

MINUTES OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
February 16, 2021
Via Remote Technology

I. CALL TO ORDER/BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board President, Madeline Iseli, called the February 16, 2021 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: President Madeline Iseli; Vice President, James Zahora; Secretary, Naima Quarles-Burnley; Richard Schultze; Dr. Stephen Fortson; Dr. Susan Komorowski, Janet Peasant Superintendent, Dr. Pamela Combs.

Ms. Iseli opened the meeting by reading the Board's Vision and Mission.

~ Moment of Silence

Ms. Iseli asked the Board to observe a moment of silence in memory of those who have passed away since our last Board Meeting, whether they be individuals served or their family members, staff or their family members, or friends of the Board.

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations for the month of February.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Montgomery County Board of DD Services Board Meeting.

Motion: Mr. Zahora moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Board Meeting. Mr. Schultze seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

A. Update by Superintendent

Pamela shared that our recent Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Accreditation went amazingly well. During our recent all-staff meeting Pamela asked everyone to dance to the song "Don't Go for Second Best Baby."

Pamela said that a lot of other county Boards postponed Accreditation but since we already started into the process, we decided to go forward and, with us doing so many out-of-the-box things, it felt like a really good opportunity to make sure that, while we are doing all these other things, that all the other things are still happening that need to happen. The surveyors always tell staff what to work on but what was amazing was their remarks to our Board overall. They said it was the best Accreditation review in the history of Montgomery County. That is amazing especially because it was during a pandemic. This should be the hardest year to go through and meet the deliverables. Pamela said she knows that all of the teams are part of this and the teams did amazing work. Pamela received a lot of credit for work that began before she even got here and maybe she pushed it a little bit further. It was dedication to team work and hard work that got us to this place. The reviewer went on to say that, in her opinion, we are the benchmark for Ohio.

Pamela said that we had a goal starting in 2019 when we got our funding in place that we would be the best in the state but Pamela never imagined that anybody would be grading us and that we would have any clout with that. Pamela told Kamarr near the end of last year that we need to be the best in the nation; that we were going to stop benchmarking against Ohio, as Pamela felt like what we were doing, and with the support of our Board and county, that we were providing outstanding services in Ohio and so we need to look beyond to see what the next level is.

The Accreditation team told Director Davis how great our Accreditation went and Pamela received a lot of congratulation emoji's from the Director. Rick Black shared that it was talked about at Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) on every call he was on. Rick shared that this is the kind of review that OACB has always hoped that every county would get.

Pamela said we are being asked to speak at conferences and we are not going to stop. This is a chance for us to gain momentum for the people we serve and we will keep raising the bar. We have full support from the county with funding and it's really exciting.

Pamela said she is so proud of everyone and a lot of this is because of our Board too because they have allowed us to think outside of the box. A lot of Board's won't let that happen but our Board allowed us that creativity.

A lot of our team present at the Board meeting have worked every single vaccination clinic. When between 300 and 600 vaccinations are being given, it's hard to comprehend how much energy goes into making that happen. To date we have given over 3,000 vaccinations to people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County. On top of that we are volunteering with Ziks Pharmacy to provide the vaccinations to the elderly of Montgomery County. Many of our systems are overwhelmed and with Ziks stepping up and offering the vaccinations and our team volunteering and providing the workforce, we are able to run these clinics in

conjunction with ours. For every clinic, if we have say 300 or 400 people with DD there is usually about 100 to 150 community folks. Most of our clinics have run pretty smoothly. Pamela said we had Montgomery County medical professionals get the training to give the vaccines and then they volunteered to help out with the clinics so there wouldn't be a wait. A retired doctor whose daughter with DD had been vaccinated, received the training and volunteered. He worked from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. giving vaccinations and it was very touching to see.

Pamela shared a couple of pictures in her written report. She said we are taking pictures and documenting the clinics because it's so exciting and is a specific point in time.

Pamela shared that we had a news film that run a couple of weeks ago on Channel 7 and it was really amazing that they showed the footage of our clinic and they never mentioned developmental disabilities. We were just having a clinic and humans were getting vaccinated. If we have an end goal for where we are heading, it is complete and total community integration where we are just a thread in the fabric of our community and we are not a stand-alone garment. That we would blend in and be knit with everything else. Pamela hopes that our folks, who watched that video and watched themselves getting vaccinated, realized that disabilities was not in the news report. It was about the vaccination, making it available, and education about the vaccination in Montgomery County.

Lastly, Pamela said we have artists who are going to auction off pieces at United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Auction at the county. Most of the pieces go for \$20 to \$40 and Pamela really wants our artists to have their pieces bid on and all the money goes to the UNCF. We did buy the art/paid the artist for their time and it's very exciting to have five artists represented from our Board.

B. Department of Safety and Protection-COVID-19 Analysis Report

This report was submitted by Director of Safety and Protection, Bill Angel.

Bill shared an update of our COVID numbers. He said currently we are sitting at 187 individuals who tested positive for COVID since June of last year. 57 of those individuals required hospitalization and, unfortunately, 12 of those individuals have passed away due to COVID. He said November was our peak month at 53. We went to 30 in December, 16 in January, and only 3 this month, so we are definitely heading in the right direction. Males account for 65.8% and the majority of the cases have occurred in the age range of 50 to 58.

Pamela asked if there were any questions on her report or Bill's. Ms. Iseli asked Pamela to send a link to the Board regarding the art auction so they can bid on pieces. Pamela said she will send a link and their art work just in case their art work is not identified as being part of our Board.

Dr. Komorowski asked if the art work e-mails are just coming to our agency or are they being shared with the community. Pamela said the auction is county wide and sponsored by Montgomery County administration.

C. Positive feedback after MUI investigation
This feedback was included in the Board Packet.

Pamela said that it's not often you get a "thank you" after an MUI investigation. It seemed like a unicorn moment to Pamela so she wanted to include it in the Board Packet.

D. Thank you notes from parents and provider
These notes were included in the Board Packet.

Pamela said, in her next report, she will include a few sentences from the Accreditation reviewers and what was said about specific teams because it was very impressive. Ms. Iseli she is sure the Board would like to see that and she asked Pamela how frequently each agency is reviewed by the Accreditors. In response Pamela explained that if you are missing their benchmarks it's every year but the best it can be is every 3 years and we won't have to do it again for 3 years.

In answer to a question from Dr. Fortson, Pamela shared that the name of the Accreditation body is Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities – a state Accreditation. They look at all of our processes. Ms. Iseli added that much of it is focused on compliance.

Ms. Iseli asked if there were any other questions for Pamela or for Bill on the COVID report. She added that she finds it curious that the demographic of males in their 50's skews a little younger than the general population.

Dr. Komorowski asked, as far as our direct provider staff, what are the percentages that are getting vaccinated? Pamela said we will have that information at the next Board meeting because they are just now turning in their vaccination receipts. Pamela has been asking the providers if they have a general idea and the range is between 50 and 70% and most feel like the numbers are increasing. Dr. Komorowski asked if there is any encouragement we can give to those who are not getting vaccinated. Pamela said we have done the stipend and as soon as our clinics slow down/fade out, she is going to reach out to Dr. Komorowski and Ziks Pharmacy to see if we can do a question/answer session with direct support professionals so they can have a direct exchange with a doctor and pharmacist. That will help to answer remaining questions and Dr. Komorowski said she will be happy to do that.

Ms. Peasant suggested we offer an incentive to help the providers bring in some of their family members and get them vaccinated at the same time. Pamela said that's a good idea and we will make a note of that and as this continues and vaccines are more available we might be able to do that.

Dr. Komorowski asked if we are still going to participate with the clinics after our DD population is vaccinated. Mitch said he told Ziks we would continue to help them and he has had people who have said they would love to help and he has connected them to Ziks. He said we will not just quit and we will stay with the community as long as we can. Pamela said we are “Always There” and it will be based on the availability of the vaccine and the governor’s criteria.

Ms. Iseli said the governor announced that there is going to be a centralized registration process in the state of Ohio and they are developing it now. It’s not live yet as they are signing up providers and maybe Ziks will become a provider that gets folded up in the registration process.

Dr. Fortson asked how the incentive program is going to encourage people to get the vaccine. Pamela said it’s going very well and that’s why our numbers for direct support professionals is so high. Pamela believes our numbers for direct support professionals will reach 65 to 70% by then end of this month and the numbers for the folks we serve is coming in at over 80%. Both these are very high percentages for the state. A lot of the reason is because we are holding our own clinics and most counties are not doing that. If they did hold a clinic it was one time and not twice a week like we are. Ms. Iseli said it’s that and our proactive outreach of all the phone calls we are making.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ethics Committee – Jim Zahora, Chairperson

There were no individuals to review for the month of February.

B. Finance Committee – Richard Schultze, Chairperson

1. Contracts previously approved by the Superintendent
These contracts were listed in the Board Packet and were within the Superintendent’s budget authority granted by the Board. No action was required.

2. Review of Program Vouchers for January, 2021
These Program Vouchers were provided in the Board packet and included expenditures that are over \$1,000.00. No action was required.

3. Approval of February Resolutions Calendar
Mr. Schultze reminded the Board that they were e-mailed the correct travel voucher today as the one included in the packet was January’s.

Motion: Mr. Schultze moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the February Resolutions Calendar for item(s) 021621-03. Mr. Zahora seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Reports

The Financial Reports for January, 2021 were in the Board packet. In response to Mr. Schultze's monthly question "how are we doing financially?" Andrew said we are doing great. Revenue-wise we are above where we should be this time of year and that's because we already collected our first levy allocation which is 50% of the annual allocation. Our expenses are a little bit higher than the 8% which is how far we are through the year but that's due to the first quarterly waiver match payment which was \$3 million dollars. Our fund balances are at 58% of our expense budget which is great and there's no reason to think that the rest of 2021 is not going to be great.

C. Human Resources Committee – Madeline Iseli, Chairperson

1. Approval to create Administrative Specialist position

Ms. Iseli said this position is to support Mitch with his work with 50 agency providers and 500 independent providers in the county.

Motion: Ms. Iseli moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services authorize the creation of one full-time Administrative Specialist in order to better support the clerical support needs of the Provider Relations Department. Ms. Quarles-Burnley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mitch expressed his thanks for this motion. He really appreciates the help. Ms. Iseli thanked Mitch for doing amazing work.

D. Policy Committee – Naima Quarles-Burnley, Chairperson

1. First Reading of Selected Policies and Procedures

Ms. Quarles-Burnley gave a first reading of the following policies: **VI.02** Accessibility – to include change in policy number to VIII.05; **VII.26** Grievances; **VII.31** Visitors to Facilities; **VII.64** Litigation and Legal Actions. No action was required.

2. Second Reading and Approval of Selected Policies and Acknowledgement of Selected Procedures

There were no second reading policies for the month of February

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Monthly Updates for DDS Departments – included in packet.

B. Miami Valley In-Ovations, Inc. (MVIO) – included in packet.

Ms. Iseli said more will be shared in the coming months regarding the privatization of MVIO.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Selected announcements were listed in the Board packet, including a link to newsletters and updates sent to individuals/families/guardians, providers, and staff.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Other Business items for the month of February.

Ms. Iseli wanted to add here that in the almost 8 years she has served on the Board the staff has always been outstanding. That said, this staff, led by Dr. Pamela Combs, is incredibly awesome and beyond outstanding. It's a combination of being able to dot I's and cross T's which is the compliance and absolutely necessary; it's Maslow's Hierarchy and the bedrock of what we do, because of the way funding flows and the people we serve but, at the tippy top of Maslow's Hierarchy is being connected to the meaning and purpose and Ms. Iseli said she knows that our team members feel that because otherwise they wouldn't work for MCBDDS. Ms. Iseli said that Pamela has brought a whole new vibrancy to that meaning and purpose and she thanked Pamela for connecting our team members to that sense of being part of something bigger than themselves.

Pamela thanked Madeline and she said it's an honor and she loves doing it every day.

Julie added that, in the 20 years she has been working for MCBDDS, she has never known anything quite like it when it comes to Leadership. She said she is really taken back by it, adding that Pamela is amazing!

Ms. Peasant said she is very unfamiliar with how MVIO has operated and, since they are intending to spin-off, she is wondering if we might have a special orientation and issue session to better understand what's happening and make sure that Dr. Combs has a chance to implant her leadership into this process and maybe we can continue to support in this area. Ms. Iseli said we can definitely dedicate a session to explain the history, set the context, and to describe the multi-year plan.

IX. VISITORS' TIME

There were no visitors.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to present to the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Time: 7:49 p.m.



Board Officer

Board Officer

March 16, 2021

Date

**The next meeting of the Montgomery County Board of DDS
will be held on TUESDAY, March 16, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.**

Board Secretary/jn
Reviewed and approved by Superintendent
Date approved by Board Secretary: February 23, 2021