

The Holmes County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (better known as the Holmes County Training Center) met in regular session on August 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent Scott Brace reported that Governor Strickland signed Senate Bill 79 that removes mental retardation from the name of the Ohio Dept. of MRDD and all county boards of MRDD effective in October. The board took official action to change the official name of the Holmes County Training Center to the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The board discussed that communicating this change will be important since the levy language the voters see in November will refer to the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Brace noted that this does not change who the Training Center serves, it only removes a term that now has a negative connotation.

The board reviewed the renovations to the playground to bring it into compliance with Jarod's law. It was completed before school starts next week so it will be able to be used immediately. Brace noted that federal stimulus dollars through the Department of Education (part B) were being used to fund the \$35,000.00 renovation. Brace noted that despite the goal of spending funds quickly, they are having difficulty getting the funds released for the project. Brace also noted that the two year budget bill signed by Governor Strickland repealed Jarod's law but our local health department still has to inspect the Training Center twice a year for safety and sanitation concerns.

In other business, Curtis Goehring, Business Manager, reviewed June and July fiscal reports. Goehring noted that staff are doing well minimizing expenditures for the first half of the year and we are under our target expenditures by over \$200,000.00. The revenue benchmarks for the first half of the year have also been met so no additional staff reductions are needed at this time. The board is on target to increase the end of the year carryover to meet spending requirements for the first quarter of 2010. Brace reported that 15 out of 24 staff who work year round (256 days) had accepted voluntary furloughs of up to five days over Christmas and/or Spring Breaks and the equivalent reductions in salary.

Brace reported that the County Commissioners approved the Board's request to place a 2.5 mill replacement levy on the November ballot this summer. Brace noted that unfortunately, the Daily Record misprinted the cost of the levy, twice. The levy would cost the owner of a \$100,000.00 home an additional \$39.02 per year over what they are currently paying. If the home owner is signed up for the homestead reduction, the increase would be \$29.54 per year.

Sheri Martin, Adult Services Director, reported that 4 new individuals had enrolled in the Habilitation Center or Lynn Hope Industries over the summer. Because of staffing needs to meet the current acuity levels of the individuals enrolled in order to bill waivers for services, the adult program will be starting a waiting list for enrollment. Superintendent Brace noted the Board cannot financially afford to add staff at this time in order to avoid a waiting list.

In other business, the Board approved the second quarter report on the 2009 Action Plan, a host agency agreement with the Senior Employment Center to serve a job training site, an agreement with the Health Department for office space and evaluation services for the Help Me Grow program, renewed a software license agreement with Primary solutions and a ninety day agreement with Lawrence County Board of MRDD for workshop day services at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00 for a Holmes County child

living in a day treatment facility in Lawrence County. The board questioned Brace about the pooled funding agreement that the Board contributes to with other child serving agencies and why these costs were not paid through that agreement. Brace noted he was informed by Job and Family Services staff that the pooled funding account with Family and Children First had committed all available funds at this time.

Superintendent Brace reported that he had hired Cindy McCauley three days per week as the school Principal, Lynn Allison as full time Occupational Therapist and Linda Pratt as Speech Therapist two days per week. Brace noted that all three had previously worked at the Training Center and were coming out of retirement to work for us. All three are highly skilled and served as regional consultants in their specialties before they retired. All of them also felt a calling to return to the Training Center to help our children and families. The Board approved giving Brace the authority to contract for additional speech therapy services two days per week. This will give the Board close to the two full time equivalents of speech therapists that the program had last year. Brace also recalled Kerri Johnson from layoff to fill a food service worker position vacated by Mary Ann Miller.

Brace reminded the Board of the Open House and Ice Cream social scheduled for September 1 at 7:00 p.m. The board will have in-service trainings at 5:00 p.m. before the next three Board meetings to meet their training requirements for the year. The next meeting will be September 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.