

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DATE: Special Meeting, Wednesday, December 9, 2020

PLACE: Via Zoom Video/Phone Conference

Public access to meeting is granted by phone. Call 1-646-558-8656, follow prompts to enter meeting ID 87811280901 and password 742854.

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: President

1.1 ROLL CALL: Executive Assistant Lisa Sidoti

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Robert Glasgow		x	(excused)
Andrea Legg		x	(excused)
Donna Wayt		x	(excused)
Stephanie Wilson	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		

1.2 ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

- Items 2 and 3 were added under New Business.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Provider Support Program – COVID-19 Relief for Providers (Discussion only)

The Board passed a resolution in March of 2020 to grant the Superintendent the authority to expend funds as necessary to respond to the COVID-19 state of emergency to ensure the health and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities in Tuscarawas County. The authority granted under that resolution remains in place; however, tonight's meeting is being held to provide the Board an update on the funding limits and categories for COVID-19 relief for providers and allow time for discussion or questions. The COVID-19 relief for providers was originally designed with various categories of funding that focused on personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning, and fixed cost needs in order to help providers financially as we rely on them to continue to provide much-needed services to individuals. The program offerings were reviewed on a monthly basis to assess various needs and respond appropriately. The providers were very appreciative of all aspects of the program and expressed in a survey that the most beneficial part of the provider support program was the regular meetings held with providers, county board staff, and local health officials. Back in August we saw a decline in the rate of infection locally, and providers began serving more individuals. TuscBDD then reduced the amount of fixed cost assistance by half in the months of September and October and then completely eliminated it as of November. The infection rate has begun to surge again causing some providers to temporarily close in response to the increased risk. TuscBDD has had a reduction in various expenditures as a result of COVID-19 which has enabled us to consider reinstating additional COVID-19 support to providers. Nate Kamban reviewed the updated summary of support which involves combining all of the

various categories of support into one fund that would support providers based on an amount that is tied to the number of individuals served prior to the state of emergency. This relief fund is reimbursement-based and can be used for items such as PPE, cleaning costs/supplies, and other fixed costs. An additional category of funding was added to the program to assist residential providers that are experiencing COVID-19 cases within their residences. Legal counsel referred to this category of funding as extraordinary and unusual non-Medicaid costs. This will permit TuscBDD to review requests on a case-by-case basis when a provider is experiencing an outbreak in a home which could also result in a struggle to maintain staffing. We will also continue to provide reimbursement to providers for Zoom as well as IT support for those who are interested. Weekly meetings with providers will continue at this time, and we plan to reassess the amount of support offered to providers again after January.

2. Starlight School Remote Learning Model Update (Discussion only)

Starlight School has been on remote instruction for the past two weeks coming off of the Thanksgiving holiday. Nate Kamban shared that he participated in a very sobering call with local superintendents and the Tuscarawas County Health Commissioner yesterday on the reality of COVID-19 in Tuscarawas County. Cases have doubled over the last few days, and the local ICU is at maximum capacity with additional beds being added off of the emergency room. The strain on the local healthcare system is at a crisis point, and there is a need to purchase a mobile morgue. Due to the current level of spread in our community combined with the strain on our health system, a decision has been made to remain on remote instruction through January 8, 2021. In-person instruction is set to resume on January 11, 2021. School age students have two face-to-face meetings each day with their teacher as well as packets to work on from home. Arrangements are being made for scheduled therapy sessions at Starlight School for preschool students on IEPs who continue to need access to therapies. Arrangements are also being made for a school-age student to receive limited in-person support at Starlight School. Staff continue to report to the school building while students are remote.

3. Ad Hoc Nominating Committee

Nate Kamban shared that Robert Glasgow has submitted his resignation from the Board, effective December 31, 2020 due to professional obligations that have interfered with his ability to attend meetings. Since this resignation involves a mid-term vacancy, it is necessary to appoint a nominating committee in order for applications from interested members to be collected and reviewed. This process will be handled in accordance with the procedure on Board Unexpired Term Vacancies which involves printing a notice in the newspaper per the requirements of ORC 5126.027. Information on the vacancy will also be posted on TuscBDD's website. Nate Kamban shared that this is a Probate Judge appointment and members eligible to serve in this appointment must be an immediate family member of an individual eligible for residential services or supported living. This posting will be handled in late December/early January in order for the vacancy to be filled by the end of February.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to appoint the following members to the ad hoc nominating committee:

**Julie Brinkman
Thomas Fantin
Ryan Yoss**

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Robert Glasgow	absent		
Andrea Legg	absent		
Donna Wayt	absent		
Stephanie Wilson	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion carried .

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adopt a motion to adjourn.

Motion: **Julie Brinkman**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Robert Glasgow	absent		
Andrea Legg	absent		
Donna Wayt	absent		
Stephanie Wilson	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion carried .

Time: **5:54** p.m.

*“This is a true and accurate record of the meeting of December 9, 2020.”
Minutes were Board-approved at the January 25, 2021 Board meeting. Signatures will be
obtained when in-person meetings resume.*

Stephanie Wilson, President

Julie Brinkman, Recording Secretary

This is not a verbatim transcript of the December 9, 2020 special Board meeting.

2020-1209 special meeting minutes