



Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Helping people to live, learn and work in our community

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Jed W. Morison
Superintendent/CEO

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

July 23, 2020

Board Members Present via teleconference: John Bickley, Linda Craig, Marie Crawford,
Beth Savage, Renée Stein, Michael Underwood, Bill Wilkins

Staff Present via teleconference: Jed Morison, Jack Brownley, Lee Childs, Gwynn Kinsel,
Amy Magginis, David Ott, Dot Yeager

The Regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order by President Savage.

MINUTES

Ms. Craig moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held via teleconference on June 24, 2020, second by Ms. Stein. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Budget & Finance Report: Chief Business Officer Dot Yeager provided the Budget and Finance report to Board members. Dot reported that revenue is at 49.1% and expenditures are at 43.2% and is consistent with expectations at this time of year. Included in this report is the quarterly report of expenditures by program. We continue to work on the 2021 Budget and special thanks to Rachel Buske in the Franklin County Office of Management and Budget, for assistance with the budget process.

Human Resources & Ethics Report: Human Resources Director David Ott provided the Human Resources report to the Board members indicating that June was a very light month for hiring and separations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. August reporting will include staffing for the upcoming school year. Unemployment numbers have seen an uptick due to the reach back process.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- ◆ First, thanks very much for continuing to meet remotely. In addition to our WebEx license, we are securing some Zoom licenses and plan to have our next meeting on Zoom.

- ◆ We have developed our restart plans for preschool and school programs based on Health Department guidelines. Draft #2 has some revisions based on feedback from staff and others. This is a very fluid discussion which may require changes based on COVID Pandemic status or State guidelines. We will ask for Board approval and would note one specific change, based on feedback, is that students will begin August 31 rather than August 26 to offer staff more time to prepare with COVID protocols in mind.
- ◆ Regarding COVID, we are sorry to report that we have had four deaths of people we serve since March and over 100 confirmed cases. While we are sad to report any deaths, we are pleased it is only four deaths, recognizing we serve several thousand. Providers, staff and families have all been very supportive and helpful. All individuals who have passed away were 58 years old or older. Four staff members have tested positive with the COVID-19 virus.
- ◆ Graveside memorial services will be held for former Board Vice President Jean Williams and her son, Tom, on August 22, 2020.
- ◆ Synergy, an annual conference joining professionals and individuals with developmental disabilities, has been cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID Pandemic. Planning has begun for 2021.
- ◆ Our Equity Committee held its first meeting earlier this month. Gwynn Kinsel and Becky Love, Co-Chairs of the Committee did an excellent job facilitating discussion. Board member Linda Craig participated and offered meaningful and supportive remarks. This meeting offered committee members the chance to offer their suggestions on their expectations/hopes for this work.
- ◆ As part of our Equity/ Poverty initiatives, consistent with County Commissioners "Rise Together" Blueprint to reduce poverty, we will be asking the board today to pass a resolution confirming our support of the DSP (Direct Service Professional) wage increase to go into effect in 2021. While this does not directly impact our staff, it supports raising wages for DSPs who work for over 500 Providers in Franklin County. Fortunately, the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) will be able to fund this significant initiative. We estimate it will cost approximately \$4 million.
- ◆ Christine Brown of Nisonger Center has indicated that as of last week, they had already received over 400 responses to their survey on the impacts/ experiences people have had related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This should be helpful for future planning.
- ◆ Another resolution to be considered today relates to alternative assignments for transportation staff in the event we need to suspend in-person services for preschool and school staff. Our goal is to provide alternative assignments to Bus Drivers and Assistants for at least 5 hours per day, to prevent layoffs and allow staff to continue to have insurance. However, if some staff choose not to accept alternative assignments and cannot take leave, we would be required to initiate the layoff process.
- ◆ The Americans with Disabilities Act will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on July 26, 2020. While we won't be able to celebrate with an in-person event, we plan to do social media posts and are helping to publicize a zoom event coordinated with the Center for Disability Empowerment to be held on July 28.
- ◆ Similar to previous years, we do not have a scheduled meeting in August, however if a special meeting is needed we will poll Board members on dates and times.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Craig asked about the implications for unemployment if a staff member chooses to layoff instead of alternative assignments. President Savage indicated that it is the Board's hope that individuals agree to alternative assignments to avoid unemployment.

Mr. Bickley asked what the average DSP wage increase will be. Superintendent/CEO Morison indicated that most DSPs were at approximately \$11.12/hour and increased to over \$12.00/ hour in 2020. In 2021, it is projected that DSPs would earn over \$13.00/hour. Rates for services will be paid to the providers who then increase the wages of the DSPs.

Mr. Bickley asked about oversight on the DSP wage increase, to be sure that the DSPs are directly receiving the increase. Superintendent/CEO Morison indicated that the State conducts the National Core Indicators (NCI) Survey and is incorporating a wage portion in the survey.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Mr. Bickley moved to ratify bill payments for the past month, approved by the Chief Business Officer, as presented via electronic means to Board members on the Finance Committee on July 23, 2020, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ms. Stein moved to approve Re-Start Plan (Draft #3) for Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities preschool programs and West Central School, to be effective August 24, 2020, and granting authority for Superintendent to alter plan based upon Health Department Guidance, second by Ms. Craig. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Mr. Wilkins moved to support Direct Service Professional (DSP) wage increase to be effective in 2021, consistent with state law and recognizing that Franklin County plans to contribute to the cost of this corresponding provider rate increase, due to reduced match obligations because of enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. In the event Preschool and School in-person services need to be suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ms. Crawford moved to approve layoff process for Transportation Staff who prefer layoff rather than alternative assignments, second by Mr. Bickley. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Ms. Craig moved to authorize Superintendent to renew a pilot program with The Learning Spectrum to provide medically necessary therapeutic services, which are not included in the child's Individual Education Plan and which exceed the service limits imposed by the child's health insurance coverage, to children with developmental disabilities who are not enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program, at various per-child, per-unit rates; including, but not limited to, occupational and speech therapy services, for the period beginning September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021, at a total cost not to exceed \$90,000, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Ms. Stein moved to approve that, in the absence of both the Superintendent and of the Chief Business Officer, Legal Counsel Gwynn Kinsel is hereby authorized to act as Superintendent for the purpose of approving such personnel or other actions as may be necessary during the absences of both the Superintendent and Chief Business Officer, second by Mr. Bickley. Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Ms. Stein moved to authorize the Superintendent to increase the funding level for the COVID-19 Provider Support Pilot Grant Program approved at the March 31, 2020 meeting, to a total amount not to exceed \$75,000, to assist providers of Agency Home and Community Based Waiver services with overtime and other related costs for direct service professionals serving individuals in quarantine, second by Ms. Craig. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – none

ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison shared that the Americans with Disabilities Act celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a virtual celebration will be held.

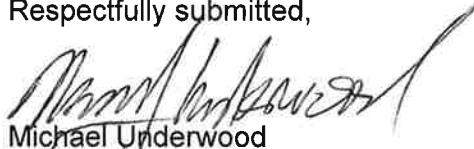
A 5K is scheduled to benefit autism - in honor of a previous Early Childhood Education staff member, Craig Kleiman who passed away last year.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - none

ADJOURNMENT

The July 23, 2020 meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was adjourned by Ms. Savage.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Underwood
Secretary

MU/am