

MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Special Board Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2017 - Revised

I. Call to Order

The MCBDD Special Board Meeting was called to order by Board President, Ms. Thomas Fain, at 5:07 p.m. Other Board Members present included the following: Ms. Barnes Brown, Ms. Morrison, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Orlandi, and Mr. Carroll.

Staff present included the following: Ms. Davis-Kramp, Ms. Finnerty, Mr. Bluebond, Ms. Lees, Ms. Hetkey, Ms. Majoros, Ms. Davis, Ms. Wilbraham, Ms. Hunt, Ms. Bucks, Mr. Dryer, Mr. Goebel, and Mr. Walter.

Others present included the following: Parents, Charlotte Carroll, Fran Koenig, Barb Drager, Jay Mitzel, Anita Murphy, and Sally and Deryl Albrecht; Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty, from Medina Creative Housing; and Attorney Tom Karris.

II. Executive Session

A Motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Ms. Morrison, to enter into Executive Session for the following reasons:

- A. To Consider Matters to be kept confidential by Federal Law or Regulations or State Statute.
- B. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.
- C. Conference with an attorney for the Board concerning disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

The Motion passed with a unanimous "yes" vote. The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:09 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

III. General Session

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Mission Statement Affirmation

C. Discussion Items

- 1. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board
 - a. Proper Protocol
 - b. Trust and Respect
 - c. Attorney Consult (Tom Karris)

The Board President stated that there would be no open forum or questions from the audience in this meeting; however, any questions/concerns should be submitted, per agency procedure, after the meeting.

The Board President stated that although Board Members may not always agree, it is important that they work together and trust each other in order to be a cohesive Board. Recent actions that have taken place could have a negative effect on the Board, jeopardizing the funding and the wellbeing of the individuals we serve. Board Members, and/or spouses of Board Members, both need to be very careful how they voice their opinions. Board Policy 2.6.3 prohibits public criticism of Board employees by Board Members. Although this act was not done directly by a Board Member, it is still important to discuss how the situation should have been handled. The Board President asked the Board if they felt there was a better way the situation could have been handled.

Ms. Barnes Brown stated that there used to be a policy for conflict resolution that followed a chain of command. She asked if the Board could follow those procedures. The Board President stated that using the complaint process is how the situation should have been handled.

Ms. Morrison asked why the Board is discussing this issue when it wasn't done by a Board Member.

Mr. Carroll stated that the assumption is that he had something to do with his wife's editorial in the paper. He stated that he did not and that no one has spoken to her to ask if she initiated the editorial herself. Mr. Carroll said that his wife only stated her opinion following what she heard in the Board Meeting. Mr. Carroll asked why the Board is making assumptions that he was involved. The Board President stated that she did not assume he was involved, but when she asked him if he knew about the letter, he said yes. She asked Mr. Carroll if he tried to talk to his wife about not sending the editorial. Mr. Carroll stated that his wife is free to say what she needs to say to whomever she needs to say it.

The Superintendent stated that the Ethics Policy addresses "perception". The Board President stated that the public could have the perception that Mr. Carroll agreed with his wife's editorial or that it came from Mr. Carroll. Mr. Carroll stated that he cannot control public perception.

Ms. Barnes Brown stated that she was upset regarding the tone of the July 24 Board Meeting and afterward spoke to the people involved; however, she feels that Board personnel issues should not be discussed in the public forum. Mr. Carroll stated again that no one had spoken to his wife regarding the meeting. The Board President stated that not speaking to Mrs. Carroll was a mistake and that she should have contacted her, although it would not have changed what happened. Mrs. Carroll stated that if the Board President had contacted her she would have heard a different perspective. She stated that no one, except her husband, knows why she felt the way she did about that Board Meeting. The Superintendent called Point of Order, as audience members are not permitted to speak at this meeting.

Ms. Orlandi stated that she felt the newspaper was not the right outlet for the issue, although she understood how Mrs. Carroll felt. The Board President stated that she was not at the July 24 meeting; however, she had listened to the recording.

Mr. Mitzel stated that he knows he's not supposed to speak, but had a process question. If a member of the audience is asked a question, are they then able to respond? The Board President

stated that at the beginning of the meeting she made it clear that there would be no open forum at this meeting.

Ms. Albrecht stated that Mrs. Carroll's letter didn't complain about the Board, she complained about the Superintendent. The Board President stated that there would be no more conversation with the audience. These discussions can be done at another time.

The Board President was forced to state several times throughout this meeting that there was to be no discussion from the audience due to multiple comments that were out of order.

Ms. Orlandi stated that every person on the Board is there to support the individuals, parents, and staff. If someone has a concern, the Board should take the time to make sure that their concerns are addressed immediately. The Board President stated that she doesn't feel there is an issue in that area. She stated that, at Regular Board Meetings, once the Board gets through the agenda, then other items can be discussed. Mr. Carroll stated that he had expressed to the Board President in the past that he felt cut off from asking questions or addressing his concerns during Board Meetings. Mr. Carroll stated that the only way to get everyone on the same page is to have a voice, and he doesn't feel that is the case. Mr. Carroll stated that his wife's letter was in response to the disenfranchisement of the meeting. Ms. Barnes Brown stated that she didn't feel that the public Board Meeting was the right forum to criticize someone in front of an audience. She stated that the Superintendent and the staff are working very hard to keep this facility open while others are closing, and that parents should schedule a meeting with the Superintendent to discuss their issues.

The Board President stated that the Board will go back to being more cohesive in order to better serve the individuals. The Board agreed. She stated that the Board has been lax on Robert's Rules, but will follow them more closely in the future. She asked the Board to study Robert's Rules.

Ms. Orlandi stated that it's okay to disagree because all sides of a concern should be heard. In speaking to the Board Members, the Board President stated that when Board Members disagree and leave the meeting, they need to agree to disagree. Mrs. Carroll stated that she feels that the Board President is also speaking to her, as well as the Board Members. The Board President stated that she was not having this conversation and that it could be done after the meeting. Mrs. Carroll stated that she would like a witness to be present during the conversation.

Mr. Carroll stated that he feels it is important that things are said and not only written in email in regard to questions and answers. He feels that all need to be on the same page and the public should have an understanding of why the questions were asked and the answers that are given. Mr. Carroll feels that the public would have a better understanding of what's going on if they knew what Board Members were saying to each other. The Board President agreed.

Ms. Orlandi stated that it is critical for the public to be at the Board Meetings and Public Forums to be a part of the process and to spread the word. A Steering Committee is being formed, chaired by Annie Finnerty, and will be comprised of representatives from different stakeholder groups. Committee processes, such as how information will be shared, are still being developed.

Mr. Carroll requested that a monthly report be presented to the Board regarding the Transformation process. The Board President stated that this is already in process.

The Board President stated that she felt there had been decent discussion during the meeting.

Ms. Barnes Brown stated that Ms. Koenig wrote a second letter and brought up some really good points. Ms. Koenig has a meeting scheduled with Annette on August 31.

Included as part of the minutes from the August 21, 2017, Board Meeting is a nine-page document distributed by Mr. Perkins (attached). This document is an abridged version of an earlier letter to the Board dated July 31, 2017, and requests that Board Members discuss a set of recent events that took place outside of a regular board meeting. While the document was not specifically referenced, the concepts and accusations were alluded to during open session.

IV. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Ms. Orlandi, seconded by Ms. Morrison, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The Motion passed with a unanimous “yes” vote.

FOR APPROVAL

Temporary Chair
Medina County Board of DD

Secretary
Medina County Board of DD