THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 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			
Fritzie Nitschke	X			
Linda Whetstone		X	X	
Denise Dupler	X			
Sky Gettys	X			
Karen Chennells	X			

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Res. 2025-09-01
Kevin Howell moved to approve the September regular board meeting agenda, and any additions, as submitted. Sky Gettys seconded the motion.

Discussion: A hand-out motion was given to all Board members before the meeting began.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Res. 2025-09-02
Karen Chennells moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, PCBDD regular board meeting, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

V. BOARD REPORTS:

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

Caley's first official Superintendent's report was included in the packet. Caley addressed the Superintendent packet letters. After discussion, it was decided that the only time a packet letter would be sent was if there were something major on the agenda or in packet that she wanted to make sure the board paid special attention to. OACB Annual Conference is being held in November, Sky volunteered in August to attend for the Board. Caley reminded board members that the final training for board members would be in October with Kim presenting budgets and Caley helping, as necessary. Jenny's MUI report was included in the packet. PCBDD continues to educate the community about what we do and the services that we provide. David was on WHIZ noon day news and was featured at the recent Coffee with Commissioners. Caley shared that most of our staff are receiving a merit payment to be spread over the next 2-4 months. Due to multiple vacancies in both SSA and Children's Program Departments over the past several months, our staff have experienced increased workloads. Those directly impacted by redistribution of caseloads are receiving a larger amount than support staff who are not directly impacted. This does not apply to contact employees. Eligibility concerns and funding for intensive needs youth: We have several pending new referrals following this trend. This is concerning from a funding standpoint and is becoming unsustainable. We have recently had conversations with PCJFS about cost sharing and have agreed that, going forward, PCBDD will match the amount of residential placement funding provided by mental health services which have been providing a much smaller share than DD. This is a cost saving measure for PCBDD. The 2026-2028 Strategic Plan will be presented at the October board meeting, with a motion to approve plan at the November board meeting. At the end of the current contract (12/31/2025), we will no longer be partnering with LOL in Nature. Caley is already looking for ways to help families plan for loss of this service. We are still in talks with New Lex Schools administration over sharing a position to support our EI program and their Cub Academy. New Lex may have a grant to cover the cost of the position, at least initially. They are currently working through details. There has also been some discussion on another project involving children that are dually served by New Lex Schools and PCBDD. New Lex is exploring this further with ODE and will share details with us when available.

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 and Vikki's report 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 sent her report directly to board members. No discussion.

VI. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:**
Res. 2025-09-03
Sky Gettys moved to approve the financials and expenditures, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: Kim shared that revenue from the levy was higher than the auditor's projections. We received our third quarter payment for Early Intervention and Pioneering Possibilities. Operating expenditure was higher with three pays for the month in the salaries line. Supplies, a skid of paper was ordered, and pre-paid postage was high with mailings. DSP Appreciation month activities were also included in the expenditures. Air duct dampers were purchased for both buildings through the Capital Improvement fund line. No reserve fund activity. No questions about the vouchers. Kim and Caley attended the Business Manager's conference in September.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
RES. 2025-09-04
Kevin Howell moved to approve the agreement for Shared Funding with Perry County Job and Family Services to share IO Waiver costs for one youth, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Enrollment of this youth on an IO Waiver was previously approved at the June 2025 board meeting. This is the formal agreement between PCJFS and PCBDD to outline cost sharing to cover the waiver match. In the past, these agreements continued until the youth ages out of PC Children's Services at age 21. Karen asked if the youth was doing well where they were at, as she knows how difficult it is to find somewhere. She offered some suggestions on other places that she has visited. David and Caley both noted the suggestions so they could be researched.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

HAND OUT MOTION
2025-09-06
Sky Gettys moved to approve the revised 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. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: This contract was approved at the August meeting, but Transit later informed us that rates presented and approved in the original version were incorrect. Rates compared to last year and the version that was originally approved in August are below. This contract will take the place of the version that was approved in August. New rates were presented to the board.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

RES. 2025-09-05
Sky Gettys moved to enter Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee, specifically the Superintendent. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Sky requested David Couch stay for Executive Session. Rachel agreed.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT: 6:38 pm

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

X. ADJOURNMENT: Karen Chennells moved to adjourn meeting at 6:40 pm.

Rachel Barnhart – Board President

Denise Dupler – Board Secretary