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, September 8, 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 September 8, 2020 meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Mr. Melnyk asked for approval of the minutes of August 11, 2020 meeting.

Dr. Magenheim moved approval of the minutes of the August 11, 2020 Board meeting as presented. Mr. Abes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Melnyk asked for approval of the minutes of August 31, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Eisele moved approval of the minutes of the August 31, 2020 Board meeting as presented. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Hearing The Public – By email

None

Superintendent’s Report – Reported by Ms. Pavey

A. Schools Update

In-person learning began on Aug. 31 at both schools. All is going well so far.
Rost enrollment: 32 (20 in-person, 8 remote learners- plus 4 in-person at satellite)
Fairfax enrollment: 29 (21 in-person, 8 remote learners) No signs or symptoms from staff or students so far.
B. Hamilton County COVID-19 Data

As of Aug. 26, Hamilton County has the following data for people we serve:
- 490 people were tested (reported)
- 88 positive
- 369 negative
- 9 pending
- 43 average age
- 4 deaths

C. Support for Families

The Introduction and Eligibility team and the Medicaid, Contracts and SSA office have received numerous calls from families who need to return to work, and are requesting waivers for help with their children who are at home during the pandemic, either from no childcare or school. This month there were 19 referrals from families who are having difficulties coping with this issue. As this is hopefully a temporary issue, we have budgeted additional funds in our Family Support Services Program for additional respite care, electronic devices, etc. to help with the need. To date we have distributed over $9,000 to support this effort.

These additional funds may be used for the following:
- To address childcare and respite needs if your typical childcare resource or summer camp is unavailable due to COVID-19.
- To address needs for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) due to COVID-19.
- In some cases, sensory items may be approved if the individual had access to similar items through their school or other programming prior to COVID-19 restrictions, but no longer has access to them due to the pandemic. (Items not normally available to a student during the summer months when school is not in session would be excluded)
- Similarly, some technology items may be approved if the individual had access to similar items through their school or other programming prior to the COVID-19 restrictions but no longer has access due to the pandemic, or if the need for the technology is specifically related to the pandemic. (Items not normally available to a student during the summer months when school is not in session would be excluded)

These funds may not be used to pay rent, mortgage, utilities or other general expenses. All other provisions apply to the disbursement of these funds, including all funding eligibility and referral guidelines.

The waiting list (WL) team continues to complete waiting list assessments for individuals who requests initial or reassessments. In addition, they have been processing the emergency referrals and COVID-19 referrals.

Waiting List Specialists (WLS) are connecting with individuals that did not make the current waiting list; did not want assessments or had no needs. They are making alternative resources connections and exploring any barriers that arise.
D. Tech Grants for Providers

In an attempt to further support providers, HCDDS developed a plan to offer grants for providers to get devices, therefore becoming electronically connected in order to become virtual for meetings, billing, etc. As of this date 39 provider agencies requested and will be awarded 461 tablets. Providers have expressed their gratitude for this project.

E. Family Engagement

Sean Bostic, Family Engagement Coordinator, has reached out to Black/African American Counselors and Psychologists offering services to people with disabilities needing trauma or anxiety support around racism and all the news, media, and other attention they hear or experience. Sean is hosting these professionals as he receives calls whereby parents, particularly of Black children or young adults look for this support. Sean is helping families obtain these services and the list of available providers if unknown or inaccessible to the family.

F. Advocacy- Voting Information Work

John Romer, Diana Mairose, and Robert Shuemak have finalized a comprehensive, “non-partisan, voting support” plan. The plan includes getting the word out about voting, how people with DD can vote, and key voting information from local boards of elections (modes of voting, ballots, accessibility, etc.). Diana Mairose reminded everyone on the call that we are here to support and assist individuals who want the help to vote.

G. Community Relations

Community Relations has been working with the other members of the COG on a coordinated social media advertising campaign. The counties will all focus on shared themes each month through the end of the year. The ads will use similar visuals across the counties, but messaging will be tailored for each county. The first theme will focus on “Still Here For You” to demonstrate how we continue to support people with DD even as most staff work from home.

H. Diversity and Staff Development

The Leadership Development: Succession and Management Program held the third session on Aug. 19. The guest speaker, Montez Sorrells aka, “The Pounce Coach,” led a discussion on “change.” The session was well received by the participants.

The Diversity Council completed the letter writing campaign for senior citizens in nursing homes, and for Women’s Equity Day we highlighted women from all nationalities and professions.

I. Future Events

09/07/20 – Labor Day Holiday – All HCDDS offices closed
09/08/20 – Zoom Connection Hour for Adults, Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
09/08/20 – Finance Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
09/09/20 – Zoom Connection Hour for Adults, Wednesdays at 5 p.m.
09/11/20 – Remote Learning Strategies for Success for Professionals, 9-11 a.m.
09/12/20 – Buddy Walk  
09/17/20 – Remote Learning Strategies for Parents/Caregivers, 6-8 p.m.  
09/18/20 – Starfire’s 2020 Celebration, 4 p.m.  
09/26/20 – Spina Bifida Virtual Walk & Roll  
10/06/20 – Neighbors in Action, Advocacy for Teens/Adults, 10 a.m.  
10/09/20 – Teacher Professional Day-no school for students  
10/12/20 – Fall Break-Schools closed  
10/23/20 – End of the Quarter for Schools

10/27/20 – Annual Board Retreat –This meeting will be canceled. The retreat will be rescheduled for the beginning of next year once we have the new superintendent in place.

J. Board in-service

Canceled this month. The 2021 budget will be presented at our next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORT – Reported by Ms. Pavey

Ms. Pavey reviewed the financial report for August 2020.

Approval is requested for actual operating expenses of $3,036,932 for the month of August 2020 with cumulative totals amounting to $60,532,256 as confirmed by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

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

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of $4,628,351 for the month of October 2020, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

Ms. Taylor moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of October 2020. Dr. Magenheim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

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

   Lauren Jones, Psychologist
   2-year contract: 9/25/20-9/24/22
Mr. Abes moved approval of the request to enter into the multi-year contract as presented. Ms. Eisele seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2. 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 5:24 p.m. requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session per Section 121.22 (G) (1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

Mr. Abes made a motion to move into Executive Session. Ms. Eisele seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Melnyk assured everyone that once the Board returns from Executive Session, no further business will be conducted and the meeting will be adjourned.

At 6:25 p.m., Mr. Melnyk asked for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the public record.

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

At 6:25 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 Ms. Eisele so moved and Mr. Abes seconded. Mr. Melnyk declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.
Respectfully,

Mr. Nestor Melnyk
President

Mr. Stephen J. Jones
Secretary