

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 4, 2023 – 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. Margaret Demko, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call.

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|--------|-------------------------------|
| ALLEN | Present |
| BOND | Present |
| CONNER | Absent |
| DEMKO | Present |
| JOLLEY | Present |
| LEWIS | Absent (arrived by 6:15 p.m.) |
| OCHES | Present |

Staff / Others in Attendance:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Dr. Kevin Davis | Superintendent |
| Arian Smedley | Assistant Superintendent |
| Scott Zielinski | Director of Finance |
| Gwen Brooks | Director of Human Resources |
| Tristin Lawrence | Director of Services & Support |
| Chris Linscott | Director of Facilities & Transportation |
| Stephanie Kendrick | MUI Coordinator |
| Becky Martin | Director of Education |
| Angela Carter | Director of Employment Options |
| Autumn Brown | Director of Integrate Athens |
| Doug Mitchell | Transition Coordinator |
| Jerry Swackhamer | SSA, PGO |
| Kendall Berry | Speech Therapist, ABEA |
| Crestlyn Chaney | Instructor Assistant, ABEA |

3. Oches read the Mission Statement.
4. Jolley motioned to approve the agenda.

MOTION#: 4-4-23-1
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: OCHES

AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, OCHES

CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Demko asked everyone in the audience for introductions.
- b. Doug Mitchell, Transition Coordinator, ran through a presentation on the ACBDD's Transition Services.
- c. Dr. Davis provided a budget update for the board. He walked the members through an updated 10-year cost projection. He described it as a very lean budget. He also shared this is the first time DODD will publish publically the cost projections from every county board of DD.

While the forecast is required by law, it is something we'd do regardless, because it serves as a roadmap for the agency. We have little control over some costs. But he noted some of the local efforts (Healthy Futures Workgroup, insurance changes, etc.) have made a positive impact on the financial forecast. Even still, the agency still faces financial concerns in the near future. Dr. Davis focused the review on the projected revenue and projected expenses.

Over the past few years, he reminded the board years 2023, 2024, and 2025 would be the years of most financial concern. The most recent cost projection tool still shows this to be true – the agency begins deficit spending in 2025. Deficit spending means dipping into the agency's reserves. He added that this will be further complicated by the fact that there is another push at the state level for additional rate increases for direct support professionals. The current cost projection tool does not account for that, as those discussions are ongoing.

There was discussion about what costs increases we are seeing. Those include waiver match, supported living, and the DSP retention payment program. There also was discussion about the next levy cycle and the options to consider. There was also discussion about the anticipated number of waivers in a given year. There was additional discussion about the implications of another increase statewide.

Dr. Davis reminded the board there will come a day when difficult conversations will need to be had about how best to use local dollars, given our obligations to meet waiver match and other costs.

- d. Dr. Davis provided the board with a roof update. He shared the bid has been publicized. The pre-bid meeting is April 12. The estimated cost is \$600,000. While it is very

expensive, it is also very needed. Bids open April 25. If all goes according to plan, the work will begin this summer.

- e. Dr. Davis provided an update on the Emerging Leaders Program (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-3). He highlighted the fact that nearly half (or more) of the management team may be retiring in the next two-to-eight years. To best prepare, he created this program. He was pleased to see representation from the current management team, the SSA department, and a union. He walked the board through the exhibit, which spelled out some of the topics to be discussed and other details.
- f. Dr. Jolley motioned to approve new Administrative Policy 24a. Procurement (Exhibit 2, Pages 4-7).

MOTION#: 4-4-23-2
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- g. Board members discussed future meetings/trainings:
 - Next board training: Tuesday, April 25, 5 p.m.
 - Next regular meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 6:00 p.m.

Motions for vote:

- a. Dr. Jolley motioned to approve February 2023 Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 3, Pages 8-11).

MOTION#: 4-4-23-3
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: ALLEN
AYES: ALLEN, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
ABSTAIN: BOND
CARRIES: YES

- b. Oches motioned to approve March 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 4, Pages 12-13).

MOTION#: 4-4-23-4
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- c. Dr. Allen motioned to approve proposal for student teacher stipends (Exhibit 5, Pages 14-15).

MOTION#: 4-4-23-5
MOTION: ALLEN
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- d. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve administration to take all necessary steps (including enter into an agreement with Ohio University, hire staff, etc.) in order to plan for a 2023 Summer Camp in partnership with Kids on Campus.

MOTION#: 4-4-23-6
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: ALLEN
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- e. Oches motioned to approve Service & Support Administration Phone System Proposal (Exhibit 6, Pages 16-17).

MOTION#: 4-4-23-7
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 7, Pages 18-61).
Report stands. He highlighted the recently published ACBDD Special Edition.
- b. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 8, Pages 62-68).
Report stands. He highlighted the recent purchase of smartboards and new AED units.
- c. Director of Human Resources, Gwen Brooks (Exhibit 9, Pages 69-71).
Report stands. She highlighted recent hire: Tracy Clem, new custodian. She added we are still looking for a new driver.
- d. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 10, Page 72-73).
Report stands. He highlighted his recent hire, as well, and added he's hopeful the roof project will be able to move forward next month.

- e. MUI Coordinator, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 11, Page 74).
Report stands. She highlighted that Angela Carter, Employment Options Director, is now serving as the agency's back-up MUI Coordinator when Kendrick is out of the office.
 - f. Director of Service and Support, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 12, Pages 75-77).
Report stands. She highlighted the success being seen in two individuals who are residing the agency's respite home. After working through a very challenging, unfortunate and difficult situation involving these two, they are healthy and thriving now in the respite home, which will serve as their temporary home while the team looks for permanent housing.
 - g. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 13, Pages 78-79).
Report stands. She highlighted the school's increase integration efforts. Morrison-Gordon preschool students visit for gym time with Beacon's preschool students. Two special education classrooms from M-G also visit for swim time. A future collaboration with the school may involve their garden.
 - h. Director of Employment Options, Angela Carter (Exhibit 14, Page 80).
Report stands. She highlighted Job Club, which has now expanded into other schools. Beacon's Job Club is now incorporating the mock store. Lastly, Job Club students at Beacon will run a new coffee cart, where coffee and snacks will be sold.
 - i. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 15, Pages 81-84).
Report stands. She highlighted the successful conclusion of DD Awareness Month. A new piece of the month's activities included an Advocacy Day at Beacon School, which was designed to teach the basics of self-advocacy.
 - j. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 16, Pages 85-89).
Report stand. For Early Intervention, she highlighted the soon-to-be developed Developmental Play Group that will be run by Jodi Mitchell, Developmental Specialist. This will be for specific youth who would benefit from social interactions with peers. For Transition, she highlighted the revised Teen Time, which generated the highlighted the highest RSVPs and had representation from Athens City Schools, Beacon School, and Trimble Local Schools.
7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.
8. Regarding comments from Unions relative to the agenda, Kendall Berry shared she is a proud union president for the things each program is doing.
9. No comments from the Board.

10. Oches motioned to enter into Executive Session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee at 7:10 p.m.

MOTION#: 4-4-23-7
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: JOLLEY
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

11. Dr. Jolley motioned to return from Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.

MOTION#: 4-4-23-8
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

12. Bond motioned to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

MOTION#: 4-4-23-9
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES