HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF DD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

6:00 PM REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Hills and Dales Gym

The Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities met in a regular session at 6:02 pm, Tuesday, September 21, 2021. Board Members present: Karen Adams, Paul Pence, John Levo, Elizabeth Fryman (Teams), Michael Richards (Teams), Matthew Roberts and Cheryl Lyle.

Others present were Debra Buccilla, Superintendent, Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant, Kelli Williamson, SSA Director, Lori Moore, Business Director, Kraig Walker, Community First Director, Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director

**ROLL CALL:** Paul Pence, present; John Levo, present; Michael Richards present; Matthew Roberts, present, Elizabeth Fryman, present, Cheryl Lyle, present, Karen Adams, present.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**: NA

**Reports:**

**The minutes of the** August 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved in a motion by John Levo, seconded by Michael Richards. Roll Call. All yea, motion carried.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea, Karen Adams, yea; Michael Richards, yea, Matthew Roberts, yea, Cheryl Lyle,yea**

**New Vendors: No new vendors for September**

**Transfers:** None

**Monthly expenditures for September 2021** were reviewed and approved in a motion by Paul Pence seconded by Matthew Roberts. Roll Call. All yea, motion carried.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea, Michael Richards, yea; Matthew Roberts, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea; Karen Adams, yea**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

* Highco has given a verbal notice that they plan to relocate from the Hills & Dales building to their East Building by the 1st of 2022. Miranda, the Director has done an excellent job in planning for this move and getting the infrastructure in place to accommodate their clientele.

This is timely in that I did have a conversation with public schools superintendents and Beth Justice and the topic of a special program for children with autism again came up for discussion.

* Special Olympics activities have been cancelled or postponed after Nathan Boatman contacted me to express concern for health and safety.
* We did set up a booth for the fair this year. Unfortunately, there were minimal booths set up and the fair attendance was less than in years prior to the pandemic.
* As I indicated last month, we have hired a new Education Director, Bret Malone will join us in our October meeting.
* Larry Gray will be leaving us at the end of the year. He will be taking over as the Executive Director of Metro Housing and our hope will be he will still stay in touch thru our housing program.
* I will be giving Judge Greer notice that Karen’s term will expire by the end of the year. We will certainly miss Karen’s leadership.
* The Times Gazette featured an article on the front page which stated our Preschool did not have any cases of Covid. The article had incorrect information. We have had three cases so far (one staff and 2 students).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Project Updates- Larry Gray**

* Installation of the third door will be completed in October.
* Highland Housing will be building a new home in Leesburg. A lot has been purchased on Route 28 West in Leesburg.

**Provider Scorecard – Kraig Walker**

* Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) just released a scorecard for Highland County Board of DD.  Highland was at 75% with job placement service results and the state average was at 53.90%.
* Job placement outcomes for Median hours of work per week was 27 for Highland and 24 statewide.  Also, the Median Hourly wage was $11.33 for Highland and $10.00 statewide.
* Highland was also noted as being more efficient with length of service at 93.5 days, compared to the 110 day state-wide average.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DODD Accreditation Certification- Debra Buccilla**

As was mentioned last month, we received our three (3) year accreditation and we are very proud of our staff who put together the virtual audit with little to no issues arising.

**COVID Updates Debra Buccilla**

Unfortunately, we have had numerous issues in the preschool. It has been identified and therefore there has been no additional spread within the classrooms. We have had to close classrooms and the school several times over the last few weeks. It has become challenging with the community surge.

**Preschool Tuition – Debra Buccilla**

We have had several families inquire regarding tuition reimbursement for closures. I would like for the Board to consider how we can handle this. There are numerous ways other Boards around the state have handled this situation. Some options include, doing nothing as our tuition is very low anyway; reimbursing for days not in attendance due to closure; reducing tuition for the end of the school year. These are just a few ideas.

**Early Childhood Updates – Suzie Janasov**

Help Me Grow is Ohio’s evidenced-based parent support program that encourages early prenatal and well-baby care, as well as parenting education to promote the comprehensive health and development of children. The Help Me Grow System includes Central Intake, Help Me Grow Home Visiting and Help Me Grow Early Intervention. Early Intervention is a term used to describe the services and supports that are available to babies and young children with developmental delays and disabilities.  Some of the services may include Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy and other types of services based on the needs of the child and family.  Services at a young age can have a significant impact on a child’s ability to learn new skills and overcome challenges and can increase success in school and life.

Our caseload has remained steady.  Because of our IT Department, we were able to immediately serve our families virtually during the Pandemic.  The families responded well to this type of service.

A few months ago, we were able to go into the homes as families chose and the IFSP dictated.  We were able to do in person evaluations unless the family chose otherwise.

Our Home Visiting has been in Highland, Adams, Brown, Pickaway, Clinton and Ross Counties.  We do have a Grant for Highland and Adams (Ohio Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting).  Our other new programs include Child Welfare Protocol (CWP) and Parents as Teachers (PAT).

Due to other home visiting programs in Ross county and their lack of interest in CWP, our HMG home visiting will discontinue services in that county.  We have also recently accepted the resignation of 3 staff members and one was in Ross county.  Pickaway county will be monitored to see if this may also be the case in upcoming months.

**Direct Service Professional (DSP) Crisis- Kelli Williamson**

Our system has been struggling with a workforce crisis for a long time. Unfortunately, with the end of the pandemic now predicted to be much later than we expected due to the Delta variant and other factors, and with direct support professionals (DSPs) leaving our field for jobs in other industries that have significantly increased their wages to attract new employees (like restaurants, retail stores, warehouses, and others), our system is entering a new, much more difficult phase of its workforce shortage.

* Highland County currently serves 225 through Service and Support
* We have three Waiver types:

Level 1 -37 with average cost of $20,990.18

Individual Options- 90 with average cost of $74555.43

SELF- 3 with average cost of $24,723.06

* Currently have 28 active Independent Providers and 9 active Agency Providers
* We are promoting Remote Support to allow an off-site direct service provider to monitor and respond to a person’s health, safety and other needs using live communication, while offering the person more independence in their homes.
* Highland County currently has 14 people on the waiting list with a current need, as defined by rule. Fourteen people with a need and DSP crisis isn’t a good place to be.
* The different scenarios presented can impact the need for Direct Service Providers in addition to overall budget for Highland County Board of DD.

Cheryl Lyle made a motion to adjourn the Highland County Board Meeting at 7:05pm, seconded by John Levo. All yea. Motion carried.

Prepared by: Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant

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Karen Adams, Board President

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Cheryl Lyle, Recording Secretary