

Logan County Board of DD reviews Governor Kasich's proposed budget

The Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent reviewed Governor John Kasich's proposed budget at their meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

Superintendent Saul Bauer explained that there are some positive and negative aspects of the budget.

On the positive side, the budget proposes support for up to 3,000 new I.O. and SELF waivers. The budget also looks to increase salaries for Medicaid Waiver providers by six percent. The increase would help support provider to stabilize the states direct care provider workforce that currently has a near 50% turnover rate. The budget also supports the transition of clients into community employment. The state looks to move more individuals from institutional settings into home and community based settings.

The negative aspects of the draft biennium budget are concerns that the local board of DD could see the loss of its tangible personal property tax (TPPT). The TPPT funds were leveled off in 2013 after it was cut by nearly 50%. We could lose an additional \$472,000 locally and \$34 million statewide. It is uncertain if the proposed budget will partly cut or eliminate the TPPT funds however the funds are on the chopping block.

Independent Medicaid service providers could be cut by 2019 under the proposed budget. Under the budget no new independent service providers would be allowed after July 2016. Roughly 60 percent of Logan County's service providers are independent not agency-based.

The board is very excited about a couple fundraisers coming up to benefit Special Olympics, the LCBDD Foundation and Ben Logan Schools.

Thelma Matthews from QRA and Board of DD employee Lisa Davidson teamed up to put together a fundraiser. The "Roaring 20's Mystery Dinner Theatre" will be held at Union Station on March 14th at 6 pm. The cost is \$15 per person and the proceeds will go towards a burial fund for individuals served by the local board of DD. The fund was created because some families cannot afford a marker for their loved ones who passed away.

The Driven Foundation Founder will be putting on a benefit basketball game at Benjamin Logan High School on April 25th at 3 pm. The game will feature twelve former OSU football players playing alongside local players. The proceeds will go to support local Special Olympics, Benjamin Logan School and the Driven Foundation..

Joy Badenhop introduced our newest employee Lisa Daniels. Lisa is a Early Intervention Service Coordinator who joined us on February 9, 2015. Lisa worked for Council of Rural Services Program (CORSP) as a home visitor and her office was based in the Discovery Center. After finishing her Bachelors degree she was awarded a position with CORSP as a preschool teacher in Urbana. We are glad to have on our team.

In other board business, the board voted to donate \$500 to the Community Health Needs Assessment. They also discussed plans to review and expand current projects that will assist our associates in making healthier choices. Obesity is 50% higher for adults and 38% higher for children with a disability. We want to do what we can to provide better options for a healthy lifestyle to our associates and employees.

The board will meet again on Thursday March 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Logan County Board of DD office. The public is welcome to attend.

Deb Morrison
Human Resources/Executive Secretary