

**Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Public Forum Notes – 2018 Operating Plan
November 8, 2017
BCR 1**

ANITA MURPHY:

- Q. How do you intend to engage providers to expand day programming? Are you asking for proposals?
- A. Mr. Bluebond stated that we will be seeking solutions from the current provider pool even though there has been talk about a new non-profit being developed in the county. Any new non-profit would need to follow the same process as other providers.
- A. Ms. Brodzenski stated that a provider network has already been formed to collaborate on developing services.

JOHANNA LANCE:

- Q. Ms. Lance asked if her son Joey is asked by staff if he wants to leave the workshop and Joey says "yes" but mom says "no", does the guardian have the final say?
- A. Ms. Wilbraham stated that the guardian is part of the decision making process; however, the individual should also be involved.
- A. Mr. Bluebond mentioned that about half of the individuals we serve here have guardians and that both need to be involved in the decision making process.
- Q. Is it too late to contact the legislators in Columbus?
- Q. Why can't we have a meeting with other superintendents and legislators?
- A. Mr. Bluebond stated that there were families who went to Columbus and that it did help.

BARBARA DRAGER:

- Q. There was a recent assault reported at one of the private provider agencies. Who polices there? Did the provider do their own policing or quality control? Ms. Drager doesn't want anything to be swept under the rug. Ms. Drager stated that she is concerned for the safety of individuals.
- Q. How are MUI's handled?
- A. Ms. Wilbraham reviewed the MUI process and discussed Nick Pokrzywa's role as the MCBDD's Investigative Agent.
- A. Ms. Finnerty addressed Quality Assurance and stated that it is in the Operating Plan for next year.

DR. KAYE STANLEY BRYSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES:

Comments:

- Dr. Stanley Bryson gave an overview of children services. Currently, there are three preschool classes; two with children with autism and one with children with multiple disabilities and peers. There are also children with mild to moderate disabilities being served in a more restrictive setting. We are looking to how we can broaden our work in the community along with

transitioning kids back to districts. Examples of those would be support, strategies, and equipment to assist children to succeed in their home schools.

- EI – is home based. Therapists and specialists go to the family home to provide the services.

BARBARA DRAGER:

- Q. Is there any psychological help for parents?
- Q. What about the aging parents who can't do the job – there is nothing out there!
- A. Dr. Stanley Bryson stated that there are referrals for counseling.
 - A. Mr. Bluebond stated that he also doesn't want parents to be on their own.
 - A. Ms. Wilbraham stated that SSAs look at family, relatives, friends, and the community. She also shared with the audience how the SSA's work with the community and the dynamics of each family.

CHAR CARROLL:

Comments:

- In the "Principal" section of the 2018 Operating Plan, it is not written inclusively of the entire population the Board serves. There is no distinction about children, seniors, and guardians.
- In the Assumptions, there are a lot of extreme statements and no mention of Person Centered Planning. This should be first and foremost.
- Mr. Bluebond stated that he recognized this and the Board will be looking at this further. Mr. Bluebond stated that families have asked if the Operating Plan is inclusive to everyone we serve or are we placing more focus on one set of individuals than another?

ED DRYER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Comments:

- What Adult Services is doing now;
- Community Employment;
- Looking more at the global perspective for the 2018 Operating Plan;
- Looking at employment collaborative efforts (i.e. United Way, JFS, etc.) that have the same goal of helping people gain employment;
- Reaching out to the business community;

PAM HUNT, DIRECTOR OF DAY SERVICES:

Comments:

- Community Integration and Community Access;
- Researching roles that are meaningful for each individual because each is different;
- All individuals can be a valued members of the community; and
- Self advocacy (i.e. churches, businesses) to ensure that individuals have a voice.

CHAR CARROLL:

Comments:

- Ms. Carroll stated that Self Advocacy is dependent upon the severity of disability of an individual. She stated that her daughter is incapable of much of what is being discussed in regard to Self Advocacy. She believes propaganda is used to push the agenda, excluding individuals who are lower functioning. She feels that we need to be careful when using the word Self Advocacy.
- Ms. Hunt stated they are finding ways that are complementary to the individual's gifts and talents and what they choose will be meaningful to their life.

BARBARA DRAGER:

Comments:

- Ms. Drager is concerned about agencies being held accountable. She gave some examples of programming by providers.
- Mr. Bluebond stated that we share the same concerns and that we also want to make sure these providers/services are doing what they need to do. We all need to work as a team: parents, the MCBDD, and the community.

ANITA MURPHY:

- Q. Objective B from the 2018 Operating Plan – who will be managing the club(s)?
 - A. Mr. Dryer explained that clubs are formed in the community based on the wants and needs of individuals. The goal is for county board staff to assist the community in the initial startup of the clubs.
- Q. Questioning “Step 3” from the 2018 Operating Plan – Self Advocacy.
 - A. Ms. Hunt stated they are looking at more opportunities for Self Advocacy in the community.
 - A. They are not pushing Self Advocacy on all individuals.
 - A. The guardian would definitely be part of the planning process!
- Q. Questioning “Objective J – Step 4” – who or what are the two future partnerships for building use?
 - A. Ms. Majoros stated that we are currently working with Mudge Park to combine ours and their walking paths, making it easier for individuals to access the park from the MCAC.

SHELLY WHARTON:

Comments:

- Ms. Wharton introduced herself and discussed her multiple duties with SHC. She spoke about MUI's and quality assurance. She stated that she sees a great opportunity for teamwork to support all individuals.

DEBBIE HOLLIFIELD:

Comments:

- Ms. Hollifield introduced herself and stated that she is a mother of a child with disabilities and works at the MCBDD. She is looking at other provider agencies. Currently, her daughter is being served by a private provider and it couldn't have been done without the support of the SSA and staff.

JOHANNA LANCE:

Comments:

- Ms. Lance just wants management to understand how the parents feel.
- Mr. Bluebond stated that it is our intent not to close the agency. The MCBDD is not closing, but we are changing. We want people to understand this and we need to work on our messaging.

JENNIFER TOTT:

Comments:

- Ms. Totts stated that she does not want to be called a "kid"; she wants to be called an "adult."

CHAR CARROLL:

Comments:

- The message about the MCBDD's future needs to be more clear. The Board's intentions have not been clearly stated. The message needs to be communicated to everyone.
- Mr. Bluebond agreed that we need to do a better job explaining this and we need the parents' help.

BARBARA DRAGER:

Comments:

- Ms. Drager referenced an October 29, 2017, newspaper article regarding how this country is becoming divided on so many topics just as she feels the Board is. She stated that as she sits in the audience and observes the Board, she sees them as un-unified and that there is a great deal more going on behind the Board table. She stated that it is not just for "their" own child's needs and that they need to put their personal agendas aside.