

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 24, 2025 – 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.

BOND	Present
CONNER	Present
DEMKO	Present
GÜT-ZIPPERT	Present – virtual
JOLLEY	Present
LEWIS	Present – virtual
OCHES	Present

Staff / Others in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent
Scott Zielinski	Director of Finance
Stephanie Kendrick	Director of Service & Support Administration
Angela Carter	MUI Coordinator
Doug Mitchell	Transition, ABEA

3. Demko read the Mission Statement.
4. Dr. Jolley motioned to approve the amended agenda, which added outcome of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting.

MOTION#: 6-24-25-1
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Dr. Davis provided the board an update on Rays Days Summer Camp. He shared camp so far has been going great, with the first week focused on training and the second week including two fieldtrips. He shared a handout that contained photos from camp thus far. He added the schedule has been adjusted from time to time due to inclement weather. He added this is an opportunity given for individuals who may not have other summer camp opportunities. In addition, camp this year has employed Camp Assistants, who are individuals served. Lastly, he reminded board members are welcome to stop by any time to visit. Board members with personal connection to the camp shared their positive experiences so far, as well.
- b. Dr. Davis provided an update on Community & Career Exploration Program – Week 1. This is an evolution of the summer youth program we have done in the past. This year’s program incorporated community experiences, like riding transit, learning how to vote at the Athens County Board of Elections, visiting various establishments, and experiencing the traditional job shadowing opportunities.
- c. Oches motioned to approved updated policies (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-11).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared highlighted changes to the Remote Work and Waiting List policies.

MOTION#: 6-24-25-2
 MOTION: OCHES
 SECOND: BOND
 AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
 CARRIES: YES

- d. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the Beacon yearbook (Enclosed). There was brief discussion about the timing of its publication. It was later this year in order to include the current school year’s graduation photos. For Beacon School students who attend camp, they received their yearbooks. Those who do not attend camp, their yearbooks will be mailed.
- e. Board members discussed future meetings/trainings:
 - i. No meeting in July.
 - ii. Training: Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
 - iii. Regular meeting: Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Motions for vote:

- a. Dr. Lewis motioned to approved Administration exploring the 510 W. Union Street property as an opportunity for the agency.

Discussion: Dr. Davis provided a summary of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting discussion and recommendation. He shared the space could be used for several divisions – SSA, Integrate Athens, EI, and possibly others. The location is ideal, as well. The first few steps would include having conversations with the Athens County Commissioners and getting an inspection completed. He added this recommendation will allow him to gather information; no action will be taken until after he reports back to the board.

MOTION#: 6-24-25-3
MOTION: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- a. Dr. Jolley motioned to approve May Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2, Pages 12-17).

MOTION#: 6-24-25-4
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, CONNER, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS
ABSTAIN: DEMKO, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- b. Oches motioned to approve agreement with Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center for OT services at Beacon School, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 3, Page 18).

MOTION#: 6-24-25-5
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- c. Dr. Jolley motioned to approve agreement with Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center for PT services at Beacon School, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 4, Page 19-21).

MOTION#: 6-24-25-6
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- d. Oches motioned to approve renewed agreement with the Athens County Family & Children First Council (FCFC), pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 5, Pages 22-26).

MOTION#: 6-24-25-7
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- e. Bond motioned to approve FANs COMCorps Agreement, pending prosecuting attorney's approval (Exhibit 6, Page 27).

MOTION#: 6-24-25-8
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: OCHES

AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, LEWIS, OCHES
ABSTAIN: GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY
CARRIES: YES

- f. Oches motioned to approve renewed agreement with Solis Security, pending prosecuting attorney's approval (Exhibit 7, Pages 28-37).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared this would be our second year of working with this group, as a result of the cyber security incident we experienced. It is recommended we continue working with this organization for security purposes.

MOTION#: 6-24-25-9
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- g. Dr. Jolley motioned to approve entering into an agreement with Eagle Consulting (through MEORC) for their Core HIPPA Compliance Package, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 8, Pages 38-52).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared it is recommended we enter into this agreement to assist with cyber security purposes. There was brief discussion about the differences between Solis and Eagle. Solis is focused on end-point detection. Eagle focuses on prevention planning, including staff training.

MOTION#: 6-24-25-10
MOTION: JOLLEY
SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- h. Oches motioned to approve renewed Admission Agreements with three Developmental Centers (CDC, GDC, Mt. Vernon DC), pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 9, Pages 53-79).

MOTION#: 6-24-25-11
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 10, Pages 80-82).
Report stands. In addition, he shared three important updates:

Transportation – He shared the school is struggling to find drivers for the upcoming school year. He added we are also struggling with students who have more intensive needs. He and Chris Linscott, Transportation Director, have already had a conversation with representatives of Athens City Schools to make them aware of the challenges we may face. The school district indicated they would be willing to help. Dr. Davis reminded the board the public-school districts are legally responsible for providing transportation.

Letter to stakeholders – He shared the letter that was sent out to stakeholders regarding the upcoming levy renewal. It is a neutral letter that is strictly factual.

Changes in discussion – Dr. Davis shared in all his years working in this field, he has never seen as many possible changes at both the federal and state levels being discussed all at once. It is unprecedented. A few of the possible changes include:

- Federal level
 - Medicaid, in regards to work eligibility requirements
 - Roll backs on ADA compliance for buildings
 - Cutting back funding for DD agencies, like DD Councils, protection agencies, university centers for excellence, and disability-focused research and grants
- State level
 - Reduction in administrative costs for Medicaid
 - No funding included for DSP raises, which would likely fall onto county boards to provide
 - Eliminating property taxes
 - Eliminating replacement levies
 - Budget commission provisions that would afford them more power, including instituting automatic reviews for any agency with more than 30% carry over
 - Changes to SSA training requirements
 - Require the completion of additional assessments
 - The discussion of the regionalization of assessment completion

Dr. Davis added the OACB has been working hard to help keep county boards stay on top of all of these possible changes.

- b. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 11, Page 83-84).
Report stands.
- c. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 12, Pages 85-94).
Report stands.
- d. Director of Human Resources, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 13, Pages 95-99).
Report stands.
- e. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 14, Page 100).
Report stands.

- f. MUI Coordinator, Angela Carter (Exhibit 15, Page 101).
Report stands.
 - g. Director of Service and Support, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 16, Pages 102-103).
Report stands. She shared the intakes for the department continue to come in. This has resulted in the average caseload size increasing. Dr. Davis added the caseload size increase has reached the cap outlined in the union contract. In turn, a new SSA position has been added to the department. There was brief discussion about the quality of the candidates. She shared there is a grading system in place when reviewing applicants, which help narrow down who to interview. She shared there is some degree of difficulty finding the right candidate, but several are promising.
 - h. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 17, Pages 104-106).
Report stands.
 - i. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 18, Pages 107-111).
Report stands. She highlighted the changes to the upcoming Teen Time event, due to inclement weather in the forecast.
- 7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.
 - 8. No comments from Unions relative to the agenda.
 - 9. Regarding comments from the board, Demko thanked the Cost Review Committee for helping an individual served.
 - 10. Bond motioned to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

MOTION#: 6-24-25-12

MOTION: BOND

SECOND: CONNER

AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES

CARRIES: YES