

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 26, 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 6:00 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call.

ALLEN	Present
BOND	Present
CONNER	Present
DEMKO	Present
JOLLEY	Present
LEWIS	Present
OCHES	Present

Staff / Others in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent
Scott Zielinski	Director of Finance
Tristin Lawrence	Director of Services & Support
Chris Linscott	Director of Facilities & Transportation
Angela Carter	Director of Employment Options
Becky Martin	Director of Education
Jerry Swackhamer	SSA, PGO
Doug Mitchell	Transition, ABEA
Crestlyn Chaney	Beacon, ABEA
Susan Cablish-Kristofco	Beacon, ABEA

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

MOTION#: 9-26-23-1
MOTION: ALLEN
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. For the budget update, Dr. Davis shared the agency's latest 10-year waiver cost projections, using a newly developed tool provided by DODD. The tool standardizes something the agency has been doing for several years. Now, all counties will be expected to use this waiver cost projection tool, which will be helpful for gaining a clearer picture of the financial health of county boards statewide.

The handout included budget information in three different scenarios – 0% annual cost increase for waivers, 3% annual cost increase for waivers, and 7% annual cost increase for waivers. The average annual cost increase for IO waivers in Athens County over the last three years is approximately 7%. For all three scenarios, the assumption is that the agency takes on five new IO waivers each year, which is a conservative average.

Even when looking at the first scenario (0% annual cost increase for waivers), the costs increase for the agency substantially. By 2028, the agency projects a 60% cost increase when compared to today.

When looking at the third scenario (7% annual cost increase for waivers), the agency projects 182% increase in costs by 2028.

Dr. Davis reminded the board that these expected financial challenges have been discussed for many years. He reiterated that the timeframe discussed for all those years is coming to a head.

He reminded the board that the agency does have the maximum amount allowable in the reserve account. However, based on the projections, funds held in the reserve account would not be sufficient to cover these increased costs without changes to revenue/expenses.

Discussion touched on the following topics:

- The state's reaction to this information (from all counties)
- What other counties are experiencing
- Levies
- Mandated vs. non-mandated services
- Finding a balance at the local level
- The option of charging for excess costs

Dr. Davis recommended the board's budget committee convene regularly starting in 2024. They would be tasked with investigating and discussing these issues and to come up with possible recommendations for how to best address the coming budget shortfall.

- b. Dr. Davis provided an update on the roof project. He shared the project is approximately 98% complete. The board members were shown a series of photos showing the current state of the roof, including the areas that still need work. The cost is expected to be approximately \$800,000. Dr. Davis added the condition of the roof was far worse than was initially thought, which explains the high costs. He stressed the importance of having a structurally sound roof, and the fact this investment will protect the facility for another 20 years.
- c. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve the updated policies (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-23).

MOTION#: 9-26-23-2
 MOTION: LEWIS
 SECOND: ALLEN
 AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
 CARRIES: YES

- d. Dr. Davis shared information about Beacon School’s support for both students and staff. These supports are primarily in place to help address challenging situations that impact the school day. Through the deliberate implementation of the noted strategies, it is our hope to foster a nurturing learning environment conducive to the success of both students and staff alike.
- e. Board members discussed future meetings/trainings. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 6:00 p.m. Board members who have completed trainings signed their training forms. Dr. Davis also shared county boards, starting in October, will have the flexibility of having hybrid meetings. Next board meeting, members will be asked to review and approve a policy that will allow for this flexibility.

Motions for vote:

- a. Dr. Allen motioned to approve August 2023 Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2, Pages 24-28).

MOTION#: 9-26-23-3
 MOTION: ALLEN
 SECOND: OCHES
 AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
 CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 3, Pages 29-41). Report stands. He added that we do not have an update on the staff engagement survey project. The hold-up is on the vendor’s end. We hope to have more information at the next board meeting.

- b. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 4, Pages 42-43).
Report stands. She shared information about the success of Grandparents Day, the ODOT plow project, the upcoming resident artist project, and the increase in attendance at the PTA meeting.
 - c. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 5, Pages 44-53).
Report stands. He added grants from ODE are expected to increase by approximately \$140,000 the next few fiscal years, which is welcomed news given the budget concerns.
 - d. Director of Human Resources, Gwen Brooks (Exhibit 6, Pages 54-56).
Report stands.
 - e. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 7, Page 57).
Report stands. He highlighted the roof project and the success of onboarding of two new drivers.
 - f. MUI Coordinator, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 8, Page 58).
Report stands.
 - g. Director of Service and Support, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 9, Pages 59-63).
Report stands. She highlighted the focus right now for SSAs is preparing for accreditation. Next steps will be to create and finalize the itinerary for the two-day review. There was brief discussion about the opening conference and board member participation in the review. Also, Case Management week is slated for the week of Oct. 9.
 - h. Director of Employment Options, Angela Carter (Exhibit 10, Page 64).
Report stands. She highlighted the start of Job Club at Beacon, the Employment Program Plus picnic last month, and plans for the upcoming Halloween party.
 - i. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 11, Pages 65-66).
Report stands. On Brown's behalf, Dr. Davis highlighted the upcoming Sibshops, which is a new initiative for the agency. Athens is one of 10 counties piloting this program in the state.
 - j. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 12, Pages 67-71).
Report stands. She highlighted EI's focus is also on accreditation. For Transition, she highlighted the success of a recent Teen Time event and the continued work Doug is doing to connect with transition-age youth.
7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.
8. No comments from Unions relative to the agenda.

9. Regarding comments from the Board, Bond extended an invite to an ongoing lunchtime event at the Shade Community Center, the first and third Wednesday of every month – 11:30-2:30. Anyone is welcome. Lunch is provided, and sometimes attendees play bingo or do a craft.

Demko thanked Dr. Jolley for helping her facilitate the meeting this evening, as she had a few conflicts that pulled her away briefly. She also thanked Dr. Davis for including in his board report highlights from her daughter’s experience advocating in Washington D.C.

10. Bond motioned to adjourn.

MOTION#: 9-26-23-4

MOTION: BOND

SECOND: LEWIS

AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES

CARRIES: YES