

MINUTES – annual organizational meeting and combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, January 26, 2017

Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities

MINUTES

Thursday, January 26, 2017

5:00 p.m.

The **annual organizational meeting, combined work session and regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 89 East Howe Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278. The **annual organizational meeting** convened at 5:03 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Briggs
Joe Siegferth
Denise Ricks
Tom Quade
Dave Dohnal
Meghan Wilkinson

ALSO PRESENT

John J. Trunk, Superintendent	Joe Eck, Director of Labor Relations & Risk Management
Lisa Kamlowsky, Assistant Superintendent	Diamon Perry, Ombudsman
Tom Jacobs, Director of Operations/SHDC	Holly Brugh, Director of SSA & Children's Services
Lynn Sargi, Director of HR	Russ DuPlain, Director of IT & Risk Management
Billie Jo David, Director of Communications & MUI	Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary and others
Drew Williams, Director of Community Supports & Development	

I. REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS AND BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Mr. Trunk announced he received official notification of the reappointment of Randy Briggs and Meghan Wilkinson as Summit DD Board Members to their third and second terms, respectively. The terms run from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020. He thanked them for their past service and for their willingness to continue to serve.

Mr. Trunk stated that Dr. Jenny Dwyer has officially resigned from the Board, leaving a vacancy to be filled by Summit County Probate Judge Stormer. Part of the requirement is to advertise this vacancy to the public. The advertisement ran in the Akron Beacon Journal on Sunday, January 22nd and Monday, January 23rd. Interested applicants were directed to submit a letter of interest and resume to the Judge's office by February 23rd for consideration. An appointment is anticipated by March.

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ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (continued)

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Wilkinson served as the Nominating Committee and collected nominations for 2017 Board Officers. She shared a slate of officers in which one candidate was nominated for each position. Mrs. Wilkinson indicated each person nominated has agreed to serve. Mr. Siegferth called for additional nominations. Hearing none, Mrs. Wilkinson reported that the 2017 Summit DD Board Officer nominations are: President: Randy Briggs, Vice-President: Dave Dohnal, and Secretary: Denise Ricks.

RESOLUTION

No. 17-01-01

Mr. Quade moved that the election of Board Officers for 2017 be approved, as follows:

President:	Randy Briggs
Vice President:	Dave Dohnal
Secretary:	Denise Ricks

The motion, seconded by Mrs. Ricks, was unanimously approved.

Mr. Trunk thanked Mr. Siegferth for his leadership in serving as Board President and for his ongoing support of the Board. Mr. Siegferth stated that it was his pleasure and he appreciated the opportunity and looks forward to continuing to be part of this great organization.

III. ETHICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Trunk proposed that instead of assembling a formal Ethics Committee, items that would typically be vetted through that committee be embedded in the Board agenda. Mr. Briggs asked if the proposal is for the entire Board to act as the Ethics Committee. Mr. Trunk replied that it is. He stated that the law does not require a separate Ethics Committee and noted there are typically only two or three requests for Ethics consideration per year. Mr. Briggs asked if Ethics meetings are open to the public. Mr. Trunk replied that they are. Hearing no objections, it was agreed that ethics items would be brought to the full Board.

IV. ASSIGNMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEES

The following Superintendent Committee assignments were proposed:

Finance & Facilities Committee:	Joe Siegferth & Dave Dohnal
HR/LR Committee:	Randy Briggs & Meghan Wilkinson
Services & Supports Committee:	Dave Dohnal & Meghan Wilkinson

Mr. Briggs asked Board Members if they are satisfied with the 2017 committee assignments. Hearing no objections, the proposed committee assignments for 2017 stand. Dates and times of 2017 committee meetings will be established and distributed as soon as possible.

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ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING *(continued)*

V. BOARD MEMBER DECLARATIONS AND CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Individuals appointed or reappointed to serve on a county developmental disabilities board are required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5126:024 to provide a declaration of eligibility to serve upon appointment or reappointment. Best practice recommends this document be reviewed and signed by each Board Member on an annual basis versus solely upon appointment or reappointment. Additionally, Summit DD Board Members agreed to sign a Code of Ethics and Conduct each year at the time Declarations are signed. Mrs. Albright has distributed both documents to Board Members for their signatures and will collect the signed forms at the end of the meeting.

The annual organizational meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

WORK SESSION

The **work session meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:14 p.m.

I. UNITED DISABILITY SERVICES (UDS) CONTRACT

To assist in supporting college and career ready graduates, Summit DD has partnered with Copley Fairlawn City School District (CFCS) to implement a Transition Services for Youth pilot program. This program will support students who are eligible for Summit DD services and attend CFCS in community based work experience opportunities through partnering with a provider agency. The provider agency will offer a range of services based on the student's age. All students age 14-15 will participate in monthly tours of local businesses. Students age 16 and older will participate in a Discovery Assessment and have the opportunity to volunteer at a local business on a weekly basis. The services are in line with ODE/DODD evidence based best practices and predictors for post school success for transitioning youth. The money allocated will support the partnership for two years. After the funding cycle is complete, CFCS has committed to either continuing the partnership or building sufficient internal staff capacity. There are currently 30 students that attend CFCS who are eligible for Summit DD services. The provider selection process consisted of requesting letters of interest and proposals from interested agency providers.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

I. UNITED DISABILITY SERVICES (UDS) CONTRACT *(continued)*

All proposals submitted were reviewed and four agencies were selected and participated in face-to-face interviews. The interview panel had representatives from CFCSD and Summit DD. UDS was selected to be the provider for the pilot program. The contract would be for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$125,000. Mr. Trunk noted that work has not begun under this contract yet. Mr. Briggs asked if the pilot project is ready to begin and if there is any reason why the Board should not take action on this contract tonight so it does not delay the start of the project another month. Mr. Trunk replied the pilot project is ready to begin as soon as Board approval is received. Mr. Briggs commented this project is in line with the Board's Mission and he doesn't see any reason to hold up approval of the contract. He recommends the Board take action on this item tonight during the Board Meeting. Funds are available in the budget and the UDS contract has been recommended for approval by the January Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

II. KOINONIA HOMES CONTRACT

Summit DD has partnered with Woodridge Local School District (WLSD) to implement a Transition Services for Youth pilot program to assist in supporting college and career ready graduates. The pilot program will support students who are eligible for Summit DD services and attend WLSD in community based work experience opportunities through a partnership with Koinonia Homes. Koinonia will provide a range of services based on the students' age. Students will participate in a Discovery Assessment and have the opportunity to volunteer at a local business weekly. These services are in line with ODE/DODD Evidence Based Best Practices and Predictors for post school success for Transition Youth. A letter of interest was generated and four interested provider agencies submitted proposals and participated in face-to-face interviews. The interview panel consisted of representatives from Summit DD, WLSD and the WLSD parent mentor. Koinonia Homes was selected to participate in the pilot program. The request is to enter into a two-year contract with Koinonia Homes for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$125,000. Upon completion of the contract, WLSD has committed to either continuing the partnership or building sufficient internal staffing capacity. There are currently 14 students between the ages of 14-22 who are eligible for Summit DD services. The intent is to replicate this partnership with other school districts. Funds are available in the budget and the Koinonia contract has been recommended for approval by the December Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

III. HATTIE LARLHAM AND HELP FOUNDATION CONTRACTS FOR DISCOVERY ASSESSMENTS

In 2016, Summit DD contracted with three providers to conduct Discovery Assessments in line with DODD's Best Practices Model. Each provider dedicated one full-time staff to oversee and conduct the Discovery process. All students in their senior year of high school were eligible to participate. Discovery is a process in which a provider conducts one-on-one assessment over the course of three months to determine the interests and desires of individuals. As part of the process, individuals participate in work and social observations and a home visit. Once the assessments are complete, the provider, in conjunction with the Team, creates a Positive Personal Profile. The profile outlines the individual's interests, goals and potential areas of support. From the profile, action steps and potential support services are identified. In 2016, 150 Discovery Assessments were completed. In 2017, Discovery Assessments will be available to all individuals age 16 and older to better support students who are receiving school-based transition services and to assist Summit DD with summer work programs. The request is to enter into contracts with Hattie Larlham and Help Foundation for the period February 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 per provider, for a total not to exceed \$120,000. Both providers have produced well written Discovery profiles and have provided consistently good services. Funds are available in the budget and the Hattie Larlham and Help Foundation contracts have been recommended for approval by the December Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

IV. BRIDGES TO TRANSITION CONTRACT

Bridges to Transition is a statewide project managed by the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) of Developmental Disabilities and is a collaboration between county boards of DD and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). The goal of the program is to support eligible youth with developmental disabilities starting in the tenth grade with career exploration activities while they are still in school to support job readiness skills and ultimately employment before or after graduation. Summit DD joined the Bridges to Transition program in 2011. In 2016, Summit DD made the decision to bring the program in-house and not contract for staffing and administration of the program. Since that time, the caseload has grown by 20 students, for a total of 80 students. The request is to renew a one-year agreement to participate in the Bridges to Transition program for the period October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, providing match monies in an amount not to exceed \$81,885.25, which is used to draw down about \$225,000 in federal funds. OOD operates on a Fiscal year, that's why the contract is started in October.

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WORK SESSION (continued)

IV. BRIDGES TO TRANSITION CONTRACT (continued)

The agreement also includes reimbursement for up to \$83,701.40 to cover costs associated with the Board employing a Transition Specialist, who coordinates Bridges activities. Funds are available in the budget and the contract has been recommended for approval by the December Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

V. SUMMIT 2020 QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT CONTRACT

The Summit 2020 Quality of Life Project is a collaboration between public and non-profit health and social services providers to serve the most vulnerable citizens of Summit County. Summit 2020 started in 2002 and is a priority of the former County Executive Russ Pry, with oversight delegated to the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) and administration by the Summit County Public Health District. The project collects data for twenty indicators to measure the quality of health and social services in Summit County, developed goals and plans to improve the quality of services, as measured by the twenty indicators, implemented plans to strengthen public health and social services infrastructure and strengthens collaborations between public health and social service providers and systems. Summit DD, the ADM Board and the Children's Services Board share equally in the cost of the agreement, which is \$65,000 for a two-year period. The request is to renew funding support for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2108. Funds are available in the budget and the Summit 2020 contract has been recommended for approval by the December Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

VI. CAREER CURVE OUTPLACEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT

When Summit DD announced its transition plan in January 2016, it established that up to 240 employees could be impacted, with the majority of these employees being bargaining unit members. Summit DD researched services and fees for several outplacement firms that provide coaching services to individuals seeking new employment. Some of the other services include defining career goals, creating resumes, developing job search plans and conducting job searches. Summit DD also projected the potential unemployment insurance expenses associated with anticipated staff reductions. As a result of the analysis, Summit DD determined that engaging an outplacement firm on behalf of employees would greatly benefit impacted employees and potentially reduce unemployment insurance expenses. Summit DD engaged Career Curve to provide outplacement services to both regular and substitute employees. Career Curve supports individuals until they "land on their feet", which is defined as finding employment, enrolling/re-enrolling in school, deciding to retire or cease contact with the outplacement coach.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

VI. CAREER CURVE OUTPLACEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT *(continued)*

Career Curve is unique in the way it supports customers compared to other firms that offer similar services that have time limits such as 60-90 days. When an employee engages Career Curve, Summit DD is charged a flat fee of \$1,575 per employee regardless of the duration of support. Since January 2016, 36 employees have been referred to Career Curve for a total cost of \$29,950. The HR Department has received positive feedback from employees who have engaged with Career Curve. Mr. Trunk reminded the Board of his Six-Month Promise to keep staff updated on the progress of the transition. The transition is occurring faster than expected. Since the beginning of the year approximately 300 individuals served have left Board services. It is anticipated that there will be two employment actions in 2017; the first in February and the second sometime in the summer. Summit DD offers all impacted employees the opportunity to engage with Career Curve effective January 1, 2017 at a potential cost of up to \$372,000. Summit DD is not invoiced for services until an employee engages, therefore, it is anticipated the costs would be spread out from 2017 through 2019. Funds are available in the budget and the Career Curve contract has been recommended for approval by the December HR/LR and Finance & Facilities committees.

VII. DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December ended with a positive balance of \$569,381 and a year-end fund balance of \$55,998,358. Expenditures for December include annual hardware and software support payment of \$19,700, a county charge back in the amount of \$36,100 for an upgrade to the Transportation radio system and the first installment for the Bridges to Transition grant match in the amount of \$40,900. Revenue for the month includes tangible personal property tax settlement in the amount of \$62,600. Year end variances in revenue include 2010 cost report settlement that was expected in 2015 in the amount of \$3,100,000, 2011 cost report audit settlement of \$849,000, fiscal year 2014 waiver reconciliation in the amount of \$694,000 and a one-time TCM match reconciliation for the change in methodology in the amount of \$487,500. The Discretionary Fund had a balance of \$234,509 at the end of December. The December Financial Statements have been recommended for approval by the January Finance & Facilities Committee.

VIII. OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OACB) 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The OACB has been in place for 33 years and provides assistance to county boards the State of Ohio with federal and state issues, advocacy, communication, professional development and technical assistance. Summit DD's 2017 OACB membership dues are \$75,000, which is the same fee charged since 2007. Dues are determined based on the size of the county board and the number of individuals it serves.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

VIII. OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OACB) 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES *(continued)*

OACB maintains 100% membership from all 88 counties in Ohio. Funds are available in the budget and the 2017 OACB membership dues have been recommended for approval by the January Finance & Facilities Committee.

IX. RENOVATION OF D-WING CLASSROOMS

More office space is needed in the Administrative building, as some office areas are over-crowded and as staff move to the building when other sites close. There are four empty classrooms in D-wing that can be converted into useable office space. The total cost to renovate the four rooms would not exceed \$107,126.46, with about 70% of the cost to purchase, assemble and install cubicles and desks. National Office is the vendor selected and they are offering pricing under the State term contract so there was no requirement to complete a Request for Proposal (RFP). Three bids were still secured, however, and National Office was selected. Much of the preparation such as drywall, electrical and painting will be done in-house. Mr. Quade asked if the quote is for all 32 cubicles. Mr. Trunk replied that it is. Mr. Quade noted the quote seems very reasonable. Funds are available in the budget and the renovations have been recommended for approval by the January Finance & Facilities Committee.

X. REVISED POLICY 4026 – ELIGIBILITY FOR SUMMIT DD SERVICES

Proposed revisions to Policy 4026 define language assistance that Summit DD will provide to anyone who needs it when eligibility is being determined or when receiving services. The update is necessary due to HIPAA guidelines that dictate language assistance must be provided to those with limited English proficiency (LEP) in the top 15 non-English languages spoken in Ohio. The language assistance content has already been created and implemented for the top 15 languages in the State of Ohio, as well as Nepali, which was not in the top 15 languages in Ohio but is known to be common in Summit County. Mr. Quade asked if the International Institute is the primary agency utilized for language assistance needs. Mrs. Brugh replied that International Institute and Asian Services are the two primary agencies and noted there are several internal Summit DD staff who have also assisted with this effort and have been instrumental in communicating with families and stakeholders. Revised Policy 4026 has been recommended for approval by the January Services & Supports Committee.

The work session adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

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BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:38 p.m.

I. CAUCUS – BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Wilkinson thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board for another four-year term. She commented that many good things have been accomplished during her first four years on the Board and she cannot wait to see what happens over the next four years. She stated that she is honored to serve and be part of this wonderful organization.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and Summit DD staff, asked for an update regarding the sale of the Bath Center. Mr. Trunk replied there has been no change since last month; the County is still pursuing next steps.

Ms. Frank asked how school districts were selected to participate in the transition pilot programs. Mr. Williams replied that staff originally wrote grant opportunities with another organization and sent letters to the school districts and these are the districts who responded. He noted that Summit DD ultimately did not receive the grants, however, other funding was able to be accessed in order to move forward with the project.

Ms. Frank thanked the Board and Superintendent for continuing to provide regular updates on the system transition. She said it is discouraging to hear that there will be 51 fewer staff in the near future but appreciates that so much advance notice is being given and that support is being offered to help staff find other jobs.

Ms. Frank advised that former Summit DD SSA staff, Patrick Kennedy, who worked for the Board for 35 years, passed away recently. She also mentioned that a former direct service staff, Doshie Gulley, was in a serious auto accident recently.

Ms. Frank thanked the Board for continuing to participate in the JFS onsite caseworker contract. Her daughter recently moved from Stark to Summit County and navigating the JFS system can be challenging. Having a JFS case worker onsite to assist was very helpful.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. DECEMBER 13, 2016 (combined work session and regular meeting)

RESOLUTION No. 17-01-02

Mrs. Wilkinson moved that the Board approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 combined work session and regular meeting, as presented in attachment #11. The motion, seconded by Mr. Sieferth, was unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

1. KONONIA HOMES CONTRACT

RESOLUTION No. 17-01-03

Mr. Dohnal moved that the Board approve a two-year contract with Koinonia Homes for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00), as presented in attachment #2, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilkinson, was unanimously approved.

2. ATTIE LARLHAM AND HELP FOUNDATION CONTRACTS FOR DISCOVERY ASSESSMENTS

RESOLUTION No. 17-01-04

Mr. Sieferth moved that the Board approve contracts with Hattie Larlham and Help Foundations for the period February 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, in an amount not to exceed Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) each, for the total amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00), as presented in attachment #3, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contracts. The motion, seconded by Mr. Quade, was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING (continued)

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS (continued)

A. FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE (continued)

3. BRIDGES TO TRANSITION CONTRACT

RESOLUTION No. 17-01-05

Mrs. Ricks moved that the Board approve a contract with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency for participation in the Bridges to Transition Program for the period October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, in an amount not to exceed Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five Dollars and Twenty Five Cents (\$81,885.25), as presented in attachment #4, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. The motion, seconded by Mr. Quade, was unanimously approved.

4. SUMMIT 2020 QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT CONTRACT

RESOLUTION No. 17-01-06

Mr. Quade moved that the Board renew its funding support for the Summit 2020 Quality of Life Project and approve a two-year contract for period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, for the total amount not to exceed Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00), as presented in attachment #5, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Ricks, was unanimously approved.

5. DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION No. 17-01-07

Mrs. Wilkinson moved that the Board approve the December Financial Statements, as presented in attachment #7. The motion, seconded by Mr. Quade, was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

A. FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE *(continued)*

6. OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OACB) 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

RESOLUTION
No. 17-01-08

Mr. Dohnal moved that the Board approve payment of 2017 membership dues to the Ohio Association of County Boards in the amount of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), as presented in attachment #8, and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute said payment. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilkinson, was unanimously approved.

7. RENOVATION OF D-WING CLASSROOMS

RESOLUTION
No. 17-01-09

Mr. Siegferth moved that the Board approve the renovation of classrooms into office space and associated purchases with National Office in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six Dollars and Forty Six Cents (\$107,126.46), as presented in attachment #9, and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute said payment. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Ricks, was unanimously approved.

B. HR/LR COMMITTEE

1. CAREER CURVE OUTPLACEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT

RESOLUTION
No. 17-01-10

Mrs. Ricks moved that the Board approve payment to Career Curve in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Dollars (\$372,000.00) to provide outplacement services for impacted employees for the period 2017 through 2019, as presented in attachment #6, and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute said payments. The motion, seconded by Mr. Dohnal, was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

C. SERVICES & SUPPORTS COMMITTEE

2. REVISED POLICY 4026 – ELIGIBILITY FOR SUMMIT DD SERVICES

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 17-01-11

Mr. Quade moved that the Board approve revisions to Policy 4026 – Eligibility for Summit DD Services, as presented in attachment #10. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilkinson, was unanimously approved.

3. UNITED DISABILITY SERVICES (UDS) CONTRACT

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 17-01-12

Mr. Briggs moved that the Board approve a two-year contract with United Disability Services for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00), as presented in attachment #1, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. The motion, seconded by Mr. Quade, was unanimously approved.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CENSUS

The December 2016 year-end Census report was included in packets for review. Mr. Trunk noted the total unduplicated count of the number of individuals supported by the Board increased by 359 over 2015. The demand for services continues to increase, particularly in the areas of Early Intervention and service coordination. The number of individuals who utilize Board transportation is down significantly as people continue to access private providers for this service. Mr. Trunk noted that staff routinely contact individuals and families after there is a transition of services and almost without fail the individual and the family are satisfied with the new providers and have indicated that if they were aware of other options they may have considered a change sooner. Mr. Quade asked if providers are or could use a standardized satisfaction tool so the Board and providers are gathering the same data. Mr. Trunk replied that this is a great recommendation and mentioned there are a number of groups and committees that include provider representation so this is a good conversation to have in those forums. Mr. Quade noted it would be good to get a baseline now to have comparable data in the future. Mr. Briggs asked if the provider quality is greater now than in the past.

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BOARD MEETING (continued)

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued)

A. CENSUS (continued)

Mr. Trunk responded that providers are coming up with more innovation, training has increased and the quality providers are drawing in more business. Mr. Quade asked if there is any correlation between performance and satisfaction and what the providers pay staff. Mr. Trunk said this is not a metric that the Board is measuring. Mr. Williams added there is not a significant difference in the rate of pay between the highest quality providers and those less desirable; the difference is typically in employee benefits and positive culture in the workplace. Mr. Quade noted the Board could help support and drive positive culture. Mr. Trunk added staff are looking at creating questionnaires to help individuals and families ask questions to identify the right fit for their individual situations.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Trunk stated he is continuing to dispute METRO's findings relative to the SCAT rate charged to certain eligible individuals with disabilities and he has asked the Executive Director to reconsider this position.

Mr. Trunk announced that resolution in the Board's favor could be close in the McGee lawsuit. The Board's legal counsel has been invited to attend the February Board Meeting to provide an update and talk about next steps.

March is Developmental Disability awareness month and there are many events and celebrations planned. March also marks the 50th anniversary of legislation that created county boards of developmental disabilities. Some of the activities planned for March include:

- ✓ March 7th – Advocacy Day sponsored by the Mustard Seed in Montrose where self-advocates will speak about inclusion and change.
- ✓ March 9th – Movie Night at the Linda Theater where you can view the 1984 classic *Ghostbusters*.
- ✓ March 16th – Inclusion Day and Play for All – Inclusion Day encourages everyone to show support for people of all abilities by wearing orange. Play for All is sponsored by the Akron Children's Museum and will have interactive, inclusive, sensory-friendly events with free admission.
- ✓ March 30th – 2nd Annual Appreciation/Awareness Breakfast and Awards Ceremony held at Quaker Station beginning at 8:30 a.m. The keynote speaker for this event will be County Executive Ilene Shapiro.

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BOARD MEETING (continued)

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued)

B. MISCELLANEOUS (continued)

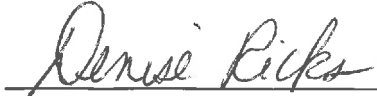
Mr. Trunk advised that the OACB has requested each county board identify an advocacy chair. This person would attend OACB meetings and bring information back to the local boards and would help disseminate information to the community. He advised that Mrs. Wilkinson served in this role previously. OACB is requesting a name be submitted by the end of the month.

Mr. Trunk announced that tonight is Tom Jacobs' last Board Meeting before he officially separates from Summit DD and begins working full time as Summit Housing Development Corporation's (SHDC) Executive Director. Tom has worked for the Board for approximately 14 years. His primary responsibilities included oversight for all buildings, building leases, building construction, and working with SHDC. Under Tom's leadership SHDC went from a small company to an organization that operates more than 100 properties in a variety of community settings. SHDC is now expanding into other counties. Mr. Trunk thanked Mr. Jacobs for his dedication and hard work and wished him well.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Briggs commented that it is a pleasure to serve on the Summit DD Board and he is happy to be back in the role of President. He noted that as you look at the budget, the Board is providing more services with less money. He stated he has confidence that staff will continue to look for efficiencies and will move ahead to discover better ideas and bigger dreams. He thanked everyone for doing an excellent job. He also stated that Tom Jacobs took SHDC to a new level and he did it with a passion; he will be missed and he will be hard to replace.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.


Denise Ricks, Secretary