

August 23, 2011

72-11 Change the following Position Descriptions:

Abolish the following Positions

One Service Coordinator Position (HG-302)

One Administrative Assistant Position (HG-203)

Create the following Positions

One Administrative Assistant Position (HG-202)

One Bus Aide Position (TR-102)

Modify the following Position

Increase Hours in Billing Clerk/Fiscal Support (AD-206) up to 30 hours/week

73-11 Enter into Contract with Allen County Regional Transit Authority

ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

MINUTES

August 23, 2011

7:00 a.m. Special Board Meeting

Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities
2500 Ada Road
Lima, OH

I. Roll Call

The Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities met in special session on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. President Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with the following roll call response:

Mr. Thomas Fleming, present	Mr. Martin Garlock, present	Mrs. Gina Goodin, present
Mrs. Jessica Hall, present	Mrs. Veronica McLaurine, present	Dr. John Snyder, present
Mr. Gregory Miller, present		

II. Hearing of the Public

Joyce Fledderjohann, 5250 Reservoir Road, Lima, OH 45801, phone 419-222-1688, read a letter that she wrote to the Board regarding her concerns/issues with the bus routes that are being run by RTA.

Bobbie Dawson, 3023 Birch Avenue, Lima, OH 45801, phone 567-204-4483, expressed her concerns about the safety of the children on the RTA routes. She does not want her child involved in “regular” bus activities because they may not be safe.

Tera Viola, 5462 River Ridge Road, Elida, OH 45807, phone 419-339-1194, stated that her husband is a teacher and they have to be buzzed in or go through a metal detector at his school. She asked if the RTA driver will have time to check individuals as they get on the bus for weapons or do background checks on the other passengers that may be riding the bus.

Mrs. Fledderjohann asked why the Board did not start with those individuals capable of handling RTA instead of starting with the children like hers that can’t talk. She is also concerned about vulgar language, weapons and fights on the RTA buses. She is also concerned about the information that is put out there about her children such as where they live. Mrs. Fledderjohann also asked who decided who rides the RTA routes and who doesn’t. Why not individuals with cognitive understanding? Mrs. Fledderjohann was also concerned that the RTA bus would not follow the 90 minute rule and that children would be on the bus for over two hours.

Deb Van Hoose, 4705 Hay Road, Harrod, OH 45850, phone 419-648-5004, stated that she did not receive her letter regarding her daughter riding on one of the new RTA routes until yesterday. Her daughter must be home by 4:00 p.m. due to medical issues. The letter she received stated that her daughter would not be home until 4:45 p.m. She would also be getting on the bus at 7:45 a.m. instead of 8:45 a.m. She also stated that she knows of another parent who has not received notice yet that her child would be riding the RTA bus.

In response to Mrs. Fledderjohann, Superintendent Baldrige asked Mrs. Fledderjohann if she followed all the same rules as buses when she drove her car. Mrs. Fledderjohann said that she did not but a bus has many children to support and that the RTA buses do not open their doors at railroad crossings because someone might jump off. Ms. Van Hoose stated that cars don’t stop and load a bunch of kids like a school bus does. Ms. Van Hoose also thought that students would have to cross roads to get on the bus. President Miller said that no individual would have to cross a road to get on the bus. All the bus routes are doing same side of road pick up.

Ms. Dawson was concerned about a recent accident with an RTA bus with an adult client on it. She said that the parent of the adult was not notified until the end of the day; however the individual was not hurt.

Mrs. Fledderjohann said that adults were allowed to stand on the RTA bus. She did confirm with RTA that if the bus was full, adults would be allowed to stand. She also said that RTA told her that they may occasionally not follow the 48 hour rule. (If someone from the public wants to ride an RTA bus they are supposed to give 48 hours notice to RTA so that the pickup can be scheduled.) President Miller said that if someone wants to ride one of our RTA routes, they must give 48 hours notice, RTA will not deviate from the route so the individual must be on the route that RTA is driving. It also costs \$15 for a one way ride. With the Spencerville and Delphos RTA routes, which are not new, the public usage has only been a handful of people.

Ms. Van Hoose stated that her daughter gets on the bus at 117 and semis fly down that road. She also stated that wheelchairs take longer to load. It is getting dark earlier and there will be foggy days. She does not understand the logic of using the RTA bus. Mrs. Fledderjohann stated that people are in a hurry. The RTA bus will not be able to make them stop. Her bus driver has laid on the horn to get people to stop and they still do not stop.

Mrs. Fledderjohann also stated that changes in transportation are supposed to be determined through a child's IEP. This was not done. School buses are safe, public transit is not safe. Nobody can come into the school without signing in yet anybody can jump onto the RTA bus. Some people do not have a voice and they are dependent on us making good decisions. Mrs. Fledderjohann asked if you would put your 2 year old child on an RTA bus by himself. Why start with the developmentally disabled children? Why not start with the typical students? Ms. Viola said that some children can't say that this person touched me or took my picture because they can not talk. Ms. Van Hoose also was told that the bus aide would only be taking care of the kids and not the adults.

Angie Herzog, Adult Services Director, said that the Board has been working with RTA since 1985. Fifty to sixty people have been using RTA. We also have had RTA doing our Delphos and Spencerville routes. RTA has been wonderful with working out issues and individuals like to ride it. Mrs. Fledderjohann stated that Delphos parents did not think they had an option and that is why they did not say anything. This is ok for adults but not for children.

Ms. Dawson stated that her child attended Elida School for a month. They wanted to transport her child in a cab so she brought him back here. He is safe, he is not bullied. They take care of our kids. Can we guarantee that her child will not be bullied? He is protected here. He is only five. She also stated that when her child went to Elida, the driver was not nice. Her child was so small and he could not fit into the harness. The driver was not willing to work with them. Marimor deals with our kids everyday. RTA does not. Will they have the same compassion as the Marimor drivers? How will the RTA drivers handle the meltdowns? Superintendent Baldrige stated that the Board does not have a corner on good staff. Most are good but some are not. RTA will have the same mix as us. Ms. Dawson said that everyone at Marimor knows our kids and they are close nit families.

Mrs. Fledderjohann stated that she would not put her child on the RTA bus.

Marty Garlock stated that he has ridden an RTA bus before. He asked how many kids would be on each bus. Six kids are on a route and 12 adults. Peggy Cockerell stated that 12 school kids total would be riding the new routes. She was not sure on the number of preschool kids.

RTA is taking on four additional routes for us, they already had two routes. Mrs. Fledderjohann stated that when the new routes were created, her husband Michael, who is a bus driver for the Board, was asked to speak out. People were saying this is wrong.

Ms. Van Hoose asked who is responsible if something happens. Superintendent Baldrige stated that RTA has insurance. Ms. Van Hoose asked what happens if our clients hurt someone else. Superintendent Baldrige stated that families file law suits all the time.

Mrs. Fledderjohann stated that bus aides are not good enough. The bus aides are usually on a bus for a particular child. If that particular child is sick is the bus aide still going to be on the bus? Superintendent stated that a bus aide will be on each RTA bus. Peggy Cockerell, Director of Education, stated that the bus aides were instructed that they were to be near the children but were also required to check on all the individuals riding the bus. They were instructed to up their level of supervision.

Gina Goodin asked Mrs. Cockerell as the Director of Education, what was her opinion of the children riding the RTA buses. Mrs. Cockerell stated that we need to keep an aide on each bus. In the two years that children have been riding the RTA bus she has only heard one complaint and it did not have to do with riding the bus. When she heard of the complaint, it was taken care of by the next bus run. Mrs. Goodin asked Mrs. Cockerell if she wanted the Board to take another look at the routes. Mrs. Cockerell stated that she felt that they just needed to keep the aides on the buses.

Ms. Viola stated that small children need car seats. Superintendent Baldrige stated that all adaptive equipment is provided by the Board.

Mrs. Fledderjohann asked if they would have the same bus drivers everyday and the same pickup times everyday. Ms. Dawson stated that RTA said that they would have different bus drivers. Ms. Viola stated that same is good for kids. How will a different bus driver and possibly a different aide affect the child? Mrs. Cockerell stated that transportation has books for each route that has a sheet for each child that tells special needs. This book is kept confidential. Ms. Dawson asked if they will always keep an aide on the bus. Mrs. Cockerell stated that she down not know that but feels strongly that the RTA routes have an aide.

Mrs. Goodin asked that in light of the concerns, what would the Board like to do. Are we willing to have another special board meeting to discuss this?

Mr. Miller thanked the ladies for coming and stated that the Board would re-evaluate the situation. Mr. Miller stated that the Board will look at the pros and cons of the situation and will deal with the issues with the individuals that were brought to their attention.

Ms. Dawson asked if the goal of the Board was to do this with every route. Mr. Miller said that this was not our final objective.

III. New Business

A. Change Position Descriptions

We have received the resignation of a Service Coordinator since our last meeting. We offered the job to the woman who was laid off from that position. Because of fears of future job security, she declined returning to this position. That caused us to re-evaluate the staffing at Help Me Grow. Due to caseload size and general workload, it was recommended to bring our Administrative Assistant back to full-time.

As the bus routes are evolving for the next school year, we have a need for an additional Bus Aide position. VRP3 is now requiring our oversight of the fiscal affairs of the agencies who subcontract with us on this project. That will require additional hours in the business office. Our Billing Clerk/Fiscal Support is currently at up to 19 hours per week. We would like to take that position to up to 30 hours per week. We will capture this cost through the VRP3 revenue.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION 72-11: Superintendent Baldrige recommended the Board authorize the following changes:

1. Abolish the Following Positions
 - One Service Coordinator Position (HG-302)
 - One Administrative Assistant Position (HG-203)

2. Create the Following Positions
 - One Administrative Assistant (HG-202)
 - One Bus Aide (TR-102)
3. Modify the Following Position
 - Increase Hours in Billing Clerk/Fiscal Support (AD-206) up to 30 hours/week

Mr. Garlock moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Dr. Snyder seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Mr. Miller asked if the extra 11 hours that the Billing Clerk will be working be covered by VRP3. Superintendent Baldrige stated that the extra hours worked will be cyclical depending on need. We will be billing the Director of Business's rate of pay for the work she is doing with VRP3 so this should be a wash budget wise.

Superintendent Baldrige also stated that the Administrative Assistant for Help Me Grow will most likely come back on to the Board's health insurance.

Mr. Fleming, yes
 Mrs. Hall, yes
 Mr. Miller, yes

Mr. Garlock, yes
 Mrs. McLaurine, yes

Mrs. Goodin, yes
 Dr. Snyder, yes

B. Enter into Contract with the Allen County Regional Transit Authority

The Board has an opportunity to enter into a contract with RTA that will enable them to draw down additional Federal dollars at no actual cost to our Board. This will enable RTA to extend their hours and do Saturday pick ups. The Board will give RTA an upfront payment of \$500,000 which will be used to transport people we serve in the same way that we are transporting them now, which is to and from work and school. It can not be used to take individuals on personal errands such as grocery shopping. The Board will determine how the money will be spent and how the individuals would be transported. We will be able to bill them for school routes. We can tell them how many individuals that the Board transported and send the bill to RTA. Down the road, RTA may want to try transportation for community placement. The goal of this contract is to have more local match money to draw down federal dollars to provide more services locally.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION 73-11: Superintendent Baldrige recommended the Board authorize the Superintendent to enter into a Contract for Transportation Services with the Allen County Regional Transit Authority effective September 1, 2011.

Mrs. McLaurine moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Mr. Fleming seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Dr. Snyder asked what the time element was for RTA to draw down the match money. Superintendent Baldrige stated that RTA has until September to come up with the match money or they will lose the federal dollars.

Dr. Snyder asked if the Board would be in the drivers seat for what services they can sub-contract back to us and what will the cost be? Superintendent Baldrige stated that they can bill by day for routes. The same transportation needs to be provided at no more costs. The Board should be able to recapture the \$500,000 within six – nine months.

Dr. Snyder asked if a smaller bus or van can be deployed instead of a full size bus. Superintendent Baldrige stated that we currently use uplift vans. We do contract with them to transport some individuals with special needs. Mrs. Herzog stated that RTA is purchasing smaller buses for routes. Superintendent Baldrige stated that RTA ordered the size of the new buses according to number of people we need them to transport.

Mr. Garlock stated that the Board would front the \$500,000 so that RTA can tap into a grant and the Board benefits from putting up the match. Superintendent Baldrige stated that the Board would indirectly benefit. She stated that a vast majority of the people we serve do not drive and the Board does not transport for grocery shopping or recreation unless the individual is on a waiver. Mr. Miller stated that the late night and Saturday hours that RTA would be able to provide through the grant will benefit our people.

Mr. Garlock, yes
Mrs. McLaurine, yes
Mr. Miller, yes

Mrs. Goodin, yes
Dr. Snyder, yes

Mrs. Hall, yes
Mr. Fleming, yes

IV. Board Discussion

ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Goodin moved to adjourn into executive session to discuss negotiations and employee employment and dismissal at 8:05 a.m.

Dr. Snyder seconded the motion.

Mrs. Goodin, yes
Dr. Snyder, yes
Mr. Miller, yes

Mrs. Hall, yes
Mr. Fleming, yes

Mrs. McLaurine, yes
Mr. Garlock, yes

Dr. Snyder moved to reconvene into regular session at 9:07 a.m.

Mrs. Hall seconded the motion.

Mrs. Hall, yes
Mr. Fleming, yes
Mr. Miller, yes

Mrs. McLaurine, yes
Mr. Garlock, yes

Dr. Snyder, yes
Mrs. Goodin, yes

V. Adjournment

Dr. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Mr. Fleming seconded the motion to adjourn.

Mrs. McLaurine, yes
Mr. Garlock, yes
Mr. Miller, yes

Dr. Snyder, yes
Mrs. Goodin, yes

Mr. Fleming, yes
Mrs. Hall, yes

Regular Board Meeting
September 26, 2011
Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Administration Building
2500 Ada Road, Lima, OH

Chris Calvelage, Clerk

John Snyder, Recording Secretary