

**THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 20, 2025**  
**Sarah A. Winters Building, 601 Senior Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764**

I. **President Rachel Barnhart called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.**

II. <b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>
Denise Dupler	X			
Rachel Barnhart	X			
Kevin Howell	X			
Fritzie Nitschke	X - Virtual			
Linda Whetstone	X			
Karen Chennells	X			
Sky Gettys	X			

**Others in attendance:** David Couch, Caley Boyden, Kim Foreman, Jessica Stroup, Ashley Reed, Chrissy Berkheimer, and Chase Bennett.

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Res. 2025-08-01**

Karen Chennells moved to approve the August 20, 2025, regular board meeting agenda and any additions, as submitted. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** One handout motion was submitted and was given to all board members in attendance.

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

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

**Res. 2025-08-02**

Sky Gettys moved to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2025, PCBDD regular board meeting, as presented. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None

***Motion Passed*** by majority vote. (Denise Dupler abstained)

**V. BOARD REPORTS:**

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

David's report was included in the packet. The OACB conference is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> through November 21<sup>st</sup>. Sky shared that he would be retired by then and he would like to attend and can also be the delegate for the board. David reminded board members that the Ethics training will be at the conclusion of the meeting. David shared we are looking for SSAs. We have had two more resignations, but we do have a new employee starting in September. Karen shared that Kenny will be taking over her son's case and she is pleased how everyone is stepping up to make sure folks are comfortable in what is happening during the change. David assured the Board that we are working through the changes. Jenny's MUI reports were included in the packet. Just a note that 51 one of the MUIs have been from Mt. Aloysios. They have an aging population and that is a contributing factor. David has formed a new partnership with Forever Dads out of Muskingum County. This agency, located in Zanesville, has actively supported fatherhood efforts for nearly 2 decades. They received funding from the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood to expand support to Perry and Morgan Counties. We can collaborate with them through our Children's Program as well as the Academy for Leadership Abilities. It involves no funding. Caley, Ashley, and I met with NL administrators to discuss sharing a person who could work in their Cub Academy as well as our Early Intervention services. We envision this could be part of a seamless transition through services. NL is looking into grants that may pay for the entire cost, and it appears to be coming together. Informational Fact Sheets are completed and printed for sharing with the community. These are available to share when we participate in community meetings and events. The Levy Committee is engaged in reaching out to the community. We are not connected to this committee but do share information when requested. Chase Bennett thanked the Board for their timely efforts in getting all the information to the Commissioners. He shared it was a great help to them to have all the information submitted correctly. Transportation has been an issue state-wide, and one we deal with locally. Transit helps in many areas but does not fit every situation. We are going to utilize PerCo in some circumstances to assist with transportation and see how it works. The primary issue is time. Often people are not receiving pickup/drop-offs in a timely manner. PerCo may be able to provide more direct services. David is starting his farewell tour and introductions of Caley. He is meeting with New Lex schools in August, Sheridan and Crooksville in September and Miller in October. Caley's transition is going smoothly.

**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 and Vikki's reports were 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 packet. Jessica shared a sports calendar that we collaborated with Miller Schools on.

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

**Res. 2025-08-03**

Karen Chennells moved to approve the financials, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Kim shared that we received the second half levy settlements from the auditor, they were higher than expected. Received additional revenue from ALA 2024-2025 reconciliation. Finally, we received a Home Visiting back billing. Expenditures included contract payments, waiver administration fees to DODD, and our new quarterly match amount payment. No capital or reserve activity. Rachel asked which line the childcare payment was under. Kim shared, contract services line. No voucher report questions.

**Motion Passed** by majority vote.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Res. 2025-08-04**

Kevin Howell moved to approve the subgrant agreement between Perry County Job and Family Services and the Perry County Board of DD for the Academy for Leadership Abilities (ALA), effective August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026, not to exceed \$35,000, as presented. Sky Gettys seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** This is an annual agreement whereby JFS supports our ALA classes at Perry County middle schools. They reimburse us for our costs, up to the stipulated amount. Sky asked if we exceed this amount, and David shared that yes we do.

**Motion Passed** by majority vote.

**Res. 2025-08-05**

Karen Chennells moved to approve the agreement with the Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center for New Lexington Schools for cooperative employment in the amount of \$35,300.66 for the period of August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** For a number of years, we have collaborated with NL Schools for a facilitator for NL ALA classes. This is a transition year and is higher than previous years. However, in the scope of the areas we are working with NL Schools, ALA, childcare, and Developmental Specialist, it is a reasonable cost.

**Motion Passed** by majority vote. (Rachel Barnhart abstained)

**Res. 2025-08-06**

Kevin Howell moved to approve the contract between Perry County Transit and the Perry County Board of DD for scheduled transportation services, effective August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026, not to exceed \$15,000, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Transit provides services for various activities, as scheduled. Where possible we encourage people to access Transit services themselves. The funds from this contract allow Transit to draw down federal funds.

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

HANDOUT Motion #1

**Res. 2025-08-07**


Denise Dupler moved to approve the revisions to PCBDD policy #602, Early Intervention, as presented. Sky Gettys seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** The changes to policy and procedure align with recent updates to OAC Early Intervention Rule 5180-10. Fritzie shared that she thinks this is something that should be shared with the public, so they know the services we offer. Linda shared that she was not sure folks would understand it if they had not ever had dealings with any of the programs. She shared that word of mouth is the best way to advertise these services.

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

- IX. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chase Bennett shared that he wanted to stop by to check in and see what the Board has been up to. He again complimented the team for getting all the paperwork in for the levy and the Commissioners feel that it should be decided by the voters of Perry County.
- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Kevin Howell motioned to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.

  
Rachel Barnhart – Board President

  
Denise Dupler – Board Secretary