



Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Helping people to live, learn and work in our community

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Jed W. Morison
Superintendent/CEO

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

February 25, 2021

Board Members Present via teleconference: John Bickley, Linda Craig, Marie Crawford,
Beth Savage, Michael Underwood, Bill Wilkins

Staff Present via teleconference: Jed Morison, Jack Brownley, Lee Childs, Gwynn Kinsel,
Amy Magginis, David Ott, Rita Price, Dot Yeager

The Regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order by President Beth Savage.

MINUTES

Mr. Bickley moved to approve the minutes from the organizational meeting held via teleconference on January 28, 2021, second by Mr. Underwood Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Crawford moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held via teleconference on January 28, 2021, second by Mr. Wilkins. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Budget & Finance Report: Chief Business Officer Dot Yeager provided the Budget and Finance report to Board members. Dot reported that revenue is at 36.6% and expenditures are at 2.8% at the end of January. Dot shared information related to the door replacements at ECE (exterior) and ECLC (interior) doors and provided details on Architect selection process. Superintendent/CEO Morison added that Dot and her team did a great job working with 7 different architectural firms interviewing during this process of selection.

Human Resources & Ethics Report: Human Resources Director David Ott provided the Human Resources report to the Board members indicating that January had little activity noting one of the new hires was Rita Price, Communications Coordinator. David shared a new development related to unemployment and fraudulent claims. This is an issue that spans the country. Over 40 fraudulent claims have come in since December. We communicate with ODJFS regarding fraudulent claims as an employer and staff complete an affidavit for ODJFS. The FCBDD Training Center started up in February with trainings from STRS, Institutional History and Insurance. March trainings will include OPERS, Dr. Angela Ray from Psychology presenting on Trauma Responsive Care, the Equity Committee will share a training from a Professor discussing diversity, social psychology and identity, and finally Gwynn Kinsel, Legal Counsel will provide training on harassment. Superintendent Morison added that David and his team have done a great job with the training center. These trainings will typically be on Thursdays for about an hour. This is a more efficient way to provide training, using virtual platforms.

President Savage offered thanks to David Ott for taking the lead on the training center.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- ◆ We have completed the COVID-19 vaccination clinics in partnership with the Franklin County Health Department, Columbus Health Department and Nationwide Children's Hospital. We had a total of approximately 11,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and some of their direct service staff who were eligible. We believe the majority took advantage of the Governor and Director Davis' priority status. Larry Macintosh and Lee Childs and their staff did an awesome job of coordinating this – a logistical and communication challenge that involved thousands of people, providers and organizations. Second doses for many are underway.
- ◆ March is DD Awareness Month. This will include a virtual DD Awareness Day with state legislators on March 2. We typically distribute awareness bookmarks to libraries and posters. Open Houses and other in-person events will not work this year due to the pandemic. We will ask the Board to pass a resolution declaring this DD Awareness Month.
- ◆ We, as well as the rest of the state and country, have been impacted by fraudulent unemployment claims. David Ott, Director of HR, has done a great job providing direction to staff who have been victims of this and has worked hard to communicate to the state that certain claims are fraudulent. We have not had one layoff since the pandemic began.
- ◆ Our School and Early Childhood programs continue to operate with West Central operating 5 days per week and Early Childhood classes utilizing a hybrid model where students attend every other week. Due to low enrollment and continued high number of COVID-19 cases, we are not planning to provide Summer Center recreational programs. We will be operating our Transition to Work (TTW) program as approved by the Board and we will continue to provide virtual early intervention services.
- ◆ The County Commissioners are expected to appoint a new Board member in the near future to replace Renée Stein.
- ◆ In addition to the vaccines for individuals we serve and their direct service professionals (DSPs), our early childhood and school staffs were able to get the COVID-19 vaccine. This was a priority of the Governor, to get schools to re-open and providing in-person services. We have been providing in-person services since September, except for an extended Winter break from December to mid-January.
- ◆ Next week we have arranged meetings with the newly elected Probate Judge and Prosecutor. We look forward to connecting with Judge Jeff Mackey and Prosecutor Gary Tyack and their staffs.
- ◆ Our Special Olympics team is conducting a virtual 'Polar Plunge' this year due to the pandemic. Over \$27,000 has already been raised.
- ◆ Thanks to Larry Macintosh and Lee Childs and their staffs, we will be piloting the new Ohio ISP (Individual Service Plan) developed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. We are the only county in the state who will provide the leadership to pilot this new person centered planning effort.
- ◆ The Governor's Executive budget has been presented to the legislature and is now being discussed in hearings. The budget is for the two year fiscal period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The budget does not appear to have any controversial policy proposals and funding is expected to continue for 700 state funded waivers, multisystem youth, early intervention. Family resources funding will not be available, similar to last year.

- ◆ Our FCBDD Training Center is up and running thanks to the efforts of our HR and Technology Departments and presenters. This is designed for staff on topics providing professional or personal growth and all trainings are being provided virtually.
- ◆ Our Self-Advocate Advisory Council will meet on March 11, 2021. The Superintendent will provide updates on services, COVID-19 and other topics and will hear feedback/ suggestions from Council members.
- ◆ On next Monday, the Superintendent will participate in a meeting with Columbus City Council regarding a study they are doing related to public safety. Several of our staff participated in a focus group regarding their study. One of our staff members has an office at Columbus Police headquarters and we provide training to officers related to disability issues.
- ◆ The March issue of 'Dateline' will be out soon. You will enjoy the first issue written by Rita Price, our Communications Coordinator. It is an excellent newsletter with focus on much of what has transpired since March of last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic began for us.
- ◆ And, finally, our update related to the COVID-19 pandemic includes some positive news. In meetings this week with both Health Commissioners, we learned that case counts and hospitalizations continue to improve. They are quick to point out that we still have a long way to go and there is concern about the variants, which are more contagious. Since March of 2020, there have been 1191 deaths in Franklin County due to COVID-19 out of 110,938 identified cases. Of these numbers with our system, we are aware of 488 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and sadly 21 deaths of individuals we serve over the past 12 months. Thanks to safety protocols of individuals, family members, staff and providers, the numbers are not greater. We continue to emphasize the importance of face coverings, social/physical distancing of at least 6 feet, sanitizing, handwashing and other mitigation standards.

President Savage shared a word of thanks to Larry Macintosh and Lee Childs for their exceptional efforts with the vaccines.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Mr. Underwood moved to ratify bill payments for the past month, approved by the Chief Business Officer, as presented via electronic means to Board members on the Finance Committee on February 25, 2021, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Mr. Bickley moved authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for dental services not to exceed the amount of \$320,616, for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Mr. Bickley moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for early intervention and pre-school services not to exceed the amount of \$824,469 for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, second by Ms. Craig. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for specialized psychiatric services for individuals for persons with a dual diagnosis, not to exceed the amount of \$109,242, for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mr. Bickley moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for recreation activities and coordination of Next Chapter Book

Club and literary services programs, not to exceed the amount of \$207,270, for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Wilkins moved to authorize Superintendent to negotiate agreement with OSU Chabad House (Lifetown) for opioid prevention program for the period beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 for an amount not to exceed \$17,000, second by Mr. Bickley. Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Ms. Craig moved to authorize Superintendent to renew agreement with OSU Chabad House (Lifetown) for simulated learning environment services for the period beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in the annual amount not to exceed \$50,000, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.
- h. Ms. Crawford moved to award bid for mowing and landscaping, at various rates, to Clover Landscape, LLC for Bixby and Marketing Place and to GAG, Inc., for all other sites for an initial two year term, to begin March 1, 2021, with two one-year renewal options, second by Mr. Bickley Motion carried unanimously.
- i. Mr. Underwood moved to go to bid for 2021 door improvements at Johnstown Road and Early Childhood Learning Community, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.
- j. Mr. Bickley moved to accept proposal from MSA Design for architect services for the 2021 building improvements, for a not-to-exceed fee of \$34,500 and a reimbursable expense allowance of \$3,500, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.
- k. Mr. Underwood moved to proclaim March as DD Awareness Month, second by Ms. Craig. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none


ANNOUNCEMENTS – Self-Advocate Advisory Council will meet March 11, 2021 via zoom. October 27, 2021 is a tentative date for the 2021 Community Star Awards.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC – Christine Brown shared that OSU Nisonger has a virtual tour of the smart home, contact Jordan Wagner for more information. Christine shared that the Self Waiver and Level 1 waivers will be discussed during OSDA meeting. Christine indicated that there may be a 'post pandemic' discussion with legislators next year instead of a Legislative Advocacy day this year. Christine invited board members to attend a virtual OSDA meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The February 25, 2021 meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Underwood
Secretary

MU/am