

**Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Meeting Minutes**

August 19, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.

The August 19, 2021, Regular Board meeting of the Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll call: Pam Miller (excused), Joe Cramer, Tim Sinn, Marcia Hernandez, Cheryl Farley, Tiffany Straley (excused), and Kevin Albright.

Guests Present: Andrea Hammond, Business Manager, and Denise Kinder, EI Supervisor

Agenda

To approve the August 19, 2021 meeting agenda:

Motion: 46

Motion: Cheryl Farley

Second: Joe Cramer

Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes

To approve the June 17, 2021 meeting minutes:

Motion: 47

Motion: Cheryl Farley

Second: Tim Sinn

Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports - Additional Discussion/Reporting by Andrea Hammond

To approve the June and July 2021 financial reports:

Motion: 48

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Joe Cramer

Motion approved unanimously.

Reports

Superintendent:

1. The Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACB), Developmental Disabilities provider associations, and Advocacy and Protective Services, inc. (APSI) have completed a new "triage" style document designed to support SSAs, providers, and families as our system copes with the ongoing Direct Support Professional shortage. The grant is intended to offer ideas and strategies for what to do if planning teams are faced with emergency or sustained DSP/provider shortages as a result of the workforce crisis.
2. PCBDD will receive \$14,958 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. This is one-time funding to support Early Intervention programs. Money will be used to enhance oversight of local EI systems' implementation of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); to support the further application of evidenced based EI practices; to promote the use of technology for EI service provision and evaluation. Locally EI staff have been developing strategies for the use of the funds. It is expected that counties considering accessing funds for this initiative should focus on new work and activities while recognizing that these are one-time funds.
3. PCBDD is currently working on activities to recognize providers for DSP Appreciation Week (September 12 - 18).
4. In response to changing work habits prompted by the COVID - 19 pandemic, the state legislature has enacted temporary provisions to accommodate work-from-home policies without forcing employers to overhaul their payroll systems or force a return to traditional office setting. Put simply, this temporary law allows employers to withhold employee municipal income taxes as if those employees are still coming in to the office (their "principal place of work") on a daily basis.
5. We are working with individuals, families, and providers in an effort to reduce the stress on in home support staff. We are looking at ways to maximize staffing levels in community settings where options like remote supports may be realistic. Also we are working with PC Workshop to incorporate some of their employees in home settings.

6. PCBDD staff have been continually meeting with providers to assess challenges being faced in the service delivery sector. An effort is being made to proactively address issues before they become a crisis.
7. The architect has submitted an initial plan for PCBDD's portion of the Fritz House. We requested modifications to the plan and it has been resubmitted. A copy is available for Board review.
8. We were informed by the County Commissioners that a recent review of medical insurance plans in the county resulted in PCBDD being out of compliance. Information will be available at the Board meeting

Denise Kinder/EI:

Paulding County Early Intervention Program - August 2021 Update

July 1, 2021 Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities became the fiscal agent for the local Early Intervention Program. With this a few changes occurred. One of the big changes that took place was a new Contract Manager, Denise Kinder (dkinder@pauldingdd.com). Many of the families have been unaware of the changes as the staff continues to make the switch seamless. Paulding County is currently under a Program Improvement Plan (PIP), which is monitored by our State Consultant. Denise and Cathy meet with our State Consultant about twice a month to go over how we are working on the Plan. We are excited to say that we have done about 90% of the plan within the first 45 days. There is one big part that can not be completed until the State releases a training that staff will be taking. Our SFY 2022 grant was submitted and approved.

We were informed two weeks ago that the State is offering an American Rescue Plan Act grant (ARPA). This is a one time funding that each county in Ohio is offered. All of the money from this needs to be spent by June 30, 2023. (The funds were determined using a formula based on children served, children evaluated/assessed, and children referred who did not get evaluated/assessed) Paulding County could get \$14,958 based on the formula. The State has three areas that you are able to use the money to help strengthen our Early Intervention Program.

- 1) Enhance Oversight of the Program
- 2) Support Evidence-based Early Intervention
- 3) Promote the Use of Technology

Paulding County submitted their intent to use the funds on August 13, 2021. We have stated we would like to use the money between supporting evidence-based early intervention and technology. We plan to purchase updated testing needed to determine eligibility and to look into trainings to keep the staff up to date on new trends/ideas. We are also looking into collaborating with other counties for possible trainings. We are told more information will be coming in August.

We currently have 34 kids enrolled in the Early Intervention Program. Below is a chart from the last three months on how many were referred, how many were evaluated, and how many took our services.

Month	Referrals	Evaluated	Took Services
June	11	7	4
July	6	3	2
August	5	2	1

Adjournment

To adjourn the August 19, 2021 regular Board meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Motion: 49

Motion: Cheryl Farley

Second: Joe Cramer

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Farley,
Recording Secretary