HAMILTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

Our Mission: Promote and support opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to live, work, learn and fully participate in their communities

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
(per provisions within House Bill 197 enacted 03/27/2020)

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Nestor Melnyk, President
Dr. Andy Magenheim, Vice President
Mr. Stephen J. Jones, Secretary
Mr. Alan Abes
Ms. Rene Eisele
Dr. Tasha Faruqui
Ms. Deana Taylor

Mr. Melnyk called the June 9, 2020 meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Melnyk asked for approval of the minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Abes moved approval of the minutes of the May 12, 2020 Board meeting as presented. Ms. Eisele seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

HEARING THE PUBLIC – By email
None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Reported by Ms. Pavey

A. Hamilton County COVID 19 Data:

As of 6/3/20, Hamilton County has the following data for people we serve:
• 99 people were tested (reported)
• 36 positive
• 61 negative
• 2 pending
• Average age 46
• 1 hospitalized
• 2 deaths
B. Statewide MUI Data on COVID-19:

The Department provides the following weekly MUI updates based on COVID-19-related unanticipated hospitalizations and/or deaths entered into the Incident Tracking System. This data is not all inclusive. It does not include information about people who are suspected of having COVID-19 but not hospitalized, those who tested positive but not hospitalized, people living with their families and those who are hospitalized when there is no provider present at time of hospitalization and COVID testing. For additional information and guidance, please visit DODD COVID-19 Resources.

As of May 29, 2020:

- There were 296 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing.
- A total of 302 COVID-19 reportable MUIs have been filed as six individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.
- There are 52 counties and three developmental centers with COVID-related MUIs.
- Cuyahoga and Franklin reported the most individuals being hospitalized and tested with 37 each.
- Lucas has the most people hospitalized and most positive tests with 15, followed by Franklin with 14 people.
- A breakdown of testing results of the 302 people follows:
  - 191 (63%) people tested negative
  - 19 (7%) people have pending tests results
  - 92 (30%) people tested positive

Demographics:

- Males accounted for 64% of those tested and females 36%.
- Ages of people tested range from 2 to 88 years of age. The average age was 56 years. The most common age of those tested was 61 years.
- Breakdown of people tested by race include:
  - Black or African American - 15%
  - Other Race - 2%
  - Unknown - 4%
  - White/Caucasian - 79%

COVID-19 Deaths:

- Twenty (6.6%) people died of COVID-19. The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (20) and the total people served (98,396) is .02%
- The average age of the person who died was 59 years old.
- A total of 10 counties and one developmental center have reported COVID-19 deaths. The 20 deaths were reported in Clark (1), Cuyahoga (1), Franklin (3), Hamilton (2), Lucas (4), Mahoning (1), Miami (1), NODC (4), Perry (1), Warren (1) and Wayne (1).
- Lucas county and NODC have the highest number of deaths reported with 4 each.

C. Family Children First Council:

The County Family and Children First Councils were given a one-time cost allocation from the Departments of Job and Family Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services to help multi-system youths during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are for personal protective equipment and technology to ensure continued connection, engagement and service delivery to families. We were able to request and distribute $15,751.85 to our local multi systems youth program.

D. Health Collaborative:

We were invited to participate in the Health Collaborative Vulnerable Population Workgroup. The group’s goal is to mitigate risk at congregate care facilities, which includes nursing homes, senior housing buildings, prisons and homeless shelters. The group felt the developmental disabilities population should be represented as well. Dawn Freudenberg will be representing us on that group. Dawn also sits on the Cross-Congregate Care Facility Workgroup to represent concerns about COVID-19 in group homes and other congregate settings that are specific to the DD community. Other members include councils on aging, hospitals, assisted living, and nursing homes.

Goals include:

- Standard protocols for COVID-positive/probable patient who lives in a group home or assisted living facility; surveillance and reporting; discharge from acute settings
- Distribute educational materials for staff and residents on infection control and isolation
- Ensure a standardized process is in place on what to do when an outbreak occurs

E. Adult Day Array change during COVID:

Changes continue to be fast and constant related to waivers during the pandemic. The latest change is the addition of the STEP services under the Adult Day Array umbrella of services. These services pay at a much higher rate (the C Acuity rate). To qualify as a STEP service, all of the following criteria apply:

- Provided to groups of 4 or less individuals
- Provided in the individual’s home, virtually or in a safe community location
- No concurrent HPC services

The concept is for this service to be provided in small increments, a few hours per day at the most. The higher rate is meant to compensate the provider for doing business with a smaller group. Our day array payment schedule was designed around providing in large groups, which is not possible at this time due to the pandemic.

The service codes are not currently in the state system, so our staff are mainly tracking authorizations and entering these services in Gatekeeper. Once DODD updates its system, we will enter them. Providers are able to bill for this service. This was effective May 11.
F. Early Intervention:

Work goes on virtually with our Early Intervention program during this past month:

- 1,029 contacts with families
- 75 developmental evaluations/assessments completed (387 year-to-date)
- One 3-5 year old added into Gatekeeper (35 year-to-date)
- 28 (year-to-date) children with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- 7 (year to date) children with high lead levels

G. Bobbie B. Fairfax Graduation:

Graduation took place virtually this year for the five graduates all from Bobbie B. Fairfax (see Bios of graduates attached). Fairfax staff traveled by parade to each graduates' home to celebrate with them and their families. Each graduate was given their diploma along with a bag of goodies from the school, including a letter of congratulations from the HCDDS Board of Directors. It was a celebration to remember and kudos to the staff for their creativity and passion for all of the students.

H. Advocacy during COVID:

The ALIFE team has been very active during the stay-at-home orders by reaching out to people and offering someone to talk to, friendship, and personal empathy. The team has been researching the effects of isolation and loneliness on people with disabilities and adjusting the way they support people during these trying times. They have received excellent feedback on their efforts.

They have developed customized family support sessions for families during time as well:

May 27: “A Friendly Hour with Families” 6-7 p.m. Hosted by Sean Bostic and presentation by Di Sunderman and Teresa Schlemmer
  - Social Security Benefits related to when a parent retires or passes away
  - Food assistance related to someone not living with parents
  - Medicare and Medicaid uses, differences, and general questions

June 1: “Coffee with Families” 9-10 a.m. Hosted by Sean Bostic and Brittany Ollberding
  - An open dialogue regarding supporting and networking families together

June 9: “Connecting with One Another” 9-10 a.m. Hosted by Sean Bostic, Kimi Remenyi, and moderated by David Long in four 15 minute quadrants
  - Emotional Wellness
  - Ways to combat isolation
  - Physical distancing vs. Social distancing
  - How to structure our day

Copies of the HCDDS 2019 Annual Report were mailed to board members on Friday, June 5 so you should soon receive them.
Stable Account/Trust Session:

This session was hosted Doug Jackson, Ohio Deputy Director Stable Accounts, and Laura Drake, Southern Ohio Associate Director of Community Fund Management Foundation, for a May 19 Virtual Stable/Trust Account session. Forty-seven families attended, asked great questions, and had specific follow up requests that provide insight into potential gaps and support needs. We will continue to offer these sessions, and as with all family engagement sessions, track trends and respond to them.

I. ADA Celebration Update:

The committee has decided to cancel the in-person celebration planned for July 24 at Washington Park. They felt it was not safe to host a large gathering during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly when people with disabilities may be more vulnerable to getting sick.

Instead, they will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act virtually. Details are still coming together but they are planning a new “event” each Friday in July, such as a panel discussion, kick-off proclamation, virtual dance party, drive through parade/honk & waves, and an awards ceremony. These are similar to what they had been planning for the in-person gathering.

Additionally, as they have a handful of sponsors already in place, they will sell t-shirts and donate any proceeds to a local organization for COVID-19 relief. They’ll also encourage people to wear their shirts and share pictures on social media using #DisabilityPrideCincy and #CincyADA30.

We’ll send additional updates as we get closer to the event.

J. Respite Housing Project:

We have had a change in plans for our Respite Home. As you may recall, the plan was to rehab an existing building on another property leased by the Housing Network. That did not work out. We have found a new location and are in contract to purchase two side-by-side buildings located at 784 and 776 Hand Avenue (close to Spring Grove Cemetery). Both buildings are one story, which will be easier to rehab for accessibility. (See information sheet attached)

K. Future Events:

6/11/20 – Social Security for Professionals: Benefits & Veterans, 10 a.m.
6/15/20 – Social Security for Professionals: Work Incentives for SSI/SSDI, 10 a.m.
6/17/20 – Social Security Retirement 101: What You Need to Know, 9 a.m.
6/22-23 – AAPD Power: The Disability Vote, 12 p.m.
7/03/20 – Independence Day Holiday – All HCDDS offices closed
7/23/20 – Intelligent Lives documentary, rescheduled Crossroads Mason, 7 p.m.
7/24/20 – Disability Pride Celebration changed to virtual events in July
8/20/20 – Tentative First Day of School for Students

L. Board in-service: Board members have been assigned two videos that have been recommended by DODD. Please send Kim an email after viewing to obtain training credit.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORT – Reported by Mr. Ratterman

Mr. Ratterman reviewed the financial report for May 2020.

Approval is requested for actual operating expenses of $14,341,519 for the month of May 2020 with cumulative totals amounting to $50,255,462 as confirmed by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

Mr. Jones moved that the Board approve the actual operating expenses for the month of May 2020. Mr. Abes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of $3,459,227 for the month of June 2020, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

Mr. Jones moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of June 2020. Mr. Abes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of $5,565,571 for the month of July 2020, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

Mr. Jones moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of July 2020. Mr. Abes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of $3,722,318 for the month of August 2020, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

Mr. Jones moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of August 2020. Mr. Abes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Superintendent Search

   Mr. Garver reported the posting has closed. Things are moving forward. We will discuss this in our executive session.
NEW BUSINESS

1. Ms. Pavey requested approval to enter into multi-year contracts with the following staff:

   Julie Brem, Early Intervention Contract Manager  
   2-year contract: 6/21/20-6/20/22

   Gary Brock, Web Designer/Developer  
   2-year contract: 7/8/20-7/7/22

   Denise McMillan, Early Intervention Supervisor  
   2-year contract: 7/24/20-7/23/22

   Lisa Myers, SSA Supervisor  
   2-year contract: 7/27/20-7/26/22

   Annette Stagge, El Coordinator  
   2-year contract: 8/1/20-7/31/22

   Nancy Bystry, Funding General Manager  
   2-year contract: 8/9/20-8/8/22

Mr. Abes moved approval of the request to enter into the multi-year contracts as presented. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2. Mike Fairbanks Memorial Gym Resolution

   Mike Fairbanks recently passed away. He was a great person and a long time employee at Rost and the adult center. We would like to name the gymnasium at Margaret B. Rost School after Mike to honor his memory.

   Mike was an international Special Olympian. The Special Olympics also plans to honor him by retiring a jersey in his honor.

   A dedication ceremony is planned for Saturday, Aug. 8. A graphic will be designed to hang in the gymnasium in his honor.

Ms. Eisele moved to execute this Resolution to name the gymnasium at Margaret B. Rost School the Mike Fairbanks Gymnasium in his honor. Mr. Abes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Announcements

   None
INSERVICE

Board members should view the two videos listed below and email Kim Sexton after to obtain training credit.

DODD Strategic Plan and Initiatives (11 Minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ekc0SaEgYA&feature=youtu.be

DODD Aug. 20 Press Conference on DSP Partnership (37 Minutes)

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Melnyk announced that the Board has no further public business and at 5:34 p.m. made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session per Section 121.22 (G) (4) Preparing for, or conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

A roll call vote was taken for the Board to move into Executive Session per Section 121.22 (G) (4). The motion passed unanimously.

At 6:18 p.m., Mr. Melnyk asked for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the public record.

Ms. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and go back on the public record. Ms. Eisele seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

At 6:19 p.m., the Board went back on the public record. No further business was discussed.

Finding no further business, Mr. Melnyk asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Abes so moved. Mr. Melnyk declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mr. Nestor Melnyk
President

Mr. Stephen J. Jones
Secretary