

MINUTES – work session and regular meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

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5:30 p.m.

The **combined work session and regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 via video conference. The **work session** convened at 5:55 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Quade, Board President
Tami Gaugler, Board Vice President
Jason Dodson, Board Secretary
Meghan Wilkinson
Denise Ricks
Allyson V. James
Dave Dohnal

ALSO PRESENT

John J. Trunk, Superintendent	Joe Eck, Director of Labor Relations & Risk Management
Lisa Kamlowsky, Assistant Superintendent	Danyelle Conner, Director of Human Resources
Holly Brugh, Director of SSA & Children's Service	Drew Williams, Director of Community Supports & Development
Mira Pozna, Director of Fiscal	Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary and others
Russ DuPlain, Director of IT & Facilities	
Billie Jo David, Director of Communications & Quality	

The Superintendent apologized for the delayed start to the meeting tonight and explained there were some technical difficulties.

I. SUMMIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MASTER AGREEMENT

Summit Housing Development Corporation (SHDC) is a private, not-for-profit corporation with the purpose of developing, acquiring and managing affordable housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. Summit DD and SHDC have a long history of collaboration with a shared purpose of ensuring a variety of affordable residential options are readily available when individuals have housing needs. SHDC currently owns and serves as landlord for approximately 100 homes in Summit County in which individuals with developmental disabilities reside. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) makes capital assistance funds available to county boards to assist them in acquiring housing for individuals receiving community-based support services.

WORK SESSION *(continued)*

I. SUMMIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MASTER AGREEMENT *(continued)*

In order to access state funding, county boards must have a contract with either a non-profit corporation specifically chartered to develop housing for individuals with disabilities or a local housing authority. The contract must include all terms required pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5123-1-03, including the requirement that the county board maintain a mortgage interest in any housing purchased with the dollars. Under the current rule, state dollars can be used to acquire single family homes, duplex, quadplex, manufactured homes, condominiums or newly constructed housing. Summit DD and SHDC have a good relationship, communicating and exchanging information on a regular basis to ensure alignment relative to housing needs for individuals in Summit County. The request is for the Board to authorize the Master Agreement with SHDC for acquisition of residential property, as needed. The Master Agreement with SHDC has been recommended for approval by the January Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

II. SUMMIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CONTRACT

Approximately five years ago Summit DD and the ADM Board collaborated to open a respite home for adults who are dually diagnosed with both a developmental disability and also a mental health diagnosis. The purpose of the home is to provide an emergency, short-term placement option for individuals who can no longer reside in their current situation. The intent of the home is to stabilize the individual and then transition them back home or find an alternate long-term residential option. This home has proved to be vital in the emergency placement of many adults in Summit County, often having both bedrooms full. The average stay is about three months and most individuals transition very successfully out of the home. This home is owned by SHDC and currently staffed by ViaQuest. Summit DD and the ADM Board split the rent and utilities of \$1,300/month utilizing money from a shared account into which each agency contributes. In 2018, Summit DD received a two-year grant from DODD which provided funding for the start of a crisis respite home for teens. Summit DD partnered with SHDC to secure a home and used the grant dollars to pay rent and utilities. This home provides short-term stabilization to youth with developmental disabilities in an effort to keep them in their local community while providing support to both the youth and the family. Summit DD contracts with Koinonia to provide a "house parent" model in which direct support staff live in the home. This is an effective model, as it helps the youth build relationships with staff and leave the home more mature and independent. The success of this home has been used as a model across the State of Ohio. Once the grant ended, Summit DD secured an additional grant to pay the majority of the \$1,500/month rent and utilities through the end of June 2021. The need arose for an additional youth home, so Summit DD partnered with SHDC again. SHDC purchased a twin plex and used the "house parent" model provided by Koinonia on one side of the home while the second side allows for a more independent living option.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

II. SUMMIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION *(continued)*

The idea is that youth can transition from the more supported “house parent” side to the independent side and then eventually move out into the community with minimal or no supports. This home offers two bedrooms on the “house parent” side and three bedrooms on the transitional side. The total rent and utilities are \$2700/month. The request is to enter into a contract with SHDC for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$58,200, for payment of rent and utilities for the three respite homes owned by SHDC in Summit County. Funds are available in the budget and the SHDC contract has been recommended for approval by the January Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

III. JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January ended with deficit spending of \$6,701,973 and a fund balance of \$51,063,616. Revenue for January included a refund from the Akron Community Foundation in the amount of \$56,000 for undistributed funds from the Emergency Relief Grant Program. About 49% of the annual property tax collection is expected in March or April. Expenditures in January included annual licensing and maintenance costs of \$12,600, network hardware/software of \$19,700, payment to Indoor Air Quality of \$27,700 for sanitization services, \$403,500 for quarterly Medicaid waiver administration fees, \$4,494,200 for quarterly Medicaid waiver match and \$13,400 for HVAC repairs at the Southern Center. The January Financial Statements have been reviewed by the January Finance & Facilities Committee.

The work session adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 6:05 p.m.

I. BOARD MEMBER CAUCUS

Denise Ricks commented that her daughter recently received the second dose of the Coronavirus vaccine at one of Summit DD's drive-through vaccination clinics. She thanked the Superintendent and staff for coordinating this important activity and being a leader in the community.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and former Summit DD employee, submitted comments that included thanking Russ DuPlain for facilitating a visit to the Cuyahoga Falls Center and for the updates on renovations of that bldg. and the Barberton Center. She participated in some of the recent auctions and appreciates that the community can benefit from the items. Ms. Frank commented on the loss of a Summit DD employee and offered condolences to the McGarvey family. She congratulated Billie Jo David and Joe Eck on their recent contract renewals and thanked the Superintendent and the Board for their leadership.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. JANUARY 28, 2021 (annual organizational meeting and combined work session and regular meeting)

RESOLUTION No. 21-02-01

Ms. James moved that the Board approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021 annual organizational meeting and combined work session and regular meeting, as presented in attachment #4. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Ricks, was unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- A. MASTER AGREEMENT WITH SUMMIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

RESOLUTION No. 21-02-02

Ms. Wilkinson moved that the Board approve the Master Agreement with Summit Housing Development Corporation for the period January 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022, as presented in attachment #1, and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute said agreement. The motion, seconded by Mr. Dodson, was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING (continued)

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS (continued)

B. SUMMIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CONTRACT

RESOLUTION No. 21-02-03

Mr. Dohnal moved that the Board approve a contract Summit Housing Development Corporation for rent and utilities payments for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed Fifty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$58,200), as presented in attachment #2, and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute said contract. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Gaugler, was unanimously approved.

C. JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION No. 21-02-04

Mrs. Ricks moved that the Board approve the January Financial Statements, as presented in attachment #3. The motion, seconded by Ms. James, was unanimously approved.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Trunk stated approximately 1,600 individuals with disabilities have received the COVID-19 vaccinations as a result of the clinics that Summit DD have coordinated in partnered with the Summit County Health Department and Akron Children's Hospital to conduct. This is about two thirds of the adults supported by the Board. The Governor has been very supportive of allocating vaccinations to individuals with disabilities and the hope is to be able to access another 500 doses to complete the list of individuals the Board supports who are in the 1a and 1b categories. In November and December there were about 15-20 new cases of COVID-19 per week and in the last six weeks the number of positive cases is averaging about five. The vaccine is making a significant impact in reducing the number of positive cases. Mr. Trunk said there has been an increased interest from day providers relative to reopening. DODD criteria as well as adequate spacing, PPE, capacity, etc. will need to be considered and will be reviewed through the Team process as well.

Superintendent Trunk mentioned he and Tom Quade served as panelists for a virtual discussion lead by the Autism Society of Great Akron. The panel included several doctors in pediatric development and psychiatry. The topic was to address concerns with the COVID-19 vaccination for people with disabilities.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

Prior to the panel discussion the Autism Society had conducted a survey where results reflected that people are apprehensive about things such as getting the vaccine, schools reopening, health of caretakers and disparities in healthcare in general. The Superintendent stated he is proud to be able to represent Summit DD and talk with and support families, providers and the community. Mr. Quade added this was a great opportunity and there was a variety of expertise on the panel. COVID-19 has amplified healthcare concerns. The CDC has dedicated an entire department to roll out the vaccine and help analyze health related issues.

Mr. Trunk mentioned the annual All Agency In-service was held virtually this year and there were almost 300 staff on Zoom. Staff reviewed 2020 accomplishments, reviewed goals for 2021, recognized staff with milestone service and enjoyed an outstanding keynote speaker, Dr. Scott Lacy, who presented on the Anthropology of Happiness. There were also several breakout sessions. He thanked Tami Gaugler and Allyson V. James for participating in the day.

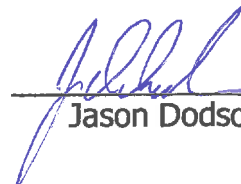
The Superintendent advised that the Cuyahoga Falls Council reviewed the Board's request to combine parcels allowing the expansion of the property. Action is anticipated at the Council meeting next month.

Tallmadge City Council will have another reading of the Master Agreement that splits the Howe Campus into four parcels. A favorable vote is anticipated.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Quade commented that Summit DD has been an incredible partner in the community collaboration with the Summit County Health Department and Akron Children's Hospital relative to the vaccination clinics. The reality is that Summit DD represents a large group of people the Health Department would be vaccinating and to coordinate and navigate the process so successfully has been a huge benefit to families. He thanked the Superintendent and staff on behalf of his sister and other family members that have received the vaccine for continuing to work on these great partnerships; keep up the good work.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



Jason Dodson, Secretary