

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 404 enacted 11/22/2020)

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

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

ABSENT: Mr. Stephen J. Jones, Secretary

Mr. Melnyk called the January 12, 2021 meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Sexton administered the oath of office to the board members present. The board members will meet individually with Ms. Sexton at a later date to sign the oath in the presence of a notary.

Nominations for the 2021 board officers were in order as this was the Board's annual organizational meeting. Mr. Abes received a nomination to keep the current slate of officers as follows:

Mr. Melnyk – President
Dr. Magenheim - Vice President
Mr. Jones – Secretary

Mr. Melnyk asked if there were additional nominations. Finding none, Mr. Melnyk declared the nominations closed.

Mr. Abes moved to nominate the current slate of officers. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. All Board members voted in favor and the slate was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Melnyk moved to maintain the 2020 current list of board member committee assignments and adopt those same for 2021. The board members unanimously approved that motion.

The 2021 Board committee assignments are as follows:

- Ethics Committee – Dr. Tasha Faruqui, Stephen Jones, Dr. Andy Magenheim
- HR/Policy Committee – Rene Eisele, Nestor Melnyk, Deana Taylor
- Program Committee – Alan Abes, Rene Eisele, Dr. Tasha Faruqui
- Finance Committee – Alan Abes, Stephen Jones, Dr. Andy Magenheim
- Appeals Committee – Ad Hoc

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Melnyk asked for approval of the minutes of December 8, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Abes moved approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Board meeting as presented. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

HEARING THE PUBLIC

Cindy Aardema, Community & Family Engagement Coordinator with Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati, shared information about an important transition youth program. The program is a partnership between Easterseals and HCDDS that serves young adults, aged 18-25, with a focus on transition readiness and developing transferable job skills. Recruiting for the program is ongoing with a virtual open house planned in a couple of weeks. The details will be shared at a later date. The program is currently housed at the Vineyard Westside Church in Cheviot.

Easterseals is here and is ready to partner with HCDDS now and in the future.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Reported by Ms. Snyder

A. COVID-19 Data

Hamilton County Data as of 01/03/2021 (no tests/results for 2021 in this data):

COVID-19 Testing Results for ALL Reported Tests (U/MUI)			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
810	1	326	1137

Demographics of ALL Positive Results:

200 Male (61%)/126 Female (39%)/Average Age= 44

11 Deaths

- 9 Confirmed COVID Related
- 1 Presumed COVID Related
- 1 Unknown (although COVID positive)

Living Arrangements of positive results

- 77 Family Home
- 105 Supported Living

12 Shared Living
48 Licensed Home
61 ICF
23 Nursing Home

Ms. Snyder reported that OACB has been collecting data to put together an accounting of cases statewide. The state was only capturing cases that resulted in an MUI so we are missing a lot of cases. At some point the goal is to have a more comprehensive number to see the real impact of COVID in Ohio for the people we serve.

B. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Currently, vaccines are being distributed for people in the first priority category. People who live in congregate settings, as well as the staff in those settings, are currently eligible for vaccines. For our purposes, this includes any setting where two or more people with developmental disabilities reside together. Although the number of vaccines is limited, the health districts are doing a great job getting the vaccines they do have available out to those eligible to receive them. We are working closely with them. In addition to providing them with a full listing of all congregate settings, we are also working diligently to develop plans to be able to host a vaccination site which will include support from board and provider agency employees.

Additionally, people with developmental disabilities who have “congenital, developmental, or early onset medical disorders that make them particularly vulnerable” will be included in the 1B priority group. Although specific details will be provided in the near future, we do know that county boards will need to contact anyone eligible based on a review by DODD. We anticipate there will be many questions regarding this phase and are preparing communications to assist people in understanding the process.

Our agency has been working closely with the local health districts and the Hamilton County Board of Health on how to get the vaccine to the people we serve. This effort has been going very well and we just learned yesterday that we will be able to host some vaccine clinics at Kingsley. This may begin as early as next week. We are just waiting for our staff to be trained to start the process.

C. Provider Support and Partnership

- We heard from providers of individuals experiencing worsening symptoms of COVID not being admitted to the hospital. Individuals were instead sent home with a DSP to monitor as their symptoms. To help support DSPs, we developed a contract with BrightStar to provide 24-hour on-call nursing consultation.
- We hosted one PPE pass out to 46 providers. HCDDS received surgical masks and 150 pulse oximeters that were distributed to agency providers. HCDDS passed out COVID antigen tests received by DODD to approved ICFs.
- Working with vaccination preparation with DODD and also health departments in Hamilton County:
 - Received lists of congregate and licensed settings from DODD and added provider contact information
 - Reached out to each provider letting them know that they support a person who is eligible for a Phase 1 vaccine.
 - Maintaining a list of individuals who have heard from their pharmacy about receiving the vaccine directly from the pharmacy.

- Working with the health departments to collaborate and offer resources so individuals in our system can receive the vaccine in a timely manner.
- Beginning in January, HCDDS will be temporarily be offering BCI checks for newly hired DSPs at our Support Center location one day a week.
- HCDDS will also be offering temporary reimbursement for required coursework for new DSPs and for Medication Certification 1 renewal. HCDDS quality assurance nurses developed a training curriculum and will be offering free training in 2021 for DSPs.
- Developed and implemented a process for providers to request extraordinary or unusual costs incurred by residential providers due to COVID-19 and not reimbursable by Medicaid from 11/1/20, on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - These funds can be used for hotel fees, cleaning/sanitizing supplies, additional PPE, takeout meals for individuals/staff, and other needed items for a setting impacted by COVID.

D. School Updates

COVID-19 Positive Cases at MBR: 6 staff, 1 student, and at BBF: 2 staff

School Enrollment Data:

Total Students= 62,

Rost: 33 (20 in person, 8 remote, 4 satellite)

Fairfax: 29 (21 in person, 9 remote)

E. 2020 Waiting List Data

Ms. Snyder provided the board with the 2020 waiting list statistics in their packet for their information. If you have any questions, please let Ms. Snyder know.

F. 2020 Waiver Data

Ms. Snyder provided the board with the 2020 waiver statistics in their packet. If you have any questions, please let her know.

G. Early Intervention Annual Performance Report

The EI team received their annual performance report and was at 100% for compliance indicators as required by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). There are currently 594 children enrolled in EI services. There were 874 contacts with families the past month. There were 85 developmental evaluations/assessment completed remotely this past month and 771 completed year-to-date.

H. Future Events

01/18/21 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day-all HCDDS Offices and Schools are closed

01/19-21 – Transition Bootcamp,3 half-day virtual sessions. 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

02/15/21 – President’s Day-all HCDDS Offices and Schools are closed

03/09/21 – HCDDS Board Meeting, 5 p.m. **(No meeting in February)**

Ms. Snyder welcomed Neil Townsend as the new Budget & Administrative Operations Director. Neil comes to us from DODD and we are happy to have him here.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORT – Reported by Mr. Hartfiel

Mr. Hartfiel reviewed the financial report for December 2020.

Approval is requested for actual operating expenses of \$4,774,575 for the month of December 2020 with cumulative totals amounting to \$83,423,510 as confirmed by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

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

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of \$2,834,489 for the month of February 2021, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

Dr. Magenheim moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of February 2021. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of \$2,457,663 for the month of March 2021, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal.

Dr. Magenheim moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of March 2021. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Freudenberg shared the 2021 Annual Plan that is on our website now for viewing. Three people attended the virtual hearing in December. Ms. Freudenberg received no emails this time for revisions. There were no significant changes made to the plan.

Mr. Freudenberg asked the Board for approval of the revised 2021 Annual Plan as presented in their packet.

Mr. Abes moved that the Board approve the 2021 Annual Plan. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Chris Taylor, MUIP Investigative Agent
2 year Contract: 1/25/21 - 1/24/23

Lisa Grady, Transition Supervisor
2 year Contract: 2/26/21 - 2/25/23

Mr. Abes moved approval of the request to enter into the multi-year contracts as presented. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and all were unanimously approved.

2. Ms. Snyder asked the Board for approval of the intention to provide a special education program to eligible children ages six through twenty-one for the 2021-2022 school year at the rate of \$50,000 per student.

Ms. Taylor moved approval of the 2021-2022 Special Education Resolution as presented. Ms. Eisele seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

3. Mr. Zinn asked the Board for approval of the 2021-2022 children’s services calendars. The calendars account for 176 school days for the children and 185 days for staff.

Mr. Abes moved approval of the 2020-2021 children’s services calendars as presented. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

4. Ms. Snyder asked the Board for approval of the Corporate Compliance Resolution, which names Neil Townsend as the compliance officer for all public funding.

Ms. Eisele moved approval of the Corporate Compliance Resolution. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

5. Mr. Neil Townsend asked the Board for approval of the Resolution for Medicaid expenditures, which approves the use of funds to pay the non-federal share of the services required by section 5126.0511 of the ORC for Medicaid expenditures.

Ms. Taylor moved approval of the Resolution for Medicaid expenditures as presented. Ms. Eisele seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

6. Board Retreat-

Board members will email their availability and preferences for a virtual or in-person board retreat from 9-12 p.m. one day in March.

7. Announcements-

Dr. Andy Magenheim welcomed everyone back this year. Happy birthday Andy!

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:44 p.m., Mr. Melnyk announced that the committee had no public business at this time and requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session per Section 121.22 (G) (4) Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

Mr. Melnyk assured everyone that no further business would be conducted at the conclusion of the executive session and that the board would immediately move to adjourn the meeting at the conclusion.

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

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

At 6:18 p.m., the committee went back on the public record. No further business was discussed.

Finding no further business, Dr. Magenheim made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Abes seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully,



Mr. Nestor Melnyk
President



Mr. Stephen J. Jones
Secretary