicker & Eckler) to assist us with the levy process. The concern now is the General Assembly removing the ability to seek a replacement levy and, if so, will the Commissioners support seeking an additional levy. Also, a consequence of replacing the current levy is loss of the 12.5% rollback to taxpayers. The rollback will not apply to any additional or replacement levies. Discussion was around whether we want to go for new millage or go for a replacement levy. David does not want to get too far along with the legal process. For a levy to be on the November ballot it will need to be through the process and filed with the Board of Election by August 6. After Board discussion, they decided to begin with going forward with a replacement levy, if that cannot happen, they will talk more.

B. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – ASHLEY REED

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

C. SSA ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – CHUCK DAVIS

Chuck'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. No discussion.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JESSICA STROUP

Jessica's report was included in the report. Jessica shared the two SSA vacancies that were going to be posted have been put on hold. Jessica shared that the New Lex sponsorship is a really great opportunity for us to partner with the school and students.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Res. 2025-03-03

Sky Gettys moved to approve expenditures, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: Caley's reports were included in the packet. We received our quarterly Title XX payment. The Perry County Wellness team received its half year wellness funds. El Part C received its quarterly grant reimbursement. The ONI Supported Decision Making and Guardianship contract is paid through 2026. No activity in the Capital Improvements fund.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 2025-03-04

Karen Chennells moved to approve the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2025 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 leave to cash payment. It is a benefit to the employees as well as the Board. Sky questioned if people are made to take time before they can cash in time, David shared that it is not in our policy currently. Discussions happened around people needing to take time away from work for mental health.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2025-03-05

Karen Chennells moved to change the November Board meeting date to accommodate the OACB Conference and Delegate Assembly. Sky Gettys seconded the motion.

Discussion: The November board meeting is scheduled for the same time as the OACB Winter Conference. At the February board meeting, David discussed changing the date and Board members were going to look at dates to change the meeting to.

New November Board meeting date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5pm at the CCC.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

HANDOUT MOTION #1

Res. 2025-03-07

Linda Whetstone moved to approve the residential cost sharing agreement with Perry County Job and Family Services (Children Services) for a youth in placement until August 31, 2025, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: David shared that this youth has been determined to be eligible for DD services since he was initially placed. We historically share costs with them on these services. This one is exceptionally expensive. The intent is to move the youth to another funding source as soon as possible. Karen asked what type of facility this was. David and Chuck shared that it is both a mental health and developmental disabilities facility.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

HANDOUT MOTION #2

Res. 2025-03-08

Sky Gettys moved to approve one Individual Options waiver to support an urgent need. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Effective 2/21/25, PCBDD began sharing costs with Perry County Children's Services (PCCS) for a youth in emergency residential placement (50% share at \$1,200 per day through 3/31/25 and then \$1,100 per day beginning 4/1/25). Current residential placement through PCCS was in the works while eligibility was pending; now that he has been determined eligible for DD services, we would like to explore more appropriate, less costly alternatives to current placement. We are looking into Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) openings but need to be prepared for IO Waiver enrollment if ICF placement is not available or current ICF openings are not appropriate to meet this person's needs.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2025-03-06

Karen Chennells moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:53 pm to consider the employment of a public employee, the Transitional Assistant Superintendent. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Return from Executive Session at 6:48 pm.

Res. 2025-03-08

Sky Gettys moved to hire Caley Boyden for the position of Transitional Assistant Superintendent. Fritzie Nitschke seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board discussed the replacement of Caley in her current position as Finance Director. David shared this would be posted soon so we can find a qualified candidate.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

- X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Carter Barnhart thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the Board meeting so he could put it towards his badge.
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Sky Gettys moved to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:50 pm.


Rachel Barnhart – Board President


Denise Dupler – Board Secretary