



## **Regular Board Meeting May 23, 2024**

**Donzella Administration Building – 1275 Lakeside Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44114  
and broadcasted live via Zoom – 5:30 pm**

### **1. Regular Meeting Opening**

#### **A. Convene**

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Scheidt at 5:30pm.

#### **B. Roll Call**

Members present: Allison Frazier, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Stephen Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Members absent: Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson

### **2. Minutes**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities held April 25, 2024, a copy of which is made a part of the permanent record of this meeting, be accepted as directed by the President, without objection, and approved as published.

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

### **3. Donations**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities gratefully accepts one monetary donation of \$250 and seven equipment donations of unspecified value.

Motion by Steven Licciardi, second by Cynthia Schulz.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

### **4. Financial Statements**

RESOLVED, that the Operating Fund Statement and the Statements of Revenue and Expenditures - Planned and Actual for the year-to-date period ending April 30, 2024, be accepted and filed for audit; the payment of vouchers for the period April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024 be ratified; and that all statements and voucher summaries are made a part of the permanent record of this meeting.

Superintendent Gibbs gave a summary of the financials noting significant variances. We will be overbudget in revenues by 7% for the month. The reasons highlighted for this include: two higher than anticipated budget areas including the local levy revenue related to the Gateway Tax, and also the unexpected, and therefore unbudgeted, waiver reconciliation settlement for FY 2022. In expenditures we are under budget by 6% in our

spending. Many expenses will catch up by the end of the year such as a forthcoming proposal to replace our HVAC controls which will be a significant expenditure. In Administrative contracts our Offenders program and our Independent Living Skills program will be starting in a few months after some minor delays. In Program Services & Supplies we pushed some program renewal costs to later in the year, to be paid in May. In addition, our Sensory Pod is a little delayed, but we continue to move forward with that project.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Steven Licciardi.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Cynthia Schulz, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Alaina McCruel

## **5. Announcements**

President, Steve Scheidt turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Dr. Amber Gibbs who gave the following announcements:

- Cuyahoga DD's All-Staff Meeting was held on May 7, 2024 at the I-X Center. Marilee Fini was the keynote speaker who shared her inspirational personal story of overcoming obstacles and moving through life with a stutter. Staff participated in several activities such as creating professional elevator pitches, where they created concise, persuasive messages about the great work we do. Staff also created a comprehensive Timeline of Cuyahoga DD's history from the 1980s to today. A new tradition of the All-Staff Meeting was announcing the winners of our Staff Awards. Ten employee-nominated staff members were recognized in categories such as Best Customer Service, Rookie of the Year, The Ambassador Award, and The System Impact Award.
- Dr. Gibbs and several other staff attended the OACB Spring Conference on May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>. Four or five groups of Cuyahoga DD Staff presented at conference panels, enabling us to share our agency's expertise with other state stakeholders. The consensus among staff is that the conference was genuinely useful, providing lots of valuable information to all who attended. We were honored to have Allison Frazier and Steve Licciardi participate, as well.
- Cuyahoga DD's Family Fun Fair was held on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Big Creek Center for the first time. It was attended by around 270 people. A Mobility Equipment trial space was offered in the gym, which was well received. Based on feedback from prior Family Fun Days, Cuyahoga DD was inspired to create opportunities for parents to network with each other, such as Self-Care Saturday. Self-Care Saturday was held on Saturday, May 11 and provided free childcare so that parents could partake in chair massages or participate in other activities, like yoga classes, etc. Due to inclement weather, around 20+ families participated in the event. Their feedback has been very positive about the event.
- Dr. Gibbs and a group from Cuyahoga DD met with Rep. Mike Skindell at the HELP Program in Lakewood on Thursday May 23, 2024. The purpose of the visit was to thank Rep. Skindell for his work on the budget last year, to reiterate that the work is not done in terms of wages, and to keep Cuyahoga DD on his radar. It is heartening that he has historically been our champion, and it was he who brought up the wage increase to the table, as he also acknowledged, "We're not done." Two meetings with Rep. Skindell are scheduled in the near future.

## **6. Status Reports**

Dr. Gibbs noted that there are not any significant changes to the Status Report.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Locally Funded Transportation Agreement**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a renewal contract for the provision of transportation services with the providers listed in the attached document titled Locally Funded Transportation Agreement for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, for a sum not to exceed \$170,000; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Superintendent Gibbs commented that this is a routine item, and that amount is based on utilization. This is one area we have typically overbudgeted on, so this year we are attempting to use a more realistic amount. This is for people who are not on the waiver or who can't get transportation through the waiver.

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Steven Licciardi.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

#### **B. Renewal Agreement for Short-Term Admissions to Developmental Centers**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to pay the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DoDD) for services provided to individuals served by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities who are admitted into a DoDD Developmental Center, for an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. There is a Master Short-Term Admission Agreement with DoDD beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025 to allow for the provision of these services. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Superintendent Gibbs commented that this is also a routine item, and the amount represents a decrease of about \$200K from the previous approval period. This service is for short-term stays at developmental centers, because recipients cannot be served in the community due to significant behavioral or safety concerns. The service is costly and we do limit it as much as possible, but it has been extremely valuable to its recipients. About 10 recipients each receive an average of \$180K in services, but there are Cuyahoga DD clients on waivers with much higher amounts than this.

Motion by Steven Licciardi, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

#### **C. Oracle Licensing Renewal with Creal Consulting**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to renew an Oracle financial software licensing agreement with Creal Consulting, of Bethesda, Maryland for the period June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025, for a sum not to exceed \$109,000; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Superintendent Gibbs provided the context that our use of Creal for our Oracle services (financial system that allows us to budget and pay invoices) was being overused for support. Our IT team has identified another vendor we can use for support, and we have been training our IT staff to be able to support our Oracle software end users. We are only continuing a relationship with Creal for licensing as they are the cheapest vendor for Oracle licenses, therefore there will be no cost increase from last year.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

#### **D. Proofpoint Protection Renewals and Software Purchase through Sagient Technologies**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Sagient Technologies of Schaumburg, Illinois for the renewal of Proofpoint Protection DLP and Encryption annual licensing and maintenance, and the purchase of Proofpoint Targeted Attack Protection for a sum not to exceed \$51,500 for the period June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025; and,  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Superintendent Gibbs commented that a similar item was approved by the Board in 2020. The cost went down in the post-pandemic era, but it has now bounced back to \$51,500. It also provides Proofpoint Targeted Attack Protection which provides another layer of protection for Cuyahoga DD's email system. It helps eliminate phishing attacks and helps safeguard our sensitive data.

Motion by Steven Licciardi, second by Cynthia Schulz.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Cynthia Schulz, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Alaina McCruel

#### **8. Comments from the Floor**

There were no comments from the floor.

#### **9. Adjournment**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby adjourns.

Time adjourned: 5:55 pm

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Steven Licciardi.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

#### **10. Discussion Topic - Board Member Training**

Presentation: "Fight for Right - Perspectives from Ukraine on disability services" by Tanya Herasymova, Professional Fellow

Superintendent Gibbs introduced Tanya Herasymova to the Board. Through an opportunity from the Cleveland Council on Foreign Affairs Tanya is one of two Fellows who have been placed in Cleveland for the Professional Fellow position. Tanya is the Director of Fight for Right, a Ukrainian non-profit organization for people with DD. She leads a team of 30 people, of which 60% have disabilities.

Before the war, Fight for Right worked for implementing political change and advocating the cultural rights of its citizens with disabilities, based on the guidelines set forth in the UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities. (UN CRPD). They worked to strengthen the disability community through programs and by making public entertainment spaces accessible for Ukrainians with disabilities (movie theaters, bike marathons, sports arenas, braille books, etc.). They also created the first-ever public-action event for disability visibility called Light for Right.

After the war started, Fight for Right shifted its purpose to address the emerging needs of the disabled community. Transportation and evacuation needs became increasingly necessary. Emergency Response for Ukrainians by Fight for Right began with a team of 10 members who designed and launched these initiatives. A 24/7 hotline was established. Fight for Right reached out to agencies around the world and gained 40 volunteers from other countries and organizations, such as Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategy (US)

and the World Institute on Disabilities, to organize an Emergency Response and to gain global awareness. Assets like a medical vehicle and a storage warehouse were acquired to help disabled Ukrainians.

The results of the Emergency Response initiative have been impressive: 1,500 medical or individual evacuations have been made in flashpoint areas, 1,000 units of assistive devices have been distributed and funds of 25 million Hryvnias (approx. \$619,000, US) have been raised by private and international donors (there is no state money). Fight for Right is also pushing for the reform of institutions where Ukrainians with disabilities have been institutionalized. Since the war began, the status of institutionalized people has been a mystery. Fight for Right is initiating conversations with the State to advocate for systemic reform and the closing of institutions to move toward a more community-based system of support and advocacy.

There were 2.7 million Ukrainians with disabilities before the Russian invasions. During the two years of the Russian war, Fight for Right has helped 20,000+ people with disabilities to connect with humanitarian aid, assistive devices, legal assistance and psychological support. Their motto is “Community for Community” which encapsulates the vision that people with DD can not only be recipients of help, but they can be providers of help, too.

Currently Fight for Right is doing a lot of legal advocacy work to push the reforms regarding institutionalization, and to negotiate with international partners to put pressure on the government of Ukraine to enact those reforms. There are some initiatives, like Coalition on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, started by parents of children with disabilities who also seek institutional reform. They hope the reforms will address the needs of disabled Ukrainians from childhood through adulthood.

Fight for Right is also trying to marshal the World Bank’s recovery funds away from rebuilding the institution-focused system. They are also creating inclusive post-war services for veterans with disabilities, bridging the gap from post-WW2 ideation that created a hierarchy that separated veterans with disabilities and civilians with disabilities.

Intersectionality and women’s rights are other important areas for Fight for Right. One of Tanya’s favorite projects is a collective of teenage girls with disabilities for whom Fight for Right teaches political rights and human rights, supporting them and providing role models to them until the age of 18.

Superintendent Gibbs commented on the similarities of Fight for Right and Cuyahoga DD in that advocacy by parents was instrumental in the creation of both agencies. She shared that Tanya will be spending some time in our homes to compare and contrast Cuyahoga DD with the institution-focused model set in Ukraine. Superintendent Gibbs also mentioned the surprising nature of how the Ukrainian-model tends to lump people with every type of disability under one service umbrella.

At the end of the Q&A session, Superintendent Gibbs thanked Tanya for her “eye opening” presentation. We look forward to Tanya’s thoughts and perspectives over her tenure at Cuyahoga DD.

**Next Meeting** – June 27, 2024 at 5:30 pm, Donzella Administration Building, 1275 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114 and broadcast via Zoom. Zoom link will be shared on the Cuyahoga DD website at [cuyahogadd.org](http://cuyahogadd.org) at least three days prior to the meeting.

Certified by:

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Stephen Scheidt, President

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Mozelle Jackson, Secretary