



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
September 23, 2021**

Board Members Present (In-Person): John Bickley, Linda Craig, Marie Crawford, Samuel Davis, Beth Savage, Michael Underwood, Bill Wilkins

Staff Members Present (In-Person): Jed Morison, Amy Magginis, Emmanuel Owusu-Boadi, Dot Yeager

Staff Present via teleconference: Jack Brownley, Lee Childs, Gwynn Kinsel, David Ott, Rita Price, Larry Macintosh, Chris Martin, Travis Sherick

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 regular meeting held on July 22, 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 115% due to receipt of the second installment of real estate taxes, this was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expenditures are at 64.8% of budget as expected for this time of year.

Dot discussed the draft report of the 'Agreed Upon Procedures' for the 2019 Cost Report. The report was very positive with a recovery of \$412.00. The State Auditor's office indicated this was a smooth audit. Adult Day Services Medicaid reimbursement was primarily through our contract with Goodwill.

Human Resources & Ethics Report: Human Resources Director David Ott provided the Human Resources report to the Board members indicating that July hires were mainly Service Coordinators and the August hires were focused on School programs and Transportation. The Ohio Education Association contract expires at the end of this calendar year. We hope to begin negotiations in October. The Combined Charitable Campaign, coordinated by Becky Love, Director of Early Childhood, is underway and expected to do well. The goal this year is to raise \$57,200.00 and currently over \$16,000 has been pledged.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- ◆ First, welcome to Mr. Samuel Davis, who is attending his first Board meeting today. Mr. Davis was appointed by the County Commissioners and has already met with the Superintendent, toured the Early Childhood Education Center and attended a Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting.
- ◆ Thank you to Board members for attending required Board In-Service. Our records indicate that Board members have met their annual in-service requirement.
- ◆ COVID-19 cases continue to increase due to the delta variant. Sadly, we learned of a death due to COVID this past week. To our knowledge, this is the first death of a person we serve due to COVID-19 since Spring, 2021. We are aware of 22 deaths since COVID began in March, 2020 and over 500 positive cases. While this is a low number considering the number of people we serve, just one death is too many.
- ◆ Our Self-Advocate Advisory Council met earlier this month. Three of the Council members, Jennifer Cunningham, Marci Straughter and Christine Brown participated on a panel in a webinar yesterday on self-advocacy leadership and successes. They were joined by Superintendent Morison and Dana Charlton, Executive Director of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) and they did an excellent job.
- ◆ Superintendent Morison reported that in the past month, he has visited all of our county owned buildings where ARC Industries provides adult services. He was pleased to report that ARC Industries is doing excellent work despite the challenges of privatization and the pandemic. Due to COVID, and philosophical changes, it appears that production with sub-minimum wages at the workshops may not return. If so, we expect opportunities to reduce our footprint with workshop buildings in the next few years. The Superintendent will present to the ARC Industries Board of Trustees on October 8.
- ◆ Our field continues to experience Workforce shortages. While we are fortunate to have good staffing for most positions within our agency, we are aware of shortages with direct care staff or Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) for many providers. This will require efforts to encourage less dependency on in-person staff wherever possible, including more remote supports, less 1:1 staffing and more natural supports. As Larry Macintosh reported in our in-service, we are doing much to support Providers including help with overtime expenses, support to re-assign Day staff to residential, specialized respite and an initiative to encourage use of remote supports.
- ◆ We have just received our report on agreed upon procedures from the Ohio Auditor for our 2019 Cost Report and are pleased to report it was excellent. The audit was for over \$10 million in services, including targeted case management and some adult services. To quote the staff member from the State Auditor, "we had a very 'clean report' with just small documentation findings." Special thanks to Dot Yeager, Jennifer Schueneman and Larry Macintosh for their excellent work on this.
- ◆ Thanks to the efforts of Rita Price, our Facebook and Website is now providing significantly more content with excellent news, stories and pictures. We encourage you to friend us on Facebook and to check out our news page on the website.
- ◆ We presented our 2022 budget proposal to the staff of the Franklin County Commissioners earlier this month. Dot Yeager provided a summary of our request for \$243 million to Board members. We expect to meet with the Commissioners in November or December to explain our proposal. We continue to be financially stable and are on target with our long term levy plan.

- ◆ We continue to move forward with our efforts related to multi-system youth. We are in the process of moving 3 youth out of the Kimberly Woods apartment, which allows for an additional 3 youth to enter. We are also working with Franklin County Children Services and ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health) Board to expand for eight more youth, beginning with the renovation of the two Kimberly Woods respite apartments.
- ◆ We continue to participate with testing and implementation of the Ohio ISP. Our staff involved with this met with state officials recently to provide input and suggestions for improvements. State staff were very appreciative. This is a work in progress that also requires the state to make technology updates. Due to some of the challenges, the state is expected to delay full implementation, which will also delay our next accreditation review.
- ◆ Our Early Childhood Education Department/Facilities were recently featured in a Moody-Nolan publication. Moody-Nolan is the largest African American owned architectural firm in the country and provided excellent design services for our Early Childhood Education Centers. The Superintendent distributed the publication.
- ◆ Commissioner Erica Crawley recently visited the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Commissioner met with Superintendent/ CEO Morison and then toured the Early Childhood Center. She was appointed to replace Marilyn Brown in July. Commissioner Crawley already has expressed interest and support for our services.
- ◆ Unfortunately, Board member Linda Craig will be term limited and will need to step down from the Board in January, 2022. Her replacement is not required to be a family member. The Commissioners will appoint Linda's successor and at times, request suggestions for replacement candidates. Please let the Superintendent know of any suggestions.
- ◆ The Superintendent reminded Board members of the future meeting schedule:
 - October 28** – Committee at 4:00 p.m., Board meeting at 5:00 p.m.
 - November 18** – Committee at 1:00 p.m., Board meeting at 2:00 p.m.
 - December** – No regular meeting
 - January 27, 2022** – Board Retreat 1:00-5:00 p.m., Board meeting 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ We are especially proud of our Transportation, Schools and Early Childhood programs for their great start to a new school year.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Ms. Craig 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 September 23, 2021, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Mr. Underwood moved to extend paid administrative leave for employees needing time off on their day(s) to get the COVID-19 vaccine and up to 8 hours on the day following the COVID-19 vaccine shot(s), if required due to illness, through December 31, 2021, second by Mr. Bickley. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Mr. Bickley moved to extend the temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy through December 31, 2021, second by Ms. Craig. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Ms. Crawford moved to increase the ceiling for the Provider Grant program from \$150,000 to \$225,000, second by Ms. Craig. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mr. Underwood moved to renew contract with the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus for counseling and referral services, in an amount not to exceed \$32,000, for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, second by Mr. Bickley. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Ms. Craig moved to go to bid for snow removal services, second by Ms. Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – President Savage opened discussion and public hearing (via Zoom) regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccines and possible resolution to authorize implementation of COVID-19 testing for staff.

Superintendent Morison shared information about the differing opinions and the current focus on how to move forward related to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations for our staff.

Superintendent Morison indicated that he has listened and communicated with many, many staff - all of whom he respects. And, while he respects people's different viewpoints and perspectives, he indicated we don't always agree.

He indicated that personally he respects the opinions of our Health Commissioners and the medical community – which is that vaccines can prevent COVID or more serious symptoms of COVID.

With that in mind, he has evaluated different viewpoints and facts, including the President's Executive Orders and Legislation at the State and Federal Level, and the realities of what we can do. He indicated we have considered staff opinion, parent/ family member opinion, certainly, the safety of those we serve and we have discussed the practical realities related to implementation of different alternatives.

Based on what we have heard and read, his recommendation is as follows, which is in the best interest, is fair and while not all will agree, is respectful of various opinions and will be able to be implemented at this time. The recommendation is as follows:

1. Continue to encourage COVID-19 vaccines for all staff. Based on a recent survey, 89% of staff who responded are vaccinated. When factoring in assumptions about staff who did not respond, we estimate 76% of all staff are vaccinated, thanks to priority consideration of our staff when vaccines became available.
2. Mandate tests for all who show symptoms or have had known exposure (15 minutes in past 24 hours) BinaxNOW Rapid Tests are available at all FCBDD sites.
3. Require continued strict adherence to mask requirement for all staff, visitors (and students, where possible) in all FCBDD buildings when in common spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained. Masks must be worn over mouth and nose.
4. Encourage 3rd shot or booster per FDA guidance.
5. Reinstate temperature taking at all FCBDD facilities and do not permit entrance if temperature exceeds 100°.
6. Maintain COVID Leave and Vaccination policies for staff through December 31, 2021.
7. Continue social distancing, sanitization, isolation and quarantine protocols
8. If mandates are required in the future, per federal or state rules or laws, implement.
9. If weekly tests are required and can be acquired for all staff, consider requiring testing of all staff (both vaccinated and unvaccinated) recognizing that vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals can contract and spread the virus.
10. As COVID-19 cases increase or decrease, consider recommendations of Health Departments, which could include vaccine requirement and testing. Re-evaluate on ongoing basis.

President Savage gave time for any of the public in attendance via Zoom to speak regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccinations for staff, no staff or public spoke in regards to COVID-19 testing or vaccinations.

The Board members all agreed to allow the Superintendent to proceed in this way as it relates to COVID-19 vaccinations and testing.

NEW BUSINESS – none

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Franklin County Special Olympics has scheduled their banquet for October 3, 2021. The event will be held outdoors at 2879 Johnstown Road.

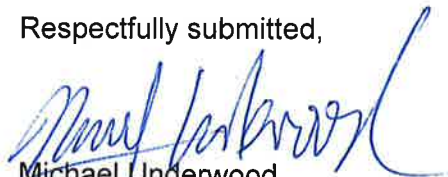
HEARING OF THE PUBLIC – Christine Brown shared an update on funding for OSU from CDC as it relates to research for those with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities. Christine will present to OPRA on COVID-19 survey results. Synergy is the 1st week of October at Kalahari.

Superintendent Morison commended Christine Brown, Marci Straughter, Jennifer Cunningham and Dana Charlton on their recent presentation to our staff on Self-Advocacy and their related experiences. The panel discussion was very successful.

ADJOURNMENT

The September 23, 2021 meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Underwood
Secretary

MU/am