



MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2022

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, April 28, 2022 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 89 East Howe Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278. The **work session** convened at 5:35 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Kamlowsky, Superintendent	James Armstrong, Director of Legal Svs.
Holly Brugh, Director of SSA & EI	Danyelle Conner, Director of Human Resources
Mira Pozna, Director of Fiscal Services	Joe Eck, Director of Labor Relations & Risk Management
Drew Williams, Director of Community Supports & Development	Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary and others
Billie Jo David, Director of Communication & Quality	

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted that tonight is the last official Board Meeting in the administrative building at Howe Rd. and it is nostalgic to think of all the decisions that have been made in this Board room but also exciting to begin a new phase in Summit DD's newly renovated Cuyahoga Falls and Barberton facilities.

I. FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL (FCFC) SHARED POOL (SERVICE REVIEW COLLABORATIVE) CONTRACT

Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) must develop county-specific service coordination method (SCM) which serves as the guiding document for coordination of services in the county. The purpose of the SCM is to streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking support for children birth through age 21 and to ensure that eligible families have access to service coordination.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

I. FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL (FCFC) SHARED POOL (SERVICE REVIEW COLLABORATIVE) CONTRACT *(continued)*

This program is supported by a collaboration with Summit County Children's Services Board (CSB) contributing \$171,245, Juvenile Court contributing \$131,084 and the ADM Board contributing \$145,431. The request is for Summit DD to renew its commitment with a contribution of \$110,700 for the period July 1, 2022 through June 20, 2023. This group has also received over \$1,000,000 in state money to cover the increasing placement costs for eligible youth. Funding from this pool has dramatically reduced out of state placements in Summit County. Some of the services provided through March include wrap around/service coordination - 49 referrals accepted, 8 were youth with developmental disabilities; 3 case consultations were reviewed, 1 was a youth with a developmental disability; 30 funding requests for community-based services were reviewed, 17 were youth with developmental disabilities; and there were 31 requests for out of home placement, 8 involving youth with developmental disabilities. Summit DD has two staff who serve on the committee and have access to bring Board eligible child/family requests to the committee for support and funding recommendations. Funds are available in the budget and the FCFC shared pool contract has been recommended for approval by the April Services & Supports and Finance & Facilities Committees.

II. KOINONIA SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT

Summit DD will once again administer a summer work experience for individuals age 16-20 that are still enrolled in school or recently graduated. Students work an average of 20 hours per week for five weeks and are paid minimum wage (\$9.30/hour). Students will be supported in groups of 2-3 with an onsite job coach and will work at various community-based businesses. Koinonia will also provide transportation. Koinonia will provide services to 16 students facilitating two, five-week sessions. The request is to enter into a contract with Koinonia for the period June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$57,900. Funds are available in the budget and the Koinonia contract has been recommended for approval by the April Services & Supports Committee.

III. WEAVER INDUSTRIES SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT

Weaver Industries is another provider participating in summer work experience and is also offering a career exploration program to support students ages 14-15. This program is focused on exploring the work world and post-secondary education options. Students will be supported in groups of two with a job coach and will tour local businesses and post-secondary educational/vocational locations for a total of 40 hours over two weeks. Locations will be determined based on interest of the participating youth, and transportation will also be included.

WORK SESSION *(continued)*

III. WEAVER INDUSTRIES SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT *(continued)*

This contract will serve up to 36 youth during the period of June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$94,000. Funds are available in the budget and the Weaver Industries contract has been recommended for approval by the April Services & Supports Committee.

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted that there are other providers offering summer youth work experience, however those contracts are under \$50,000 and don't require Board approval. Overall, Summit DD has committed approximately \$250,000 to support minimum wage summer youth work opportunities in 2022. Ms. James asked about the variables in the other contracts not being presented to the Board. Mr. Williams replied the contracts are based on the number of youth that providers are able to support. There are four other providers participating and all are serving ten or less youth. Superintendent Kamlowsky added that if other youth are identified to participate in summer work activities and additional funding is needed, she would bring this topic back to the Board to request additional dollars.

IV. MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue in March included two quarterly Medicaid administrative claims reimbursements totaling \$1,112,200 and state fiscal year 2020 waiver match reconciliation of \$1,228,400. Expenditures for the month included payment of incremental funding of \$150,000 for the Family Engagement Program (FEP), \$44,700 for software licensing and maintenance fees, \$26,600 to purchase notebooks as part of a planned computer refresh, and \$95,500 for OACB 2022 annual dues. March ended with deficit spending of \$10,605,046 and a fund balance of \$53,117,994. Mr. Cramer asked what types of things are reflected in the *refunds* line item. Ms. Pozna replied that it can be a variety of things such as insurance refunds, overpayments, etc. The March financial statement has been recommended for approval by the April Finance & Facilities Committee.

The work session adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

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BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:43 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Neal identified herself as a Portage County parent of an adult son with a disability. She started an advocacy group where families, guardians, providers and the public can come together to share experiences, gain knowledge and help each other. Ms. Neal is attending county board meetings to advocate support for making Appendix K permanent. She talked about the support Appendix K has provided to families and the need for it to be retained. She spoke about monthly funding caps and the desire for caps to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Dohnal told Ms. Neal that he is also a parent and he thanked her for taking the time to attend the meeting to talk about this important issue. Mr. Cramer added that he is also the parent of a 21-year-old son with special needs and that he and his wife both work full time and navigating care can be challenging. He applauded Ms. Neal for taking the time to attend the meeting and share her story.

Leslie Frank, a parent and former Summit DD staff, commented on the thorough and informative OhioRise presentation. She noted her appreciation of Ms. Neal sharing her experiences and said that when she worked at Summit DD, she was very appreciative that the Board offered FMLA, as she has two children with disabilities, and it allowed her to take care of her family while still maintaining employment. Ms. Frank stated she is excited about the opening of the newly renovated Barberton and Cuyahoga Falls facilities. She commended the Board on the recent signing of the WEA contract. Ms. Frank mentioned she has noticed there are more commercials and ads featuring individuals with disabilities which raises awareness. She thanked the Board for their service and continued good work.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MARCH 24, 2022 (combined work session and regular meeting)

RESOLUTION No. 22-04-01

Mrs. James moved that the Board approve the minutes of the March 24, 2022 combined work session and regular meeting. The motion, seconded by Mr. Cramer, was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

III. BOARD ACTION ITEM

A. MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION No. 22-04-02

Mrs. Gaugler moved that the Board approve the March Financial Statements. The motion, seconded by Mrs. James, was unanimously approved.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kamlowsky reported that as a result of the DODD onsite accreditation review Summit DD received a three-year accreditation, which is the highest that can be awarded.

DODD Director Kim Hauck visited northeast Ohio earlier this month and met with Superintendent Kamlowsky and several Executive Leadership Team members to talk about state priorities. The Director toured the newly renovated Cuyahoga Falls facility and talked with staff about Summit County initiatives; she seemed interested in Summit DD's contract with Merakey and staff had good conversation with the Director.

Consensus has been reached among the various stakeholder groups in support of the 6.5% DSP retention payment proposal discussed last month, and a final plan has been submitted to DODD/ODM for approval. The proposal is for county boards to contribute an additional 6.5% in waiver match to be used for the purpose of increasing DSP wages by approximately \$1/hour. The proposal is being sought as an amendment to Appendix K which will allow providers to opt in to receive the additional reimbursement. The proposal is estimated to cost Summit DD an additional \$3.2M each year in waiver match. If Appendix K is approved by the Department of Medicaid, collectively county boards will spend \$51.4M in local funds to draw down an additional \$91.5M in federal funds, resulting in approximately \$143M to be distributed to DSP's each year. OACB has played a crucial role educating stakeholders about the importance of this issue and getting buy in around the state.

It was announced that Bridget Gargan, Executive Director of OACB, has retired; OACB is currently searching for her replacement.

The Summit DD Annual Appreciation Breakfast was held on March 29th at Quaker Station. There were approximately 250 people in attendance including the County Executive. Providers and community members were recognized for their contributions. Superintendent Kamlowsky thanked Board Members who were able to attend and staff for organizing the event.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

Superintendent Kamlowsky announced that the Bath center sale has been completed with proceeds of approximately \$875,000 received, which should appear on next month's financial statements. Mr. Dodson asked if the proceeds from this sale will be put into the permanent improvement fund. Ms. Pozna replied yes that proceeds were deposited directly into that fund.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Cuyahoga Falls facility on Friday, May 13th at 1:00. Executive Shapiro and Mayor Walters will participate. A community open house will follow from 3:00-5:00. Staff will be setting up information tables to highlight services and supports available through Summit DD.

V. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dohnal noted that tonight is the last Board Meeting and the last time this group will be together in this building. He reflected on the many decisions and successes that have taken place over the years and how they have impacted the lives of the individuals and families supported by the Board. It's time now to move on and the newly renovated facilities mark a new era. Mr. Dohnal read an article from 1977 by former Cleveland Plain Dealer Columnist, Dick Feagler, that talked about an individual with a disability who led the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. He reflected on how far we have come over the years in improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities because of the inherent kindness of people and the dedication of staff. It's time to turn the page and look to the future. He thanked the Superintendent and staff for their hard work and effort and for creating new opportunities for those we support.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.


Jason Dodson, Secretary