

THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2025
Sarah A. Winters Building, 601 Senior Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764

I. President Rachel Barnhart called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

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|-----|-------------------|----------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| II. | ROLL CALL: | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED | UNEXCUSED |
| | Rachel Barnhart | X | | | |
| | Kevin Howell | X | | | |
| | Fritzie Nitschke | X | — Attended virtually (5:15pm) but could not vote until policy #105 was passed. | | |
| | Linda Whetstone | X | | | |
| | Denise Dupler | X | | | |
| | Karen Chennells | X | | | |
| | Sky Gettys | X | | | |

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

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Res. 2025-05-01

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

Discussion: A handout motion was emailed to all Board members before the board meeting and a copy was distributed at 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. 2025-05-02

Karen Chennells moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2025, PCBDD regular board meeting, as presented. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VI. BOARD REPORTS:

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

David's report was included in the packet. The Strategic Planning meeting will take place in August. David encouraged board members to attend if their schedule allows. Jenny's MUI report was included in the packet. Jenny also included the MEORC quarterly report. Sky questioned how many counties there were in MEORC that we were in the 5%. The unanticipated hospitalizations were high, but we have to include Mt. Aloysius in our count. They have an aging population that increases these numbers. Karen commented on how high our substantiality rate is. Caley, Ashley, and David met with Casey Coffee and Dave Rupe on May 16th to discuss possible sharing of therapists for early childhood services. The discussion included the potential to collaborate in a meshing of our need for people to provide evaluations and assessments for Early Intervention services and their interest in expanding the Cub Academy for these age groups. Before we proceed any further in these discussions I want to know the interest of the Board. Sky questioned if the levy would not pass if we would have to back out. David shared he feels confident about the levy, and we have the reserve funds to continue this if needed. LOL, Nature Based Enrichment that provides services which have been impactful for a number of young people is creating some barriers and hindering our relationships with schools. David shared that he is at the point where the positives are being outweighed by the negatives. He will meet with the Director on May 30th to discuss whether or not to continue the contract. David wanted to make sure the board is in agreement before he proceeds with the conversation. The board agreed to back David in any decision he makes that pertains to the contract. Our new Finance Director has been selected. She is going to be a great fit and comes with a lot of financial background. After she begins, we will proceed with moving Caley into the Transitional Assistant Superintendent position and officially beginning the transition process. David attached a draft training plan for the board's review. He shared that he will ask for approval at the June meeting. The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) is a trade association representing a large number of providers of DD residential and day services. They are bringing together seven county boards and providers from those counties to better understand and improve relationships, trust, and efficiency within our system. We agreed to participate, along with PerCo and The Sech-Kar Company. Caley, Chuck, Jenny, and David met with six other counties over the next 4 months. David wanted the Board to be aware of the opportunities that have been presented. The agenda includes a motion to request the Commissioners place a 1.5 mil additional levy on the November ballot. We need to get the process moving, and it appears quite certain the replacement levy option will no longer be available to us. The additional costs break down to about \$4.38 per month per \$100,000 property value. Attached is a draft fact sheet. Lastly, David shared an opportunity for the Board to help keep the aqua program and the walking with ease program alive. This program was run by the RSVP folks with a grant. They need us to carry the insurance. David is talking with Trent with the insurance company to see our liability. If there are no red flags David would like to proceed. The Board agreed that they thought it would be fine to proceed if the insurance company did not see any issues. David did share that Sally Francis, our past Board President participated in this program, and we are going to advertise the opportunity to the people we serve.

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

Ashley's report was included in the packet. Ashley just gave the Board members some context on Developmental Specialist position. Lindsey from the State of Ohio shared with Ashley that the max that should be on a caseload is 25. Tera's caseload is currently at 28. She appreciates the board agreeing to take a look at sharing a Developmental Specialist with New Lex.

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. Shelly just shared the hours for respite and shared that was only with two respite staff. Two additional summer camp staff would also like to provide respite through the summer.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JESSICA STROUP

Jessica's report was not in the packet. Jessica shared the staff roster, the SWOT survey, and the HMG HV position was filled, and the new staff will start Monday, June 2, 2025. The Finance Director position has been filled, and we will be posting an SSA position.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Res. 2025-05-03

Kevin Howell moved to approve expenditures, as presented. Sky Gettys seconded the motion.

Discussion: David presented Caley's report. We received that first half year levy settlements, which were higher than in the past. Our local waiver match David shared is low compared to others in the State. David attributes this to Johnna's dedication to finding other ways. David shared that all the moving of offices and upgrades to make this happen have been completed.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 2025-05-04

Karen Chennells moved to increase appropriations in the Liability Insurance Expense line item of the Operating budget from \$7,500.00 TO \$7,861.78. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: The county's CORSA liability insurance cost increased by nearly 13% this year, which was higher than expected. \$7,861.78 is PCBDD's annual share for 2025.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2025-05-05

Sky Gettys moved to approve the resolution requesting submission of the DD levy, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rebecca Princehorn, an attorney with Bricker Graydon LLP, provided the material related to an Additional Levy for the November ballot. The first step is the Board requesting the Commissioners to place a 1.5 mil additional levy before the voters. The House passed a bill to remove replacement levies from our options. The bill is currently before the Senate, and it appears they will support the removal. The Commissioners have given their approval this is the formal paperwork to submit.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2025-05-05

Kevin Howell moved to approve partnering with Southern Local School District as the primary partner for the 21ST Century Grant for the 2025-2026 school year. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: This is the third year we have been asked to partner with them on this grant. It has been helpful in building a working relationship. There is no cost for our involvement in this manner. Shelly meets with the group a couple times a year.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Handout Motion #1

Res. 2025-05-06

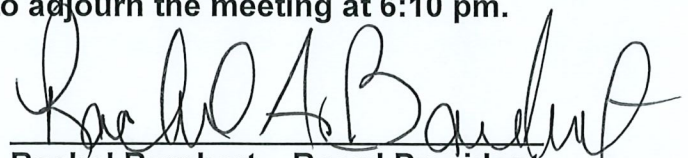
Karen Chennells moved to approve revisions to PCBDD Policy #105 Board Meetings and Board Responsibilities. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.


Discussion: The changes to policy and procedure ensure that remote participation is structured and maintains the integrity and transparency of board meetings.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Sky Gettys moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm.


Rachel Barnhart – Board President


Denise Dupler – Board Secretary