

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 26, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
Beacon School – 801 W. Union Street

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

1. Dr. Davis, Superintendent, called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call.

ALLEN	Present
BOND	Present
CONNER	Present
DEMKO	Absent
JOLLEY	Absent (arrived by 6:10 p.m.)
LEWIS	Absent
OCHES	Present

Staff / Others in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent
Steve Kramer	Director of Finance
Scott Zielinski	Director of Finance
Gwen Brooks	Director of Human Resources
Stephanie Kendrick	MUI Coordinator
Tristin Lawrence	Director of Service & Support
Chris Linscott	Director of Facilities & Transportation
Becky Martin	Director of Education
Autumn Brown	Director of Integrate Athens
Amy Goldsberry	SSA / PGO
Kendall Berry	Speech Therapist
Doug Mitchell	Transition Coordinator
Jennifer Hokane	Intern

3. Dr. Davis read the Mission Statement.
4. Dr. Allen motioned to approve the agenda.

MOTION#: 10-25-22-1

MOTION: ALLEN
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Dr. Davis stated the board meetings going forward will include a presentation from each program. This is an effort to make staff feel more appreciated and more connected to the board members. The first presentation was provided by Kendall Berry, Speech Therapist at Beacon School. The presentation consisted of an overview of success stories revolving around communication, and another success story focused on an in-school “field trip.”
- b. Dr. Davis provided a budget update for the board covering the following areas:
 - Healthy Futures Workgroup – Dr. Davis briefly walked the board members through the latest batch of assessed proposals. The eight presented this evening included reviewing the student-to-staff ratio at Beacon School, assessing the need for the Instructor Assistant Floater position, assessing PersonnelPlus adding the internal training store as part of their OOD services, assessing moving PersonnelPlus out of the mall and into the Lavelle Road building, reducing the cap of vacation payouts, reviewing not filling naturally vacant positions, assessing voluntary staff reductions, reviewing the opportunities involving retire/rehire. Next steps – the Workgroup will assign each of the proposals into one of three buckets – something we should do, something we could do, and something we likely will not do. These will be presented to the board when they are ready. There was brief discussion about the overall budget breakdown and future levy options.
 - Medicaid rate increases – Dr. Davis provided an update on where the Medicaid rate increase proposals stand. He reminded the board of the 6.5% retention payments approved in March/April. In September, he shared the OACB led an effort related to another increase, which ultimately was 3.5%, for a total of 10% increase. This is even true when 16 counties indicated they could not afford anything more, including Athens County. In the last week, counties are being pushed by OACB’s administration again to offer up more. Dr. Davis acknowledged Dr. Jolley’s role as an OACB board member. He differentiated between the OACB board and the OACB administration. The OACB’s administration is advocating for an additional 3%, which would result in a 13% increase this year. Due to feedback from several Superintendents, late this evening, the latest survey from OACB was put on pause. Also, information that recently came directly from the DODD Director is not lining up with the information being shared by the OACB. Dr. Davis shared the reason we did not support the additional 3.5% increase from September is because the ACBDD cannot commit funds that it does not have. However, this increase passed by majority, and so the ACBDD has to plan to accommodate this increase. The ACBDD will continue to indicate in any future surveys that it cannot contribute anymore

without jeopardizing the agency's sustainability. Dr. Davis shared the concerns of Superintendents in similar situations that they do not feel the OACB is adequately representing their interests. Dr. Jolley echoed these statements and shared his attempts to bring this discussion to the OACB board.

- Reviewing three scenarios of the ACBDD's 10-year forecast – The topic above segued into the review of the ACBDD's 10-year budget forecast. Dr. Davis shared that if the 13% increase is approved and it is determined that we have to do this, the ACBDD will be deficit spending by next year. Dr. Davis added that a living wage is needed for direct care staff, but sourcing it entirely from county boards is not an ideal solution. Dr. Jolley praised Dr. Davis for his leadership and advocacy for counties like the ACBDD. Dr. Jolley said he has empowered other Superintendents who for whatever reason do not have the ability to advocate as strongly. Dr. Davis added that the OACB is moving forward with the majority, when it should instead build consensus.
- Driver stipend – Dr. Allen motioned to approve providing a \$1/hour stipend for any staff person who provides transportation (van or bus) to Beacon School students from Monday, Oct. 31, 2022. This stipend will terminate at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. The future of this stipend will be addressed in the summer of 2023. This is due to the driver shortage, which includes recruitment/retention challenges and the comparable wages to other school districts.

MOTION#: 10-25-22-2
MOTION: ALLEN
SECOND: BOND
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- c. Dr. Davis reminded the board on where they stand with regards to required trainings. Smedley will send out reminders on how to access online trainings, for those who still need CEUs. Board members have until the end of the year to complete their four hours of required professional development.
- d. Dr. Davis provided a summarized Strategic Plan Action Plan update (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-5). In May, it was reported that 14 initiatives were in progress and 1 was completed. At present, we have 9 in progress and 6 completed.
- e. Board members discussed future meetings/trainings. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Motions for vote:

- a. Bond motioned to approve September 2022 Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2, Pages 6-10).

MOTION#: 10-25-22-3
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: ALLEN
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- b. Oches motioned to approve contract with Health Recovery Services (HRS) for psychological services, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 3, Pages 11-14).

MOTION#: 10-25-22-4
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: ALLEN
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- c. Bond motioned to approve Services Agreement with Athens County Public Library (Exhibit 4, Page 15)

MOTION#: 10-25-22-5
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 5, Pages 16-18).
Report stands.

Dr. Davis highlighted several changes coming for PersonnelPlus, as outlined in his board report. There was brief discussion about the implications of no longer being an OOD vendor and no longer going through CARF accreditation. Dr. Davis shared the decisions to move forward are in consultation with the impacted staff and the union. After getting additional clarification, board members expressed support for the outlined changes.

He added it is close to time for his evaluation. After brief discussion, it was decided to follow the same process as in years past and to add an executive session to the December meeting.

- b. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 6, Pages 19-27).
Report stands. Zielinski added the 2023 operating budget will be worked on in the coming weeks. He encouraged board members to ask questions at any time.
- c. Director of Human Resources, Gwen Brooks (Exhibit 7, Pages 28-30).
Report stands.

- d. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 8, Page 31).
Report stands. He thanked the board for the driver stipend. He added he just completed the tri-annual asbestos review of Beacon School.
 - e. MUI Coordinator, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 9, Page 32).
Report stands.
 - f. Director of Service and Support, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 10, Pages 33-35).
Report stands.
 - g. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 11, Pages 36-37).
Report stands. She thanks the board for the delivery of goodies to staff.
 - h. Director of Employment Options, Angela Carter (Exhibit 12, Pages 38-39).
Report stands.
 - i. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 13, Pages 40-41).
Report stands. She also thanks the board for their donation.
 - j. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 14, Pages 42-49).
Report stands. She announced it was Steve Kramer's final board meeting, as he plans to retire on Nov. 11. Dr. Davis expressed his appreciation for his hard work in helping the agency get on a solid financial footing and helping the agency be where it is today.
- 7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.
 - 8. No comments from Unions relative to the agenda.
 - 9. No comments from the Board.
 - 10. No group photo taken. We will attempt to do this at a future meeting.
 - 11. Bond motioned to adjourn.

MOTION#: 10-25-22-6
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: ALLEN
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES
CARRIES: YES