

MINUTES OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
March 15, 2022
Via Remote Technology

I. CALL TO ORDER/BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board President, Madeline Iseli, called the March 15, 2022 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: President, Madeline Iseli; Vice President, Naima Quarles-Burnley; Secretary Richard Schultze; Dr. Stephen Fortson; Janet Peasant; Dr. Susan Komorowski; Joanna White 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

A. Heroic and life-saving action by Toward Independence DSP
Supervisor Susan Garba

Pamela introduced CEO of Toward Independence Mark Schlater and invited him to introduce DSP Supervisor Susan Garba.

Mark explained the heroic action Susan took by performing CPR on an individual. Even though Susan hadn't performed CPR before in a real-life situation, her training kicked in and she did not hesitate to call 911 and continue to perform CPR until the rescue squad arrived. The rescue squad took over and was able to bring the individual back. She was transported to the hospital, has since recovered, and is doing great. Mark said Susan did a great job with a tremendously traumatic issue; she did her job and "quite frankly she saved a life."

Pamela wrote a letter to Susan and it was included in the Board Packet. Pamela said she wanted to thank Susan in a formal way and provide something she could keep in her personnel file. MCBDDS treated Susan and everyone in the home to a dinner at Texas Roadhouse. They sent Pamela a thank you video from their dinner.

In response to Pamela inviting Susan to speak, Susan said "I just did my job and did what I was trained to do."

Pamela thanked Susan on behalf of the Board and those that we serve, stating “We really appreciate you and we salute you in that you were able to use that excellent training you received, and you were able to keep it together and do everything you needed to do to save this life.”

Mark also wanted to recognize Toward Independence Program Director, Christy Adamson, who was in attendance. He said she is a servant leader and oversees all their homes, including training, in Montgomery County.

Mark said at Toward Independence they push it hard every day that training matters and obviously Susan performed exactly the way she was supposed to. He wanted to compliment Susan and Christy for a great job all around.

Mark shared that he happened to watch Channel 2 earlier in the day and saw a “remarkable woman” being recognized (Pamela). He said it was a great story and he wanted to take this opportunity to mention that Pamela has made a tremendous impact during the short time she has been in Montgomery County. She has not only made a huge change in Montgomery County as far as changing the culture and supporting providers, she’s also changed the course of action in the state of Ohio. Mark said Toward Independence is in six counties in Ohio and Pamela is his name drop when talking about how to support providers.

Mark thanked Pamela for everything she does and all the support she has provided during the extremely difficult COVID period, stating “You have supported the providers and we very much appreciate that.” He added that Pamela’s recognition today on Channel 2 was well-deserved.

Ms. Iseli thanked Mark for supporting the people we serve through his agency. She also said to Susan “I can’t thank you enough. My sister is served by people just like you and I don’t know what we would do without you. You epitomize servant leadership and again, I don’t know where all of our families would be without people like you. I don’t know where this county would be without people like you and Pamela and all of the people who work for the Board in all their different roles. It truly takes a village, and Mark that goes for you as well. Again Susan, recognition well-deserved.”

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the February minutes and took action as follows:

Motion: Ms. Iseli moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Board Meeting. Ms. Peasant seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

A. Update by Superintendent

Pamela shared that March is DD Awareness Month and our theme this year is "People with disabilities make great employees." She said Janice has done a great job of energizing us around that theme. There are billboards out in the county. The focus is to the employers to hopefully help fill the employee gap with folks that we serve. Pamela said look for the billboards out there and there will be different things on social media and videos coming out. She said it's very exciting.

The DSP Workforce continues to be a challenge for our providers. We are continuing to assist them through grants and resources which we budgeted for this year. For example, we are giving funds to help with recruitment, retention, and training. We are helping, at least with this first quarter, to pay the overtime piece which is not reimbursed by Medicaid. The overtime piece just for one quarter is about \$400,000 to \$450,000 so these are substantial ways that we are helping our system to stay strong as we come out of this pandemic and as we weather this workforce, and to get everything back to where it needs to be for services.

Our Mental Health team has just gone through its first state review and certification process and Pamela wanted to thank Dr. Scott Kidd and his team for their hard work during that process. We received notes on a few things that needed to be fixed which were around policy and procedures and not around anything to do with care or the actual services provided. They were things that we could easily fix.

The psychiatric services that are provided by Dr. Gentile and the Wright State Physicians team are transferring to their main office location at Access Health Ohio. We are working to notify families. Everyone can still see their same psychiatrist but it will come from Wright State Physicians' relationship with Access Ohio instead of through a contract with our Board. We are really grateful for their 20 years of contracting with our Board and we look forward to continued collaboration.

We are hoping to recognize Dr. Gentile and the Wright State Physicians team for their contributions to those we serve at next month's Board Meeting. They are providing a lot of resources around Mental Health services throughout the state of Ohio. The transition should be completed by the third week of April and we will have an update by Dr. Kidd at next month's Board Meeting.

Our COVID numbers increased during January and February and now they plateaued and are decreasing. We are not seeing people becoming impacted like they were at the first of the year, even though, since the first of the year, we have had three more deaths due to COVID. During the first part of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 there were 14 deaths and to have three pass away just since the first of January is an alarming rate of death. The illnesses and notifications we are receiving now

around COVID in our community have almost stopped. We have had around 380 people test positive for COVID since the beginning of the pandemic.

New DODD Director Kim Hauck is planning a visit to our county on May 4 and we are planning meetings with stakeholders, parents, providers. The visit will take place at Polen Farm so we can spread out. As soon as we know the exact times we will publicize it.

B. MCBDDS supports Montgomery County's United Negro College Fund (UNCF)

Pamela said our Board supported this fundraising effort.

One event was an art auction that had about 40 pieces of artwork, five of which were donated by our self-advocates. All the pieces sold. Pamela thanked Janice for her help in making this happen. It's exciting to see our artists represented and their artwork being bid on.

The other event was a matchbox car race and Kamarr won second place. Pamela was a runner-up finalist. Kamarr's red truck beat Pamela's racecar.

C. Thank you note(s)

Pamela invited the Board Members to read these notes at their leisure. She likes to include a couple a month so the Board can see the communications she receives from families, guardians, and stakeholders:

SSA Kim Crowell and Waiver Administration Coordinator Supervisor Angela Lewis worked together to secure an iPad for an individual served.

Parent of individual served expressed her thanks to SSA Supervisor Jay Niemann and SSA Valorie Guerrero for the services her son receives.

Ms. Iseli thanked Pamela stating that "we always appreciate the good-news stories and updates."

In response to a question from Dr. Komorowski, Janice said she is going to send a link to the Board Members to an interview which appeared on WRGT-TV/Dayton 24/7 Now morning show featuring MCBDDS Employment Navigator Supervisor Michelle Garrett and PVS Plastics Technologies Corporation CEO Rich Tursic. Mr. Tursic has hired a number of people with developmental disabilities, and is very pleased with their efforts.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ethics Committee – Janet Peasant, Chairperson

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

B. Finance Committee – Richard Schultze, Chairperson

After providing a brief overview on each of these items, Mr. Schultze asked if there were any questions and there were none.

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 February 2022
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 March Resolutions Calendar

Motion: Mr. Schultze moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the March Resolutions Calendar for item(s) 031522-03 to 031522-05. Dr. Fortson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Reports

The Financial Reports for February 2022 were in the Board packet. In response to Mr. Schultze asking "Andrew, how are we doing financially?" Andrew said we are 17% of the way through the year. Revenue is at 24% and Expenses are at 20%. Some of those expenses are elevated because they are paid up front at the beginning of the year which raises the first few months but will level out throughout the year. Our cash balance is at 34% of our expense budget. Even though there is some financial upheaval at local, state, and national levels, we are still doing very well.

C. Human Resources Committee – Madeline Iseli, Chairperson

1. Creation of Intermittent Communications Assistant position

Ms. Iseli said this is a meaningful way to engage someone we serve and will certainly enhance the already highly evolved communication and engagement efforts. She thanked Janice for everything she has done. Not just in communicate to families, adding that Janice does this excellently, but also in terms of engaging people we serve with self-advocacy groups, using their voices in training and educating the community, and representing the good work that this Board does. For example, with the DD Awareness Month and the messaging around people with DD being valuable and trusted employees.

Motion: Ms. Iseli moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services authorize the creation of one (1) Intermittent Communications Assistant position for the purpose of expanding outreach to people with disabilities and providing additional support to department staff. Ms. Peasant seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schultze said he is really excited about this and he hopes it's the first of many. He said it's really innovative, really caring, and putting into practice what we do.

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, No action was required:

III.01	Superintendent
IV.13	Ethics Council
VII.53	Reference Checks
VII.72	Delivery of Notices
IX.111	Administrative Resolution of Complaints

In response to Mr. Schultze asking “How does the proposed Ethics Council relate to the Ethics Committee?” Ms. Quarles-Burnley said they are the same thing. The Ethics Committee is the Ethics Council.

Dr. Komorowski wanted to circle back to the HR item above and asked “how are we going to interview/choose that person?” Janice responded that we have identified a person we would like to work with. Jill said it's an unclassified position so we can appoint somebody to the position and we have already chosen someone. Pamela said that it's a person who is served. He reached out to Pamela when she first came to the Board and he has a degree in communications. She added, we are very excited about being able to hire someone served by the Board in this capacity and to add his voice to the communications that we offer in the county.

Ms. Quarles-Burnley said, since we have circled back to communications, she wanted to say that ever since Janice has come aboard she feels like our overall communications has been elevated and Janice has found creative ways to highlight the work of our clients, to incorporate the self-advocates, and our face to the public is one that is bright and complex because of Janice's work.

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

Ms. Quarles-Burnley gave a second reading of the following policies:

VII.156	Administrative Leave
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Motion: Ms. Quarles-Burnley moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the policies listed above. Ms. Peasant seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Monthly Updates for DDS Departments – included in packet.
- B. Update for Inclusive Neighborhoods Housing Corporation (INHC) - included in packet.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. A link was included in the Board packet to the Upcoming Events calendar and to various newsletters.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Other Business items for the month of March

IX. VISITORS' TIME

Parents and Advocates were in attendance, as follows:

- Sandra Kleiser Black
- Shauna Davis
- Christine Wright
- Evelyn – no last name provided
- Nick – no last name provided

Christine Wright expressed her concerns about the new weapons policy for INHC. Her son lives in an INHC house. Pamela said we created the policy because we didn't have one in place related to our homes and for those who are legally allowed to carry weapons. We wanted to be proactive and have something in place about the safe-keeping of weapons. She said she will work with Kamarr on a summary response as to why we felt the need to put this policy in place and, if anything, we saw it as a step to keep everyone safer. It's a step towards saying we need to keep

everyone safe and we recognize that some people are allowed to have weapons but we wanted to have something in place that puts some parameters around that.

Christine said she is concerned because of the recent Bill Governor DeWine passed this week and there are very few gun restrictions in the state. She said, if something is going to be brought into the houses, will it be discussed so that everyone will know about it? She also wanted to know if the person who owns the weapon is going to have a key to the case used to hold the weapons.

Pamela said she completely understands all of Christine's concerns, comments, and questions and, as soon as she gets something in writing, Pamela will send it out in a newsletter and we will make it our top topic at the next parent meeting.

Ms. Iseli added that, now the bill has been signed into law, she imagines the state will assist with some legal interpretation as to how it applies to these properties. Pamela said she will find out if they are going to make a concession or give any additional guidance.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to present to the Board, the meeting was adjourned.
Time: 7:48 p.m.



Board Officer

April 19, 2022
Date

**The next meeting of the Montgomery County Board of DDS
will be held on TUESDAY, April 19 at 7:00 P.M.
VIA REMOTE TECHNOLOGY**

Board Secretary/jn
Reviewed and approved by Superintendent
Date approved by Board Secretary: March 16, 2022