



MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2023
5:30 p.m.

The **combined work session and regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 2355 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The **work session** convened at 5:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Dohnal, President
Tami Gaugler, Vice President
Allyson V. James
Gregg Cramer

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED

Jason Dodson, Secretary
Denise Ricks
Meghan Wilkinson

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Kamlowsky, Superintendent
Drew Williams, Assistant Superintendent
Holly Brugh, Assistant Superintendent
James Armstrong, Director of Legal Services
Mira Pozna, Director of Fiscal Services
Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary

Billie Jo David, Director of
Communications & Quality
Joe Eck, Director of Labor Relations
& Risk Management
Russ DuPlain, Director of IT & Facilities
and others

I. SUMMIT 2030 QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT

The Summit County Quality of Life Project began in 2010 with the aim of building collaboration among local social services agencies. Summit 2030 is a priority of County Executive Shapiro with oversight of the project delegated to the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB). The primary objective of Summit 2030 is to develop and implement initiatives to improve public health and social services outcomes. The contract is managed by the Summit County Combined General Health District with Summit DD, ADM Board, Children's Services and JFS participating equally in the intergovernmental agreement. The recommendation is to renew this agreement at a cost of \$65,000 for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. Funds are available in the budget and the February Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees recommend approval.

The work session adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023

BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:35 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and former Summit DD staff, commented about a recent Akron Beacon Journal article that featured the *Take Me Home Program*. She mentioned how glad she is for awareness of the program the article created. Ms. Frank reminded all that daylight savings occurs in a few weeks.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. JANUARY 26, 2023 (annual organizational and combined work session and regular meeting)

RESOLUTION No. 23-02-01

Ms. James moved that the Board approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023 annual organizational and combined work session and regular meeting. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Gaugler, was unanimously approved.

III. BOARD ACTION ITEM

- A. SUMMIT 2030 QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT

RESOLUTION No. 23-02-02

Mrs. Gaugler moved that the Board approve an Inter-governmental Agreement for the Summit 2030 Quality of Life Project effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said agreement. The motion, seconded by Mr. Cramer, was unanimously approved.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kamlowsky commented that the class action Ball v. DeWine lawsuit (formerly Ball v. Kasich) that was filed in the U.S. District Court has been ongoing for about seven years. The complaint was initially filed by Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) against the State of Ohio claiming not enough was done to promote opportunities for individuals to live in their communities, and that the system colluded to limit residential options available. A settlement agreement was reached at the end of January where the State of Ohio agrees to continue to provide access to state funded exit waivers for individuals who currently reside in ICFs but want to reside in the community. The State has also agreed to continue to provide funds in the budget for capital assistance for development of community housing.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023

BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

Additionally, there have been expanded counseling requirements put upon county boards relative to the information SSAs provide when they speak with individuals and families about the residential options available. Ms. James asked about the challenges or opportunities this presents for Summit DD. Ms. Brugh replied that teams regularly have conversations and offer educational information around all residential options available. Mr. Dohnal added that OACB is a party in the lawsuit, not county boards, and that a group of guardians carried the lawsuit forward. He stated it is likely to be appealed and that there is a possibility this group could file lawsuits against individual county boards. Mr. Dohnal said a position statement may need to be developed and also suggested staff should be trained on the residential counseling piece. Ms. Brugh said that when SSAs have conversations about available options it is documented in case notes.

Relative to the State budget there has been a DD budget crisis coalition group working for several years at the state level to raise awareness with legislators around the critical need to effectuate a rate increase to Medicaid services in order to support a living wage for DSPs. The coalition consists of OACB, Ohio Healthcare Association, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Waiver Network, The Arc, and values and faith alliances. The Governor's budget as introduced addresses wage increases which include a 16.5% increase to the HPC (homemaker personal care) rate mostly for residential services, a 10% increase for other home and community-based services (i.e., day services, employment, transportation), and a one-time \$30m investment for adult services. There is speculation that county boards will be asked to contribute additional funds since they have benefited from additional reimbursements through the public health emergency. Mr. Cramer asked what the \$30m is earmarked for. Superintendent Kamlowsky replied it is for adult services but there has been no further definition than that so far. Also included in the budget is a new department for children and youth services. Early intervention will transition from DODD to this new department. Services are not expected to be different under this transition, just administered by a different arm of government.

Superintendent Kamlowsky reported the Governor included revised language requiring appointing authorities to appoint eligible individuals with disabilities who are service recipients to the next vacant board seat. She indicated she will work with Executive Shapiro on this.

Superintendent Kamlowsky mentioned that Holly Brugh has been selected to participate on the statewide waiver redesign workgroup. There are a small number of participants on this group, representing other county boards, OACB, DODD and private provider stakeholders so we appreciate being part of this workgroup.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023

BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

March is DD awareness month nationally which will be kicked off on Monday, March 6th with inclusion day. Summit DD employees will start the day by wearing orange and enjoying orange doughnuts and coffee, celebrating inclusion with some of the community neighbors. A couple local mayors, city officials and businesses have been invited to attend. Akron Zoo is again partnering to raise awareness by offering free admission to the zoo March 4th-6th for anyone wearing orange. Summit DD staff will be on site at the zoo offering free developmental screenings and information. More than 7,000 inclusion day kits are being distributed to local businesses and individuals, which is double the number from last year. Ms. James asked what the inclusion kits contain. Ms. David replied the kits are full of fun Summit DD orange items such as necklaces, banners, craft kits, signs and Summit DD literature. So far ten municipalities have passed resolutions recognizing DD awareness month with more to come. March 30th wraps up DD awareness month with the annual Community Appreciation Breakfast at Quaker Station. So far about 200 people are registered to attend this event.

V. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dohnal commented he cannot recall when there have been more fiscal unknowns as budgetary forecasts are trying to be developed. He noted it is obvious that Summit DD has the right people are in place to navigate through these uncertain financial times. March brings DD awareness month and that should be celebrated and then there will be a shift to concentrate on the upcoming levy. There is a lot of work ahead and Mr. Dohnal stated the Board has the right leadership team to get the job done.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION

No. 23-02-03

Ms. James moved that the Board enter into Executive Session in compliance with Sunshine Laws, Ohio Revised Code 121.22, Section G, Subsection (1) to consider the employment of public employees. Upon reconvening, the Board may or may not conduct additional business. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gaugler.

Roll call: Gaugler-yes, Dohnal-yes, Cramer-yes, and James-yes.

The regular session of the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:03 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened at 6:18 p.m.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023

BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

VII. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

A. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – JOE ECK

RESOLUTION No. 23-02-04

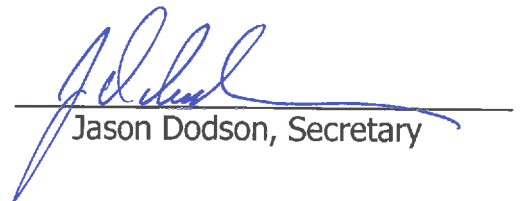
Ms. James moved that the Board approve a contract of employment for Joe Eck, Director of Labor Relations & Risk Management, for the period April 21, 2023 through April 20, 2025. The motion, seconded by Mr. Cramer, was unanimously approved.

B. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – BILLIE JO DAVID

RESOLUTION No. 23-02-05

Mrs. Gaugler moved that the Board approve a contract of employment for Billie Jo David, Director of Communications & Quality, for the period May 3, 2023 through May 2, 2025. The motion, seconded by Ms. James, was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.



Jason Dodson, Secretary