

THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 2026

Couch Connections Center, 600 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			
Denise Dupler		X	X	
Karen Chennells	X			
Sky Gettys	X			

Others in attendance: Caley Boyden, Chrissy Cameron, Jessica Stroup, Kim Foreman, Ashley Reed, Shelly Lackey, Jenny Keister, Beverly Keys, and Kyle Llewellyn.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Res. 2026-04-01

Karen Chennells moved to approve the April regular Board meeting agenda, and any additions, as submitted. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IV. RECOGNITION:

Res. 2026-04-02

Sky Gettys moved to recognize the retirement of Darlene Denny, who served the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities for over 30 years. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Darlene was not present at the meeting, but the Board thanked her for all her years of service. Rachel shared that Darlene was one of the first people at the Board that her family had contact with and she was always a great resource.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

V. **COMMITTEES:** An Ethics Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2026, immediately following the May PCBDD regular Board meeting. Committee is Sky Gettys, Fritzie Nitschke, and Kevin Howell.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Res. 2026-04-03

Linda Whetstone moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2026, PCBDD regular Board meeting, as presented. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Sky Gettys abstained)

VII. BOARD REPORTS:

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – CALEY BOYDEN - Verbal Report

Caley’s report was included in the packet. Jenny’s MUI report was included in the packet. Caley gave an update on the Strong Families, Safe Communities Grant. Behavioral Health Choices did not meet applicant requirements, so PCBDD agreed to take on applicant/administrative duties for the one year, \$200,000 grant for enhancing family stability, promoting safe and healthy homes, and increasing access to services that we discussed in March. With a start date of 7/1/26, we will know soon if we are awarded the grant. Caley shared that the official language and efforts around property taxes seem to be softening a little bit. We are still in a holding pattern to see what is going to happen before we move forward with any type of plan. Following their first meeting with DODD to discuss Funding the Future concepts proposed by county board superintendents, OACB shared that it seems “fundamental shifts” in our system will be a theme. Initiatives around state-funded Early Intervention services and intensive needs adults are well underway, with other proposed initiatives being incorporated into existing workgroups. In the most recent conversations with DODD, we’ve seen increased emphasis on Medicaid compliance concerns from the state stemming from a lack of “state wideness” that will undoubtedly impact proposed solutions and any resulting systemic changes. Caley shared some budget projections with the Board. We are cutting expenses wherever possible and looking at our 2027 budget and the ways, we can cut costs. Lots of talk around how we still getting the word out on what services we provide and what will be cut if we don’t run/pass a levy. We’ve developed a new employee growth and goal setting process that we hope will promote personal and professional development of employees, address succession needs, and increase employee satisfaction and engagement. The process is being rolled out to departments this month. SLT worked hard to get this to align with the agency and the employee.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S REPORT – ASHLEY REED

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

SSA ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT – CHUCK DAVIS

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS DIRECTOR’S REPORT - SHELLY LACKEY

Shelly’s report was included in the packet. No discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR’S REPORT – JESSICA STROUP

Jessica’s report was included in the packet. Jessica shared that any feedback on the 2025 Annual Plan was encouraged before we roll it out. Jessica also shared the 1st quarter Strategic Plan progress report.

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

Res. 2026-04-04

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

Discussion: Kim shared the Operating fund revenue. We received our first half levy settlements which were above target for the first half. Wellness received the administrative funds for the program. TCM payment was received for January 2026. Operating fund expenditures were for supplies, contract services, community services, and equipment. No activity in the Capital or Reserve funds. Kim shared the updated MOERC balances. Board members were given updated totals at the board meeting. Kim went over the Waiver Waiting list.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IX. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Res. 2026-04-05

Karen Chennells moved to approve revisions to the PCBDD Policy #118 Succession Planning, as presented. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

Discussion: This policy was revised to include information about key leadership positions and to align with changes in our Career Development process.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2026-04-06

Kevin Howell moved to approve the 2026 PCBDD Succession Plan, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: PCBDD Policy #118 directs for the PCBDD Succession Plan to be submitted and approved by the Board annually. Senior Leaders have worked through the details of this plan and provided the necessary updates.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2026-04-07

Karen Chennells moved to approve one Individual Options Waiver for a person with an immediate need. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

Discussion: The person in need is currently enrolled on a Level One waiver, but a new diagnosis of a degenerative condition has led to increasing support needs. The family has gone to all lengths to continue to support the person, but their efforts combined with the Level One Waiver are no longer sufficient, and there are no other viable resources to meet the person's needs.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

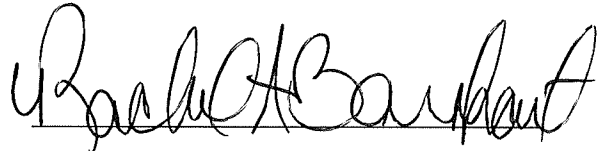
Res. 2026-04-08

Kevin Howell moved to approve the Special Education State Funding Services agreement between PCBDD and the Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: IDEA Part B funds received by PCBDD from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce will be passed through to the ESC, along with all responsibilities relating to the provision of educational services for students for whom funding is received. ODEW responded to requests from our attorney stating this type of relationship between boards of DD and the ESC is permissible. The final draft of the agreement was also shared with the PC Commissioners and Prosecutor for review and comment; they have no concerns.

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Rachel Barnhart abstained)

- XI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Kyle shared that he is going to come up with ways to get the word out on what PCBDD does and the services that we provide. He already has thought about making a flyer and placing them around the county just so people can read something at a glance. Linda shared maybe having him use his artistic talent to make a placemat to distribute around the county.
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Sky Gettys moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 pm.



Board President – Rachel Barnhart



Board Secretary – Denise Dupler