

THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2026

Couch Connections Center, 600 Senior Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764

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

II. ROLL CALL: PRESENT ABSENT EXCUSED UNEXCUSED

Rachel Barnhart	X			
Kevin Howell	X			
Fritzie Nitschke	X			
Linda Whetstone		X		X
Denise Dupler	X			
Karen Chennells	X			
Sky Gettys	X			

Others in attendance: Caley Boyden, Jessica Stroup, Ashley Reed, Chrissy Cameron, Chuck Davis, Shelly Lackey, Kim Foreman, David Couch, Charles Tolliver, Rae Taylor, and Madi Chennells.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Res. 2026-02-01

Sky Gettys moved to approve the February Regular Board meeting agenda, and any additions, as submitted. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: No additions submitted.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IV. RECOGNITION:

Res. 2026-02-02

Karen Chennells moved to recognize the retirement of David C. Couch, who served as Superintendent of the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities for over 19 years. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: The Board thanked David for all his years of service.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2026-02-03

Sky Gettys moved to recognize the "DD Awareness Month Proclamation," as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: March has been identified as DD awareness month.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Res. 2026-02-04

Karen Chennells moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, PCBDD Regular Board meeting, as presented. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2026-02-05

Sky Gettys moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, PCBDD Organizational Board meeting, as presented. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VI. BOARD REPORTS:

A. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – CALEY BOYDEN - *Verbal Report*

Caley's report was included in the packet. Jenny's MUI reports were included in the packet. The Muskingum Valley ESC and New Lex Schools Student Services agreement is still at the attorney's office waiting on them to complete our revisions to the proposed agreement. Because this is expected to continue to spread across the state, the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACBDD) has agreed to cover a portion (possibly all) of our legal fees associated with the development of this agreement. Caley's hope is to have a draft agreement to share in March. The other Muskingum Valley ESC, New Lex Schools, and PCJFS shared position talks are still happening. The development of the position description is in its final stages. This discussion began back in spring/summer of 2025 due to PCBDD's need to expand capacity for Early Intervention, namely evaluation and assessment duties, and ongoing intervention services for a small number of children. This one proposed position will have three distinct roles: 1. Early Intervention evaluation and assessment with a small ongoing caseload for PCBDD 2. Family and Children First Council Coordinator for PCJFS 3. Additional duties at the MVESC Cub Academy (childcare program). It is proposed that the position will be hired and employed by MVESC, supervised by the PCBDD Children's Program Director, and physically housed here at PCBDD office with the expectation that the position will have a heavy remote component. The hope is to have this agreement to you in March. The InterRAI is a new assessment that will soon be rolled out by DODD to replace the Developmental Disabilities Profile (DDP) and Acuity Assessment Instrument that has been in place for many years to determine funding ranges for people enrolled on IO Waivers. The cost to PCBDD is still unknown, and the InterRAI tool itself has not been shared with the field yet. Superintendents from across the state met on January 23 to further discuss on which proposed concepts and measures should be elevated to discussions with people served, their family members, and other system stakeholders, and eventually suggested to policymakers to address the statewide funding and sustainability concerns facing Ohio's DD system. These efforts are being facilitated by OACBDD, and the agreed-upon items that resulted from the January 23rd meeting were provided in an email prior to the meeting and handed out.

B. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT – ASHELY REED

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

C. SSA DIRECTOR REPORT – CHUCK DAVIS

Chuck's report and Vikki's report were included in the packet. No discussion.

D. COMMUNITY SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT - SHELLY LACKEY

Shelly's report was included in the packet.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT – JESSICA STROUP

Staff roster was included in the packet. No report for February. No discussion.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Res. 2026-02-06

Sky Gettys moved to approve the expenditures. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Kim shared that lower revenue is typical for January. TANF was received for ALA for September, October, and November. November's payment for TCM was received. Contract services for MEORC and Primary Solutions were paid out of expenditures. OACB membership fee was paid out of expenditures. No capital or reserve fund activity. MEORC account balances were updated finally after receiving statements on February 12th. No waiver waiting list changes to report.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 2026-02-07

Kevin Howell moved to approve the 2026 Superintendent's Professional Development Plan, as presented. Karen Chennells 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 Caley Boyden was obtained on November 18, 2024, and will not expire until November 17, 2029.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2026-02-08

Karen Chennells moved to approve the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2026 Annual Conversion Plan, as presented. Kevin Howell 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. The following are changes included in the 2026 OPERS Conversion Plan: The Superintendent's vacation entitlement 15 days and sick entitlement 25 days, sick compensation can be requested 80 hours, vacation compensation can be requested 80 hours. The Administrative Supports Director's vacation entitlement increased from 25 to 26 days. The Community Supports Director's vacation entitlement increased from 25 to 28 days. The Service and Support Administration Director's vacation entitlement increased from 25 to 30 days. The Finance Director was removed from this plan.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2026-02-09

Denise Dupler moved to approve the Tale of Organization, effective March 2, 2026, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: The Employment Navigator position is currently in the Children's Program Department. This request is to move this position to the Community Supports Department because it largely supports adults or those nearing adulthood in community services, as well provides support to Pioneering Possibilities and ALA, which are already housed in this department. The request to move one Administrative Assistant to the Children's Program Department because this position currently and primarily provides routine supports to the Children's Program. Caley shared that she is looking into the future with retirements upcoming and looking at how we can maximize the staff we have instead of just filling a position. Alignment is key for the agency to keep moving forward.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

- X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Charles Tolliver shared with the Board that he is a referee for Cougars basketball, he has a shirt, a whistle, and really enjoys doing this. The Board thanked him and Madi for attending the meeting. Shelly Lackey shared that they are both on the Pioneering Possibilities Executive Committee and are learning about how boards work.
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Sky Gettys moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm.


Rachel Barnhart – Board President


Denise Dupler – Board Secretary