



*"The mission of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to:  
Inspire, empower, and support individuals and their families."*

**ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

4405 Galloway Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**July 20, 2023**

**PRESENT**

Board Members: Dave Danhoff, Brooke Gammie, Mark Harrington, Eric Kibler, Katelyn Miller, Mary Peters, and Stacie Schmid.

ECBDD Staff: Carrie Beier, Michelle Kelley, and Rachel Malone.

**VISITORS SIGNED IN**

Diane Corso, Jennifer Kinney, Mike Riggle, and Felicia Zendejas.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The July 20, 2023, Board Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by President, Mr. Dave Danhoff.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was taken. All Board Members were present.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023, Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Eric Kibler seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## **VI. BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Ethics Committee Report:** The Ethics Committee did not meet.

### **B. Finance Committee**

#### **1. Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee met this month. Rachel Malone reported that the June financials were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Rachel shared the following highlights:

- Revenue and expenses were on target for YTD.
- The cost allocation was paid to Erie County for our vehicle fleet and Human Resources.
- The DSP Quarterly Retention Payment Program will conclude on 12/31/23. Effective 1/1/24, county boards will continue to support the DSPs through the statewide rate increase.

#### **2. Fiscal Report**

The Fiscal Report for Month Ending June 30, 2023, was provided for review and approval (handout). Mr. Eric Kibler made a motion to approve the June Fiscal Report as submitted. Mrs. Katelyn Miller seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

### **C. Policy Committee Report**

The Policy Committee reviewed three policies in July. These policies were the:

- Family Directed Resource Policy (reviewed and revised)
- Help Me Grow Home Visiting Services Policy (reviewed, no revisions)
- Title XX Policy (reviewed, no revisions)

The Help Me Grow Home Visiting Services Policy and the Title XX Policy were reviewed, and no revisions made. Therefore, approval by the Board is not required on these policies.

The Family Directed Resource Policy was reviewed and revised. The Policy Committee recommended Board approval of this policy. Mrs. Stacie Schmid made a motion to approve the policy as revised. Mrs. Katelyn Miller seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## **VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **A. Strategic Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

The Strategic Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report was distributed (handout). Carrie Beier reviewed highlights from the report and shared some statistical data on services.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Strategic Planning Update**

Carrie Beier reported that we continue to work with the Impact Group on developing our next Strategic Plan. See Superintendent Report Section for update.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Kiwanis/Aktion Club Donation**

Mrs. Katelyn Miller made a motion to approve the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities use donated funds to make a donation, upon request, to the Sandusky Kiwanis Club to support the Aktion Club in the amount of \$5,000.00. These funds would be used for Aktion Club program needs and other related expenses. Mr. Eric Kibler seconded the motion. Mr. Mark Harrington abstained. With all other members in favor, the motion passed.

### **B. Clark Scholarship Program Donation**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities use donated funds to make a donation to the Clark Scholarship Program at Firelands BGSU in the amount of \$10,000.00, earmarked for Erie County resident program needs. Mr. Eric Kibler seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## **X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Carrie attended the following in-person/virtual/remote meetings, trainings and activities: Ohio Provider Resource Association Provider Friday Five's virtual, Kiwanis meeting, Rotary meeting, United Way Allocation Committee and Board meeting, Region 1 Superintendent meeting, Statewide Early Childhood Advisory, Ohio MIID (NADD) Conference, COG Board meeting, and FCFC meeting.
- **Media/Public Relations:**
  - Sandusky Register: None
  - Community Connections Calendar- visit the ECBDD website at [www.eriecbdd.org/events](http://www.eriecbdd.org/events) for our full calendar of events.
- **Personnel:**
  - We have 2 open SSA positions and are actively interviewing candidates.
  - Coffee with Carrie and Director Department updates were provided to all staff in June.
  - Our next Professional Development Day for all staff will be October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Strategic Planning:**
  - The Leadership Team has scheduled one more meeting with Tom Speaks to discuss final strategies for the next 3-year Strategic Plan. Carrie will be sharing a draft of the plan with the Board in August. Mr. Speaks will attend the September meeting to discuss the final document for board approval.
- **OACB - DODD**
  - **State Biennium Budget Updates:**
    - **Increase DD reimbursement rates to support average statewide DSP wage of \$18/hr in FY24, \$19/hr in FY25 (*Senate version*).**
      - The House-passed version of the budget added state appropriations to increase the average statewide hourly wage for DSPs in Ohio's DD waiver system to \$17/hr effective 1/1/2024 and \$18/hr effective 7/1/2024.
      - The Senate-passed version of the budget did not change the state appropriation levels for DSPs in Ohio's DD waiver system, but did include a local appropriation from county boards of DD to increase the average statewide DSP wage for providers in Ohio's DD system by \$1/hr on top of the House-passed appropriation in each year of the biennium.

- This means that—**thanks to the investment of local funds by county boards of DD**—the statewide average hourly wage for DSPs in Ohio's DD waiver services will increase to \$18/hr beginning 1/1/2024 and to \$19/hr beginning 7/1/2024.
- The conference committee maintained the Senate's version of the budget, meaning that county boards' contribution was maintained in the final version being sent to Gov. DeWine for his signature.
- In addition, the conference committee also maintained the Senate provision **ending the temporary Direct Support Professional Quarterly Retention Payments Program**, which will now conclude on 12/31/2023 instead of 6/30/2025 as originally drafted. The funds that would have supported the Retention Payments Program will instead support the additional wage increase outlined above.
- **Wage verification** measures were also included in the final version of the budget to require all relevant state agencies (Medicaid, Aging, and DD) to submit annual reports documenting that increased wages are being paid to DSPs.

**Allow remote/hybrid participation for board members at county board of DD meetings.**

- In response to OACB advocacy, the Senate added a provision permitting a certain number of county board members to **participate and vote in board meetings** through video or other telecommunications platforms if the meeting is held in a **hybrid format**.
- All board members must still attend a minimum percentage of meetings in person, and there must be a minimum number of board members present in person at any given meeting.
- This language is the result of compromises with legislative sponsors who expressed concerns with remote participation of board members with taxing and appropriation authority. The language is also exclusive to county boards of DD.
- The conference committee maintained this language in its final version of the budget,

See attached final amendment which begins 90 days from budget approval.

**New requirements for county commissioners to appoint a person eligible for services to all 88 county boards are maintained in final budget.**

- The Senate added provisions to its version of the budget at the request of DODD to clarify a new requirement that county commissioners appoint a person eligible for DD services as a county board member in all 88 counties.
- The provisions require county commissioners to appoint at least one person eligible for DD services and one individual who is a family member of a person eligible for DD services to serve on a county board, while removing certain criteria for family member appointments that had previously existed in statute and eliminating one family member appointment requirement.
- The provisions also require a senior probate judge to appoint at least one person eligible for DD services or a family member of a person eligible for residential services or supported living, while specifying that a judge's appointment of a person eligible for DD services would satisfy the county commissioners' requirement to make such an appointment.

- Lastly, the provisions specify that an appointing authority's unfulfilled vacancy does not prohibit it from filling other vacancies on a county board, while also changing the effective date of the new requirement from immediate implementation to July 1, 2025.
- These provisions were maintained by the conference committee and were signed by Gov. DeWine in the final budget version.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:42 p.m. Mr. Eric Kibler seconded the motion. With all members in favor the motion passed, and the July Board meeting was adjourned.

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*Stacie Schief* 10-2-23  
Recording Secretary Date