

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.
801 W. Union Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

**The Mission of the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to serve our
community with compassion, innovation, and transparency**

1. Margaret Demko, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call (all attended via Zoom).

ALLEN	Present
BOND	Present
DEMKO	Present
JOLLEY	Present
LEWIS	Present
OLIVER	Present

Administrative Staff in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Steve Kramer	Director of Finance & Operations
Gwen Brooks	Director of Human Resources
Becky Martin	Director of Education
Richard Suehrstedt	Director of Service & Support
Autumn Brown	Director of Integrate Athens
Scott Zielinski	Medicaid Services Manager
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent

Others in attendance:

Jack Pepper	Kendall Dearing	Alaina Harper
Megan Stack	Tina Wilson	Angela Mosher
Kris Dunlap	Starla Chiki	Heidi Smart
Jona Moberg	Susan Weaver	Tosha Kasler
Lyn Stanton	Krystal Palmer	Tricia Congo
Jerry Swackhamer	Lindsay Moore	Charlene Ross
Beth Maccombs	Ruth Robertson	Jennifer Brown

3. Oliver read the Mission Statement.
4. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve agenda.

MOTION#: 07-28-01

MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: ALLEN
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEIWS OLIVER
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Dr. Jolley motioned to add Juneteenth as a paid holiday for ACBDD staff.

Discussion: Dr. Lewis walked the board members through a PowerPoint presentation on the topic of Juneteenth and the significance of recognizing it as a paid holiday for staff. Dr. Jolley, Oliver and Dr. Allen expressed support. Oliver added this is in line with the ACBDD's mission. Bond was not in support, stating in her opinion it was a political move and not in line with what a county board should do.

MOTION#: 07-28-02
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: ALLEN
AYES: ALLEN, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER
NAY: BOND
CARRIES: YES

- b. Updates to ACBDD's response to COVID-19.

- Demko invited Jack Pepper, Administrator with the Athens City-County Health Department, to provide a local update on the pandemic.

Pepper summarized where things stand locally, as it relates to COVID-19. He stated the safest way to return to school in the fall is in an online platform, as outlined by the CDC guidelines. He added that he understands there will be some exceptions to that rule, particularly with the population served by the ACBDD.

Dr. Davis walked the board through the school restart options included in the packet (Exhibit 1, Page 1). He began by stating there are two conflicting aspects of this conversation. On the one hand, we have students who would struggle with social distancing, struggle with wearing PPE, and have compromised immune systems. On the other hand, they struggle with online learning, need their therapies, and need time in the pool. That said, the committee tasked with reviewing this plan created three options for the start of the school year:

1. All students return to school on a regular basis with several new safety protocols in place (Exhibit 2, Pages 2-11).
2. All students are provided instruction online only (Exhibit 3, Pages 12-13).
3. The majority of instruction will be provided online with some instruction and all therapies conducted in-person at school, with several new safety protocols in place (Exhibit 4, Pages 14-15). This plan will have one student in a classroom each day, meaning only seven students will be in the building simultaneously at any given time. Students will be in the building on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. A rotating schedule will be developed in the coming days and shared with families. Wednesday will be reserved for teacher preparations and check-ins and for deep cleaning of the building. On days not spent in the building, students will receive online instruction. The ACBDD's daily delivery of breakfast and lunch, which was initiated for the first time in mid-March and continued through July 2, will start again at no cost to families. Families will also have the option of doing all instruction online, if they so choose.

Dr. Davis added that he and his team will provide an update every month assessing whether they need to scale back to online only or if they can increase the number of students in the building each day. These decisions will be made in consultation with the health department and depending on whether the county is seeing a spike in new cases of COVID-19.

Pepper said he supported Option 3 because of the new safety protocols proposed and the small number of students in the building all at once.

Extensive discussion included questions and comments from board members, administrators, parents and staff.

Bond motioned to approve Option 3, with the expectation that Administration will provide an update and a re-evaluation at the September board meeting and every month thereafter.

MOTION#: 07-28-03

MOTION: BOND

SECOND: LEWIS

AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER

CARRIES: YES

- Re-opening plans – Dr. Davis updated the board that the new soft reopening date will be Aug. 17.
- Dr. Allen motioned to suspend all in-person services conducted by the ACBDD if Athens County reaches Level 4 (Purple), as determined by the Ohio Department of Health/State of Ohio, until such a time when the level changes back to Level 3 (Red) or lower (exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent).

MOTION#: 07-28-04
 MOTION: ALLEN
 SECOND: OLIVER
 AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER
 CARRIES: YES

- Dr. Davis provided the board members an update related to changes in waiver costs since start of pandemic (Exhibit 5, Pages 16-17).
- Dr. Lewis motioned to cancel the August board meeting, so long as a meeting is not needed.

MOTION#: 07-28-05
 MOTION: LEWIS
 SECOND: BOND
 AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER
 CARRIES: YES

- c. Dr. Allen motioned to approve the updated program calendars (Exhibit 6, Pages 18-20).

MOTION#: 07-28-06
 MOTION: ALLEN
 SECOND: BOND
 AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER
 CARRIES: YES

- d. Dr. Allen motioned to approve the updated policies in Batch 5 (Exhibit 7, Pages 21-22, plus digital packet).

MOTION#: 07-28-07
 MOTION: ALLEN
 SECOND: LEWIS
 AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER
 CARRIES: YES

- e. Board members reviewed as first reading the updated policies in Batch 6 (Exhibit 8, Page 23, plus digital packet).
- f. Board members reviewed progress made on the Managers List (Exhibit 9, Page 24).

Motions for vote:

- g. Oliver motioned to approve June Regular Board Meeting Minutes, with the necessary edit (Exhibit 10, Pages 25-31).

MOTION#: 07-28-08

MOTION: OLIVER

SECOND: LEWIS

AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER

CARRIES: YES

- 6. Board Reports – Written reports only this month; no in-person updates:
 - a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 11, Pages 32-37).
Report stands. He added the soft reopening will be Aug. 17. He also expressed appreciation to staff for their flexibility during this difficult time.
 - b. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 12, Pages 38-40).
Report stands.
 - c. Director of Finance and Operations, Steve Kramer (Exhibit 13, Pages 41-50).
Report stands.
 - d. Director of Service and Support, Richard Suehrstedt (Exhibit 14, Page 51).
Report stands.
 - e. Director of Employment Options, Doug Mitchell (Exhibit 15, Pages 52-55).
Report stands.
 - f. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 16, Pages 56-58).
Report stands.
 - g. MUI Coordinator, Katie Evans (Exhibit 17, Page 59).
Report stands.
 - h. Director of Human Resources, Gwen Brooks (Exhibit 18, Pages 60-62).
Report stands.

- i. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Butch Withem (Exhibit 19, Page 63).
Report stands.
7. Administration addressed two questions from staff – one about testing options and the other about how to handle if a staff member contracts COVID-19.
8. Kendall Dearing said she appreciates the option to come into the building to provide therapies. She also thanked Martin and Davis for creating the committee made up of school staff to come up with these options.
9. Dr. Lewis asked about the protocol for coming into the building. Dr. Davis shared those details. Bond also clarified that board training will be postponed until September. Demko asked about whether we have capacity to take new students, if some parents decide they want their child to attend Beacon. Dr. Davis said that process would follow normal protocols and would be dependent on a referral from the home district and whether a particular classroom has space.
10. Bond motioned to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

MOTION#: 07-28-09

MOTION: OLIVER

SECOND: LEWIS

AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OLIVER

CARRIES: YES