



*"The mission of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to:  
Inspire, empower and support individuals and their families."*  
**ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
4405 Galloway Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 20, 2021**

**PRESENT**

Board Members: David Danhoff, Mark Harrington, John Hoty, Melissa Laughlin, Eric Kibler, Stacey Schmid, and Tracey Susana.

ECBDD Staff: Carrie Beier, Rachel Malone, and Michelle Kelley.

**VISITORS SIGNED IN**

Felicia Zendejas, Diane Corso, Jennifer Kinney, Adrienne Keys, Erin McDougall, Megan Etzel and Rebecca Walter.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The May 20, 2021 Board Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Board President, Mrs. Melissa Laughlin. Roll Call was taken. All members were present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Self-Advocate group provided an update to Board Members through a video report. Diane Corso introduced the Self-Advocate video it was emailed to Board Members to view following the meeting.

**IV. APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2021, MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Eric Kibler made a motion to approve the April 15, 2021, Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. John Hoty seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

**V. BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Ethics Committee:** The Ethics Committee did not meet.

B. **Finance Committee:**

1. **Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee met this month. Rachel Malone reported that the April report was sent to the Finance Committee for review. Rachel shared the following highlights:

- **Revenue:** The 2017 and 2018 cost report settlements were received.

- Expenditures: There were three pay periods in the month of April. The contract with the COG was paid for behavior supports and the human rights committee.
- Notable bills paid included: the COG payment, FDR payment, and continued placement of individual at a developmental center.
- The committee discussed potential changes at the state level regarding Medicaid Rate increases for waiver services and future budget projections.

## 2. **Fiscal Report**

The Fiscal Report for Month End April 30, 2021, was provided for review and approval (handout). Mr. Eric Kibler made a motion to approve the April Fiscal Report as submitted. Mr. John Hoty seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## 3. **Policy Committee Report**

The Policy Committee reviewed four policies in May. These policies were the:

- Proper Use of Public Funds Policy
- Service and Support Administration Policy
- Due Process for Medicaid Covered Services Policy
- Document Management, Retention and Destruction of Board Records Policy

No revisions were made to the Proper Use of Public Funds Policy. Therefore, approval by the Board was not required on this policy.

The Service and Support Administration Policy, the Due Process for Medicaid Covered Services Policy, and the Document Management, Retention and Destruction of Board Records Policy were reviewed and revised. Mrs. Stacie Schmid made a motion to approve these policies as revised. Mr. Mark Harrington seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

One additional policy was presented to the Board. The Proper Attire Policy, of the Personnel Manual, was reviewed and revised. Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve this policy as revised. Mr. John Hoty seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## **VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **A. Facilities Department Report**

The Facilities Department Report was distributed. Rachel Malone, on behalf of Kevin Ferback, Facilities Manager, reviewed the information with Board Members.

### **B. Strategic Plan- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report**

The Strategic Plan- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report was presented by Carrie Beier (handout). Board Members were asked to review the information and reach out to Carrie with any questions.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. 2021 Board Member Training Schedule**

The finalized 2021 Board Member Training Schedule was provided. Trainings will be held following the Board Meetings on June 17 and September 16, 2021.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Board Member Appointments to Add New Board Member**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to add new Board Member, Tracey Susana, to the following committees: Ethics Committee, Policy Committee and Appeals Committee. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## **IX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Carrie attended the following virtual/remote meetings, trainings and activities: Erie County Chamber Government Affairs Committee, Region 1 and Statewide Superintendent conference calls (bi-weekly), Governor DeWine press conference calls, OPRA member Friday Five call, Kiwanis, FCFC Executive Board meeting, OPRA conference, ECHO TA session, Erie DD Provider Zoom Meeting, Erie Self Advocates Meeting, United Way Program committee, United Way Board Meeting, Business Managers statewide zoom meeting, OACB Statewide PR Network committee zoom meeting, Erie County Commissioners meeting, EI OACB Committee meeting, Next Level Leadership training (Kitty Brandal), Early Childhood Advisory Governors Committee, and Supported Decision Making OSDA.
- **Media/Public Relations:**
  - Sandusky Register article:
    - *Board supports sensory kits effort-* May 6, 2021 (handout)
  - Community Connections Calendar- visit the ECBDD website at [www.eriecbdd.org/events](http://www.eriecbdd.org/events) for our full calendar of events.
- **Personnel:**
  - We have posted for 2 SSA positions (one SSA moving to Michigan and one SSA took a job in Fremont to be closer to home).
- **Facility:** We are in the process of finalizing several new spaces in our building. During the HVAC renovations we identified approximately 12 spaces for staff to use as multi-purpose rooms (meetings, virtual visits, etc.). We are also developing a “wellness/calming” space for staff to access if they are in need of a private space to take a wellness break.
- **Accreditation:** We are scheduled for our DODD Accreditation site visit on July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. DODD has reached out to us and we will be coordinating documents and planning meetings for their site visit. We will be coordinating interviews during that time for reviewers to speak with a few of our Board Members. We will be reaching out to schedule this closer to the time of the review.
- **Adult Day Services (ADS) & Residential Services:** Felicia Zendejas and Carrie are continuing to connect with Residential and Adult Day providers through monthly Zoom meetings. We are planning a survey to assess the types of supports we may be able to offer providers to assist, as providers continue to try to recruit and hire new direct service providers.

- **DSP-Labor Workforce Shortage:** Superintendents across the state are working to support a Medicaid Rate increase for waiver services. Superintendents and OACB are taking to the legislature the possibility of a 1% and 4% increase with variation in amounts per year. The House has turned down any type of a rate increase we continue to lobby in the Senate and at the Finance Committee level for some type of increase to support a movement from the current average DSP hourly pay rate of \$10.00 to \$11.00 towards a \$15.00 per hour wage. Rachel and I are analyzing and calculating local impacts for our board in projecting our costs for the future. At Superintendent meetings, Carrie has advocated for a 1% increase each year of the next two-year state budget. Carrie also stated Erie DD is open to discussion about any other options that may be proposed.  
 Felicia and Carrie are in regular contact with our residential and day habilitation providers to monitor any crisis workforce issues and discuss and supports the board may be able to provide locally. We have individuals who are looking for in home supports but not being able to find providers at this time and we continue to work to find a provider.
- **State Budget:** Once again, OACB testified as part of panel of DD stakeholder organizations that included The Arc of Ohio, the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA), and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). In particular, OACB's testimony expressed support for the following appropriations and policy items:
  - **Addressing the DSP workforce crisis with a rate increase** as outlined by DD system stakeholders before House and Senate committees.
  - **Investment in assistive technology and remote supports** to help people served maintain access to services and social connections.
  - **Continuation of state support for Part C early intervention services** to promote wider eligibility for children in need.
  - **Funding for innovative tools to assist multi-system youth** and their families through initiatives the Ohio Department of Medicaid and DODD.
  - **Cutting administrative red tape** by making certain departmental audits discretionary and inserting cleanup language.
- **COVID Update:** Carrie has reached out to all staff to assure they had access to a COVID vaccination should they be trying to access the vaccine. We have streamlined our health assessment form for those entering the building and employees. We continue to monitor and assess the need for additional changes to our protocols as we move forward. Carrie will be updating the ECBDD COVID guidelines to align with the Ohio Health Orders which will be lifted on 6/2/21. Beginning in June through year end, Board Members may attend meetings in a hybrid setting, in person or virtually.
- **OACB updates:**  
**Proposed HB 140:** House passes levy language bill (HB140), OACB to continue advocacy in Senate. The specific provision in House Bill 140 that we oppose is the proposal to convey a levy's rate in dollars per \$100,000 of county auditor's appraised value rather than per \$100 in taxable value under current law. We find that this change will not provide a meaningful improvement to transparency, and in some cases will make the language objectively less transparent. Further, because this language may be misleading to voters it may become the basis for future legal challenges.

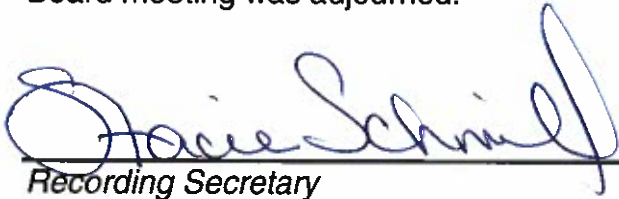
Not all types of property in Ohio are taxed uniformly. Presenting a levy on the basis of a property's taxable value takes into account the differing rates that apply to various classifications of property. The "appraised value" standard in the bill however will not take those differences into account, leading to instances where the tax bill suggested in the ballot language may differ significantly from what will ultimately be owed. Those discrepancies could lead to legal challenges, particularly when large commercial or industrial property owners may owe a fiduciary duty to their shareholders to aggressively pursue potential reductions in their tax liability. In its place, we propose the current law be updated to convey the levy's rate in dollars per \$1,000 of taxable value. This change would promote a better understanding of the definition of a "mill," and allow for slightly easier estimation of individual tax liability. Additionally, we suggest a requirement that county auditors use standardized language when describing property values, and that such language conform to the language used on ballots. Currently, county auditors use a wide variety of terms to describe what is technically referred to as "taxable value" and "true value," and when those terms differ from what appears on the ballot it is difficult for even an informed voter to know which value corresponds to their tax liability.

#### **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:41 p.m. Mr. Eric Kibler seconded the motion. With all members in favor the motion passed, and the May Board meeting was adjourned.

  
Recording Secretary

6-15-21  
Date